

*“As witnesses of the serious climate changes the earth is now undergoing, we leaders of North Carolina’s various spiritual traditions join together to voice our concerns about the health of the planet we share with all species. We acknowledge the need to commit ourselves to a course of action that will help us recognize our part in the devastating effects on much of our planet brought about by increasingly severe weather events. We declare the necessity for North Carolina’s spiritual communities to be leaders in turning human activities in a new direction for the well being of the planet.”*

From a statement on Global Warming and Climate Change by North Carolina’s religious and spiritual leaders. Signers include nine bishops from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopal denominations, along with several rabbis and Muslim leaders, a Buddhist priest, and the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs of the Southern Baptist State Convention.

### **NC IPL Mission Statement**

North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light works with faith communities to address the causes and consequences of global climate change, and promote practical solutions, through education, outreach, and public policy advocacy.

#### **Asheville Office**

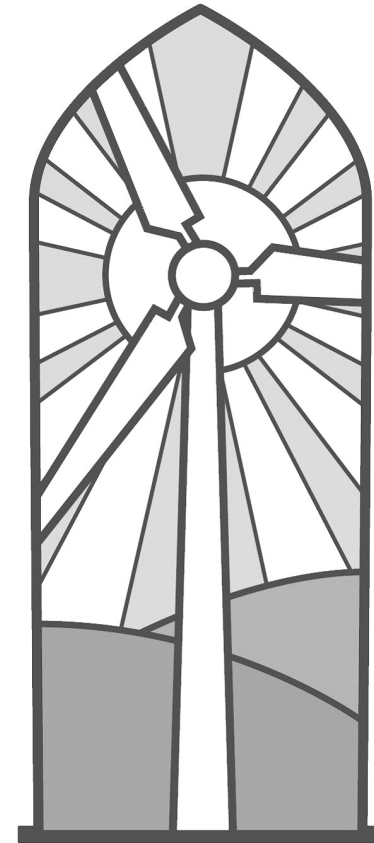
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## **North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light** *a program of the NC Council of Churches*



*A Religious Response  
to Global Warming*

# Climate legislation?

## Why should I care?

Our senators are debating legislation called the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. The goal is to put a cap on our global warming pollution, provide incentives to accelerate a transition to clean energy, and create new jobs. Smart policy solutions will help ensure a peaceful world for our children.

Governmental, military and scientific experts have concluded that climate change is having significant geopolitical impacts around the world, and is contributing to a host of problems including poverty, environmental degradation, and the weakening of national governments. Their assessments warn that the storms, droughts and food shortages predicted from a warming planet are currently occurring and will worsen in coming decades.

## How is it a **Faith** issue?

All faith traditions have a responsibility to care for God's Creation. We all have a shared responsibility to care for our neighbors and the least among us. Scientists tell us that the poor, elderly and infirm in the U.S., and people in the poorest countries least able to adapt, will be most affected by the climate crisis. While we are already experiencing some of the impacts from climate change, the world our children will face may be unlike anything in human history.

# How can I take **Action**?

The most important thing you can do right now is to call both of your U.S. Senators and ask them to support strong climate legislation like the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. The phone number for the U.S. Senate switchboard is 202-224-3121. After you are connected to each Senator's office, ask for the aide who works on energy and climate. Find out your senators' positions on the bill. Let them know you support strong renewable energy and energy efficiency requirements and incentives.

You can also work with North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light (NC IPL) to help your congregation and your household conserve energy and become more energy efficient. This will help you reduce your global warming pollution and save money on your energy bills. Measure and track your house of worship's carbon footprint at [www.coolcongregations.org](http://www.coolcongregations.org). There is also a household calculator on that site - just fill out the brief questionnaire, print out the results, and track the efficacy of energy efficiency improvements that you make over time by entering updated information.

Make use of the educational, worship, and advocacy resources offered on our website, [www.ncipl.org](http://www.ncipl.org). Join us through our online contact form at <http://ncipl.kintera.org/join>. Consider making a difference in your community through volunteering with us to help organize or publicize faith and climate events, such as film showings and discussions, climate justice tours, and congregational energy audit workshops.