

*“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**

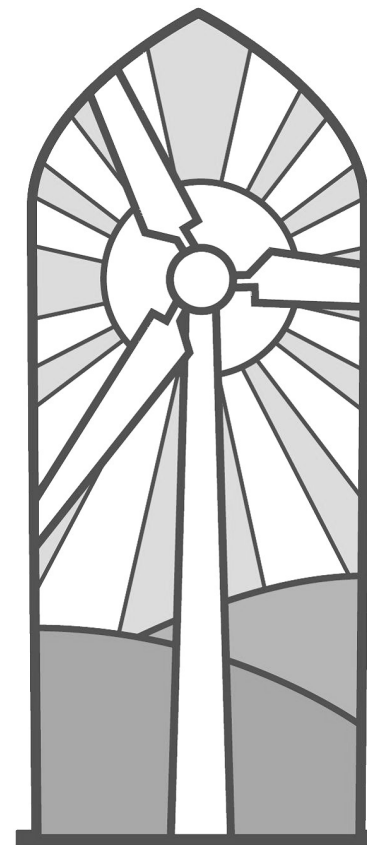
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light works with faith communities to address the causes and consequences of global climate change, and promote practical solutions, through education, outreach, and public policy advocacy.

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Faith In Action - 2.16.11

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



*A Religious Response  
to the Climate Crisis*



# Climate legislation?

## Why should I care?

Faith communities and religious leaders have not been successful in urging our senators to move quickly to pass a bill that will avoid catastrophic climate change that threatens the earth's ecosystems and especially its most vulnerable inhabitants. Interfaith Power & Light will continue to support policies and regulations that will reduce global emissions to levels consistent with scientific recommendations, while facilitating a rapid transition to a clean energy future. Effective climate legislation must also be equitable and just, providing access for all to the new clean energy economy, and protecting vulnerable people and communities from the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Smart policy solutions will also 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 call for us to care for God's Creation. We also 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, if we fail to act now, the world our children will face may be unlike anything in human history.

# How can I take **Action**?

Visit the Faith in Action section of our website at [www.ncipl.org/content/faith\\_in\\_action](http://www.ncipl.org/content/faith_in_action). One timely thing you can do right now is call the offices of U.S. Senators Kay Hagan (202-224-6342) and Richard Burr (202-224-3154). Let them know you want them to protect the U.S. EPA's mandate to regulate air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Let them know of your support for strong renewable energy and energy efficiency requirements and incentives. Stress that as a person of faith you feel we need to assure that any legislation addresses the special needs of those in poverty, both in the U.S. and in the developing world.



You can also work with North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light to help your congregation and your household conserve energy and become more energy efficient. This will help you reduce your greenhouse gas 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). Contact us about holding one of our Congregational Energy Efficiency and Audit Workshops at [info@ncipl.org](mailto:info@ncipl.org) or call 919-828-6501.

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

