



# green light

The quasi-quarterly newsletter of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light  
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## From the Editor's Desk...

Whew! This edition of Green Light has been a long time coming! Things have been happening so fast in the past several months that we've hardly had time to breathe, much less write about them. But there are a lot of great opportunities on the horizon, so make sure you check them out! Look for the CFL logo pinpointing bright ideas for action in your church and home, including changing light bulbs, sealing your ducts, and signing up for some of GIPL's education programs!

## GIPL Welcomes Our

### New Associate Director for Outreach!

We are so excited to introduce our new Associate Director for Outreach, Jennifer Downs! Jennifer has just started with GIPL (her first day was July 5) and she's already hard at work getting the message of creation care out to new congregations. An Atlanta native, Jennifer graduated in May with a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University where she was president of their Eco-Concerns organization. We are thrilled to have her on board!

Don't forget to visit [www.gipl.org](http://www.gipl.org)  
for all the latest news and events!



Want to reduce your weight on the earth? Looking to slim down your global footprint? Try out GIPL's new Low-Carbon Diet, Power Lite! We have a large menu of tasty emission-savings options for your congregation and your home. Not only do these treats help cut your carbon emissions, they also reduce pollution and save you money. No Atkins diet can do that!

For congregations we offer Education Entrees, Appetizing Audits, Wonderful Worship, and Goal-Setting Gumbo. And for individual households we offer smaller bites such as Delectable Duct Sealing, Kill-A-Watt Comestibles, Energy Star Enticements, and Flavorful Fluorescents. Finish off your meal with a Covenant Confectionary to codify your commitment to creation care.

See [www.gipl.org/powerlite](http://www.gipl.org/powerlite) for details on all our Power Lite offerings. Help your congregation and your household start slimming down today!

## Now's the Time!

### Educational Programs Available!



Looking for a way to get the word out about creation care in your congregation? GIPL's distinguished faculty of theologians, scientists and environmental activists is the perfect resource.

Our faculty has prepared presentations on a variety of subjects, from the Torah and Bible to contemporary issues in environmental stewardship. We also have a wonderful DVD that is suitable for sparking congregational interest in the environment, the award winning *Kilowatt Ours*. We're always open to exploring new topics, so if you don't see something that looks like it would appeal to your constituency, give us a call and we'll be happy to work with you to develop a curriculum suited to your congregation.

We can lead one-time talks, such as a Wednesday night supper program, or multi-session programs for Sunday school and adult education classes. Go to [www.gipl.org/education](http://www.gipl.org/education) to see the complete list of programs that we offer. Don't see what you want? Drop us an e-mail at [info@gipl.org](mailto:info@gipl.org) and we'll work with you to develop an educational program that's perfect for you!

## Change a Light, Change the World!



Georgia Interfaith Power & Light has become a ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Campaign Pledge Driver. That means that we have committed to getting at least 300 people to take the Change a Light pledge: "I pledge to do my part to save energy and help protect our environment by changing a light in my home to an ENERGY STAR qualified one." Help us meet our goal by taking the pledge today!

All you have to do is go to <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge> and sign up, selecting Georgia Interfaith Power & Light as your referring organization.

After you've committed to changing one light in your home or office to a light that's earned the government's ENERGY STAR for energy efficiency, such as a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL), tell your friends and all the members of your congregation to do it too! If every American home made this one-light change, it would be as good for our environment as taking 1 million cars off the road.

Help your congregation get involved by placing announcements in newsletters and bulletins, telling people to visit the ENERGY STAR website, and even sponsoring a sale of CFLs. CFLs are available at hardware stores and home improvement stores, or through GIPL. If you are interested in sponsoring a sale, contact Katy Hinman ([khinman@gipl.org](mailto:khinman@gipl.org)) or Carol Bartlett ([carolbart@mindspring.com](mailto:carolbart@mindspring.com)). For more information on CFLs, including a fact sheet that details the energy and monetary savings you can realize by switching out incandescent lights for compact fluorescents, go to the GIPL website ([www.gipl.org/CFLs](http://www.gipl.org/CFLs)).

Who would have guessed that changing the world was as easy as changing a light bulb?

## Get Your Household Ducts Sealed



Most houses that are over ten years old have leaky heating and air conditioning ducts. It is the largest single energy drain in the average home. These homeowners are effectively heating their crawl spaces and air-conditioning their attics. Not good.

Not only because it hikes your utility bills but also because it demands the generation of more power which spews greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, making our weather more extreme and further increasing the need for heating and air conditioning. You get the demonic feedback loop that is set up.

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light has brokered a deal with Georgia Power Company and Southface Energy Institute to procure trained and licensed contractors to assess the homes of members of the faith community and make the required improvements to seal the leaky ductwork. We can work with a congregation to get a package deal for all of the homeowners in the congregation. More volume, better rates. And it will be more fun to do this all together.

Call or email us at 404-588-9978 ([info@gipl.org](mailto:info@gipl.org)) to inquire about getting into the program.

## Georgia Energy Plan

The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority is in the process of developing a comprehensive energy strategy for the state of Georgia. GIPL and many other organizations have been quite active in providing comment and suggestions on the first drafts of this strategy and we would encourage you to review the draft and comments at [www.georgiaenergyplan.org](http://www.georgiaenergyplan.org).

After the completion of the second draft, there will be a series of public meetings at which you can voice your support of sustainable energy strategies, efficiency and conservation measures, and environmental responsibility in energy generation and use.

## *The Great Warming – A Great Success!*

Thanks to everyone who attended the free screening of the global warming film *The Great Warming* that GIPL co-hosted in May. We had a great turnout - 375 people!

The panel discussion that followed included Rev. Richard Cizik of the National Association of Evangelicals; Rabbi Fred Reeves of The Temple; Brent Blackwelder of Friends of the Earth; and our own Rev. Woody Bartlett. This was a great opportunity to educate folks about global warming and to make connections within the faith community.

We will be sponsoring more film showings and get-togethers in the coming months, so keep your eyes open! You don't want to miss them!

## Making Change

Carol Bartlett

After seeing “Kilowatt Ours” at a Sunday school class, one of the men in the class came up and asked, “Why isn’t everyone buying compact fluorescents?”.

That is the question, isn’t it?

Actually, the question is – How does change happen? What allows people to think about new ways of living and new ways that are more sustainable?

It’s something we need to figure out and get better at – helping people change.

I’ve been thinking about how I change and what compels me to behave differently: buy the bulbs, turn down the thermostat, grow food, etc. What works for me is solutions, ideas. I need ideas. I need a plan of action. I need a few facts, but too many facts are overwhelming to me. Too much negativity causes me to shut down. Since I do know what works for me, I tend to offer that model to others. But I need to listen to what works for others and incorporate as many strategies as possible.

We need to pay close attention and do what works. We need to measure results. And we need to know we’re not finally in charge.

There’s an intriguing new book out by Peter Senge and others called Presence: An Exploration of Profound Change in People, Organizations, and Society. I recommend it to you.

Why isn’t everyone buying CFLs? Let’s find the answer to that question and see where it leads us.

## GIPL Around Town

Dan May, a member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and the treasurer of GIPL, represented GIPL at the Georgia Air Coalition’s press conference for the release of the Georgia Air Report. He spoke about some of the things that the Friends Meeting has done to use less energy and was even quoted in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer’s article on the release! Thanks, Dan, for representing GIPL and creation!

Dan also manned the GIPL booth at Georgia Tech’s Earth Day Fair and helped us secure our second straight prize from this event. We received the “Most Creative Booth” Award! Thanks Dan!

## Kudos!

GIPL Steering Committee member Melissa Heath was one of 20 employees of the Environmental Protection Agency that won a Silver Medal Award for Superior Service to the EPA for her work on the Environmental Stewardship Report ([www.epa.gov/innovation](http://www.epa.gov/innovation)). The report tries to shift the focus of the agency toward results rather than just enforcement, and to emphasize positive actions by individuals, companies, and communities. Congratulations Melissa! Thank you for your work promoting stewardship of creation!

## Online Shopping Cart!

Want to buy a programmable thermostat but don’t feel like waiting in line at Home Depot? Need some more compact fluorescent bulbs, but don’t want to wait for Hanukkah? Soon you will be able to buy energy efficient products without even getting out of your chair! GIPL is one of three state Interfaith Power & Light groups to pilot a new online shopping cart. Products include CFLs of different sizes, programmable thermostats, water-saving devices, LED exit signs, even LED Christmas lights! This program was started by Michigan IP&L and they have worked hard to get energy efficient products on deep discount! Now you can get them delivered right to your door!

The shopping cart will be available to members of all of GIPL’s participating member congregations. To be a participating member, your congregation needs to have sponsored at least one GIPL activity, be it an energy audit, Sunday school class, CFL sale, or green worship service.

Details are being finalized as I type. As soon as they are hammered out, the shopping cart will be up and running on GIPL’s website, and we will send out an e-mail giving all the necessary information. If your congregation hasn’t hosted an activity yet, don’t despair! Drop us an e-mail ([info@gipl.org](mailto:info@gipl.org)) and we’ll get you involved so that you can take advantage of this great opportunity!

## In-organ-ic Conditioning

Is your church spending money and energy to make sure your organ stays cool this summer? The National Institute of Organbuilders has developed a guide for heating and cooling that takes into account the special needs of organs.

This is a very valuable document for those congregations that are concerned about maintaining their organ while cutting their energy bills. You don’t need to bust the budget to keep your organ in tip-top shape!

Read the document (and download a copy for your building committee and organist) at [www.gipl.org/organs](http://www.gipl.org/organs).



## Global Warming - Woody Bartlett

Recently I went to a lecture at the Fernbank Museum here in Atlanta. Dr. Tim Flannery, an Australian animal biologist and author of the new book, *The Weather Makers*, was speaking. The lecture/slide show started with that dramatic composite picture of the earth at night, showing blazing lights all across the globe, heavy in North America and Europe but prevalent in urban centers around the world. Dr. Flannery commented that all of those lights depended on electricity, over half of which is generated by coal-fired power plants, each plant spewing green house gases and other pollutants into the air, each one contributing its bit to global warming. Half of greenhouse gases come from the ways we generate electricity. Less than half come from the cars and trucks we drive, although they are the second major source.

He went on to talk about the cataclysmic changes that have come and are coming to the earth because of the starkly rising amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Again and again the evidence is heart stopping and compelling. He urged the audience to do something about it before the changes were so drastic as to be irreversible.

At the end, Dr. Flannery said that this issue is not primarily a scientific problem, though it is that. It is not primarily an economic problem, though it is that also. At the bottom, global warming is a moral problem and we must all respond to it with urgency.

Not long after I attended that lecture, the cover story of Time Magazine was all about global warming. On that cover, there was an inset picture of a polar bear, isolated on an ice flow in the Arctic. The larger picture within the magazine is heartbreakingly poignant as the bear stands at the edge of the broken sheet of ice, looking around at many similar pieces around him. The story says that more and more drowned polar bears are being found. They can swim but not far enough to span the increasingly long distances between ice sheets. The ice is literally melting under their feet.

The Time story goes on to say that we should be worried, very worried about global warming. It is happening. It is happening at a faster pace than almost anyone had imagined.

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light exists to help the faith community in Georgia make a moral, and practical, response to global warming. Our movement is a grass roots, faith-based, energy revolution that is making a difference. Join us.

## ENERGY STAR Tax Free Holiday August 3-6



This year's Georgia state sales tax holiday on ENERGY STAR-certified products is August 3-6.

Take this opportunity to purchase energy efficient appliances and light bulbs (like the one you've pledged to change for the Change a Light campaign)!

To earn the ENERGY STAR, products must meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy. Since they use less energy, these products save money on electricity bills and help protect the environment.

To download a fact sheet about the tax holiday, visit our Events page at [www.gipl.org/events!](http://www.gipl.org/events!)

## Go Outside and Play! – Katy Hinman

If you're feeling a bit overwhelmed with ecological footprinting, combating global warming, and going carbon neutral, try narrowing your top-ten list of things to do to save the earth down to one for a bit. I'll even give you a suggestion of what to make your number one.

Go outside and play.

Playing not only rejuvenates and re-energizes us for the work we need to do as stewards of the earth, but being outside also reminds us of why we're doing it in the first place. This creation is very good. God said so right at the beginning. What better way to honor God's handiwork than to be out in it and appreciate it? Run in the grass and give thanks for the many plants that grow and give food to us all. Walk under the trees and remember why forest restoration and preservation is a worthy cause. Breathe deep and commit to helping keep the air clean and healthy. But most of all, just play outside. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your co-workers. Bring a random person you met on the street. Declare a recess for an hour and find joy in God's wonderful creation.

Go outside and play!