

Executive Director's Note

It's been another wonderful year for GIPL! We hosted Bill McKibben, celebrated our fifth birthday, expanded our successful audit and grants programs, hired a new Director of Outreach and Communication, and reached even more congregations. Of course, we can't just rest on our laurels. We've got a lot of great things planned for 2009 and we want you to be a part of it! Here's how you can get involved:

Get your congregation involved with GIPL! If your congregation has not had an educational program or energy audit, make this your New Year's resolution! E-mail us at info@gipl.org to find out how!

Nominate your congregation for a GIPPY! Our Georgia Interfaith Power & Light Awards (GIPPYs) honor congregations that are going green. Nominate your congregation and join us as we celebrate all that GIPL congregations have done on Tuesday, **February 17!** See nomination details on Pg 6.

Turn off the lights, it's Earth Hour! It's always a good plan to turn off any lights you aren't using, but especially on Saturday, **March 28** at 8:30 pm, when we challenge you to turn off ALL your lights in celebration of Earth Hour.

Celebrate Earth Day! It's not too early to start thinking about how your congregation may want to celebrate **Earth Day** (April 22). How about a special worship service? You can get ideas at www.gipl.org/worship. And you can find tips to green all your holidays at www.gipl.org/holidays.

Donate to GIPL! It takes funding and support from people just like you to help GIPL reach congregations around the state. You can donate online at www.gipl.org/donate or use our handy donation form on Page 6. If you make a donation in honor of a friend or family member, we'll send them a special notification card made of seeded paper that they can plant in the garden.

We are looking forward to working with you in the next year. Keep an eye on www.gipl.org for information about all of our upcoming events and announcements about our spring congregational representative trainings! May your holiday season and your new year be blessed!



Newsletter Guide

Winter's Light	Pg 1
Solar Water Heaters	Pg 2
Friendly Fundraising	Pg 3
New Tax Credits	Pg 4-5
ShopIPL.org Update	Pg 5
Call for Donations	Pg 6
Gippy's	Pg 6



And if we don't see you
between now and then,
Happy New Year!

Winter's Light: An Evening of Storytelling & Singing December 20th at 8pm in the Sanctuary of Central Congregational UCC 2676 Clairemont Road

Share in the spirit of the season and the message of light and love of many faiths at the 5th annual Winter's Light Festival. **A portion of the proceeds will benefit GIPL and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies.** Both Katy & Alexis will be there which means you should come, they are the best! Performers include storytellers Feriel Feldman, Yolanda Hernandez and Bev Fermon; vocalists-composers Maureen Jenci-Shelton and Jill Hendrix and Helene Kates and spoken-word artist Jewel Howard. Performers will also include storytellers/singers from the Vedic and Muslim communities. Children representing many faiths, including the Firebirds from the UUCA (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta) will light a ceremonial candle and recite blessings from their respective faiths. Suggested donation: \$10/person.

The event is co-sponsored by CCUCC, the Tikkun Olam Committee of Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta's Interfaith Storytelling Circle, the Southern Order of Storytellers, Roots & Wings Life Stories. Sponsorships are still available. For more info go to the [Winter's Light Festival Website](http://www.gipl.org).



green light

*The quasi-quarterly newsletter of
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light*

**Volume 4, Number 4
December 2008 Pg 2**

A Case for Solar Energy by Alan Goldman

Since childhood I have been interested in conserving energy. In those early years my main motivation was to spend less money. This monetary interest was due to the influence of my mother who saved rubber bands and always told us to turn off the lights.

As an adult I have become interested in conserving energy as a way to decrease pollution. Thankfully, saving money and conserving energy are frequently complimentary with regard to preventing pollution. Therefore, when the State of Georgia recently passed a bill providing for a clean energy property tax credit, my wife Joanna and I decided to look into the possibility of installing a solar energy system using photovoltaic panels (for producing electricity) or a solar hot water heating system, or both.

An installation company came to the house, gave estimates and told me that a solar photovoltaic (PV) system would be impractical because the roof of our house receives so much shade from trees. They company did say that one small area of our roof received enough sun that a solar hot water heating system (solar thermal) would be practical. The plus side of solar thermal is that it is cheaper to install than solar PV; and it is only about 20-25% of the cost of using solar PV because the output of solar thermal is much higher. While PV panels average around 13-15% conversion of sunlight into useful energy, solar thermal can convert 60-70% into usable heat. Installation took only three days.

The system consists of a set of 20 tubes and a header taking up a total roof area of about 29 square feet. The cold water from the bottom of the hot water tank in the basement is routed through well-insulated 3 inch copper pipes through a closet wall on the first floor, then through the attic, to the roof and the header. In the header, heat is collected from the tubes and then routed through a separate system which contains an antifreeze solution. The (non-toxic) antifreeze in the header exchanges its heat to the water pipes that then route the heated water back down to the top of the water tank.

We previously had a gas hot water heater, but we got rid of that heater; and the contractor installed an 80 gallon well-insulated electric water heater which serves as a storage tank for the solar-heated water as well as a back-up for overcast days and/or cold, winter days. The contractor told me that an electric backup is much easier to install and is less complicated than a gas backup heater.

Installation was completed almost three months ago, and, so far we are satisfied with the performance of this system. We always have plenty of hot water and have had no problems. It is too soon to tell how much energy (gas) is being used compared to our previous system. The contractor states that the amount of CO2 emissions avoided annually by this system will be about 2,000 pounds compared to a gas heater or 4,457 pounds compared to an electric water heater. The contractor also states that "solar water heating can reduce the amount of electricity or gas used for water heating by 60 percent" and that "solar water heating systems generally pay for themselves in 5-7 years."

The total cost for the system was \$6,989. Tax credits from the state and federal governments are projected to be \$2,446 and \$2,000 respectively. This means that my total cost (assuming I eventually receive the rebates) will be \$2,443. Based on the amount of therms used for heating hot water by the average Atlantan, I should save \$573 dollars (based on last year's rate) a year with my new system. This means it should take about 4-5 years to pay for itself. However, if one considers the total cost (\$6,989), it would take about 12 to 13 years to pay for it.

For more information on solar water heating systems at e-mail us at info@gipl.org or check out the [US DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sight](#).



green light

The quasi-quarterly newsletter of
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

Volume 4, Number 4
December 2008 Pg 3

Environmentally Friendly Fundraising

I know; it's shocking that your faith community can do fundraising and Care for Creation at the same time. We have collected a few ideas you can try in your congregation that are not only useful, but practical. We have success stories, how to lists, advertising packets and contact lists for each of these ideas. What we can suggest is that you Advertise – Let your congregation know the time, place, cost and mission the sale is supporting in the newsletter, bulletin, announcements and website. Also, Have fun! Here is a list of our favorites, if you have one to add, let us know.

1. Sell re-usable shopping bags-You can order the bags in bulk and custom design them by adding a logo representing your Earth Care Team, an already existing congregational logo, or don't put a logo on them at all. There are a number of companies that make re-usable bags, so do some web-searching. A few companies our partner congregations have ordered from in the past are:

[Ties that Matter](#) -made of recycled materials and that benefit the homeless in Atlanta.

[I Care Bags](#)

[Green Bags](#)

[The Shirt Lady](#)

[Chico Bags](#)

[Branders.com](#)

2. Waterless Car washes-We are called to better stewards of our water resources, so how are we to raise money utilizing the time honored tradition of car washing? Try the waterless car wash. There is a plethora of ways to clean a car without water. Plug in a portable vacuum and clean the insides—Don't steal the change in the ashtray....

Clean the tires and the windows.

Utilize Eco friendly cleaning products that you can simply spray on your car, wipe clean and admire away.

Some suggestions for products are:

[Eco-Touch Products](#)

[Lucky Earth Products](#)

[Freedom WaterLess Car Wash](#)

3. Tire inflation-A car will get better gas mileage if its [tires are inflated](#). Buy, rent or borrow an air pump from a congregant, local gas station, the [Atlanta Tool Bank](#) or [Home Depot](#). Your youth group can even check tires and top them off while folks' are in services or at evening programs.

4. Baby-sitting at church-Who couldn't use a few children free hours, especially around the holidays? Utilize your youth or your seniors club as babysitters. This is also a great way to build community.

5. Offer your leaf raking services-Collect a vanload of willing participants to travel about your city raking the leaves of your congregants. Use the leaves you rake in a compost pile or take those leaves to a community compost pile.

6. CFL sale-Bulk order your CFL's from www.shopipl.org and have a one-time sale, or e-mail us at info@gipl.org about doing a longer term group sale offering a wider range of bulbs and other energy efficient products. Remember: if your congregation is a GIPL member, you get an extra 10% discount by entering the promotional code SHOPIPL at checkout.

7. Rain barrel sale-You can make rain barrels for around \$30, and we promise we won't tell your congregation anything when you charge them \$100. [Cedar Hill Enrichment Center](#) has classes on Rain Barrel Making. You can also try these directions:

[Use Plastic Trash Barrels](#)

[Use a recycled barrel](#)

[Build a Rain Barrel](#), if those directions don't work try [these](#), [these](#), or watch [this helpful man](#) help you build one on youtube. If you can not make them, you can also buy them from several Georgia companies.

[Atlanta Rain Water](#)

[The Rain Barrel](#)

[Rain Barrels of Decatur, GA](#)

[Brookhaven Rain Barrels](#)

8. Advent/Hanukkah Kit Sale-Download and print copies of the [Advent](#) or [Hanukkah](#) study guides. You are also welcome to personalize the study guide (if you'd like the guide in Word format, e-mail us at info@gipl.org), but always be sure to include the Acknowledgements so that the people who wrote the kit get credit. Order CFL's in bulk from www.shopipl.org. You will need 5 per kit for the Advent kits and 8 for each Hanukkah kit. Remember, if your congregation is a GIPL member, you get an extra 10% discount by entering the promotional code SHOPIPL at checkout. Create packaging: we suggest decorated shoe boxes, reusable shopping bags or sewing your own bags. You can even get the kids you babysit (see suggestion 4) to decorate your packaging as an art project!



SUMMARY OF NEW TAX CREDITS FOR HOMEOWNERS

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the “Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.” This bill extended tax credits for energy efficient home improvements (windows, doors, roofs, insulation, HVAC, and non-solar water heaters). Tax credits for these residential products, which had expired at the end of 2007, will now be available. The bill also extended tax credits for solar energy systems and fuel cells to 2016. New tax credits were established for small wind energy systems and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Below you will find a list of Energy Star products with their associated tax credit which was reproduced from a list on the EPA Energy Star Tax credit website. To learn more follow the links for each specific category or visit the [EPA's Energy Star tax credit website](#).

Product Category	Product Type	Tax Credit	Notes
Windows & Doors	Exterior Windows and Skylights	10% of cost, up to \$200 for all windows, skylights and storm windows	Learn more at ENERGY STAR qualified windows and skylights .
	Storm Windows	10% of cost, up to \$200 for all windows, skylights and storm windows	Learn more at: Manufacturer Certification Statement
	Exterior Doors	10% of cost, up to \$500	ENERGY STAR doors will almost always qualify, except for certain parts of California. Learn more about ENERGY STAR qualified doors .
	Storm Doors	10% of cost, up to \$500	Eligibility will be confirmed by manufacturer and documented in the Manufacturer's Certification Statement
Roofing	Metal Roofs, Asphalt Roofs	10% of cost, up to \$500	All ENERGY STAR labeled metal roofs qualify for the tax credit.
Insulation	Insulation	10% of cost, up to \$500	For insulation to qualify, its primary purpose must be to insulate. (example: vapor retarders are covered, siding does not qualify).
HVAC	Central A/C	\$300	For a list of qualified products, go to the Consortium for Energy Efficiency product directory , click on the Air Conditioners and in the “CEE Tier” enter “Residential Tier 2.”.
	Air Source Heat Pumps	\$300	Note — not all ENERGY STAR products will qualify for the tax credit.
	Geo-Thermal Heat Pump	30% of the cost, up to \$2,000.	All ENERGY STAR labeled geo-thermal heat pumps qualify for the tax credit.
	Gas, Oil, Propane Furnace or Hot Water Boiler	\$150	For a list of qualifying products go to the Gas Appliance Manufacturing Association
	Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	\$50	For a partial list of qualifying products go to the Gas Appliance Manufacturing Association
Water Heaters	Gas, Oil, Propane Water Heater	\$300	For a partial list of qualifying products go to the Gas Appliance Manufacturing Association .
	Electric Heat Pump Water Heater	\$300	This is more than twice as efficient as the current federal standard.
Biomass Stove	Biomass Stove	\$300	Manufacturer's Certification Statement required



ShopIPL.org Update

Discounts on ENERGY STAR appliances through Sears!

As members of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, you are now able to purchase a select set of Sears energy efficient appliances at a reduced price. [IPL's pdf guide](#) lists the appliances that you may purchase through Sears at a special price. In order to get pricing, you must call the Sears support number listed on the first page of the [pdf](#). You may go to your local Sears to see the appliances, but orders come from Sears commercial so you cannot purchase the appliances at the lower price at your local Sears store.

([view pdf](#))

ShopIPL.org Featured Item

[Niagara 1.75 gpm Chrome Earth Showerhead N2917](#)

Most water-saving showerheads limit their flow to 2.5 gallons of water minute (gpm). This showerhead limits the flow to just 1.75 gpm, and the adjustable spray of this showerhead delivers a broad, rain-like spray or a focused, massaging spray. It is self-cleaning, and the non-aerated spray means less temperature loss between the showerhead and you. This showerhead has a plastic showerhead with a chrome finish and a chrome plated brass collar. Standard 1/2" inside threads.



SUMMARY OF NEW TAX CREDITS FOR HOMEOWNERS-cont.

Cars	Hybrid gasoline-electric, diesel, battery-electric, alternative fuel, and fuel cell vehicles	Based on a formula determined by vehicle weight, technology, and fuel economy compared to base year models	There is a 60,000 vehicle limit per manufacturer before a phase-out period begins. Toyota and Honda have already been phased out. Credit is still available for Ford, GM and Nissan. For more information visit: Fueleconomy.gov .
	Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles	\$2,500-\$7,500	The first 250,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit (then it phases out like the hybrid vehicle tax credits). Effective January 1, 2009.
Solar Energy Systems	Solar Water Heating	30% of cost, up to \$2,500	
	Photovoltaic Systems	30% of cost, up to \$2,000. After January 1, 2009 \$10,500.	
Small Wind Energy Systems	Small Wind Energy Systems	30% of the cost, up to \$500 per half kW of capacity (not to exceed \$4,000)	
Fuel Cells	Fuel Cells	30% of the cost, up to \$1500 per half kW of power capacity	



2008 GIPPY Awards

A celebration of the faith communities that have exhibited exemplary work incorporating Creation Care into the life of their Congregations in 2008. [Nominate your Congregation Today!](#)

Highlights

- Key Note Speaker Angela Speir
- Awards Ceremony
- Dessert Bar with homemade, local, and organic desserts

Date: 02/17/2008

Time: 7:00 PM

The Temple

1589 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA

For more information, to register to attend the GIPPY's or nominate your faith community for a GIPPY on-line click [here](#) or e-mail us at info@gipl.org for more information.

Make a Year End Gift to GIPL!

Donations are tax deductible and if you make a donation in honor of a friend or family member, we will send them a notification card made out of seeded paper that can be planted in the garden. Donate online using our secure sight by [clicking here](#) or fill out this form and send it with a check made out to GIPL to PO Box 5866, Atlanta, GA 31107

Name _____

Gift in Honor Of:

Address _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Phone: _____

Congregation _____

E-mail: _____

Gift Amount: \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____