



# green light

The quasi-quarterly newsletter of Georgia  
Interfaith Power and Light.

Volume 5, Number 2 Summer 2009

## Enlighten Me!

Dear GIPL Supporter,

### Summer Speakers

Are you on a literal or psychological vacation this summer? If so, let one of GIPL's qualified teachers, preachers and professors teach that class or preach that sermon. We aren't on vacation and would love to help. For more info, email us at [info@gipl.org](mailto:info@gipl.org).

It's summer! We are turning on our AC's and eating too much watermelon. Did you know the EPA suggests setting your AC to 78 degrees when you are at home and up to 85 when you are not at home for maximum energy efficiency? For more info on programmable thermostats and energy efficient settings for your AC visit the [EPA website](#).

First the BIG NEWS! GIPL has a summer intern, Katie Preston (although Katy says she spells her name wrong). Read more about her below. Also check out the two Advocacy Alerts below - there is a lot going on that you need to be a part of. Try to enlighten yourself with our education offerings in the left column. Read more about the amazing Summer Solstice Event on June 17th at Mary & Martha's place in the right column; GIPL will be there and is co-sponsoring the event.

### Welcome Katie Preston, Summer Intern

Hi! I am Katie Preston, a senior at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. I grew up in the Atlanta area and am excited to be part of the Green Revolution!! I will be here at GIPL over the summer, exploring ministry opportunities outside the church. I am hoping to graduate next May and possibly continue working in the non-profit sector. As a recycling junkie, I'm hoping that my personal commitment to a greener life will translate to those around me and that my little moves will help change the world! Goooooooooooooo Green!! Email Katie at [kpreston@gipl.org](mailto:kpreston@gipl.org)

### HEADS UP! Follow-up

We have been doing our best to contact all of you and see how you are doing. There are lots of you and only a few of us. Because of that we will be sending out a Survey Monkey to see how you are doing and how you feel about us. Look for it in your email!

### Spotlight Event

mary & martha's place  
**SUMMER  
SOLSTICE  
CELEBRATION**  
**JUNE 17 @ 5:30**

Throughout the ages people have welcomed summer with bonfires, song, planting of crops and great jubilation!

Join this festive eco-celebration and fund raiser. Bring a picnic, blanket, your friends and family. Learn about backyard gardening and take home some great eco-tips. Children will find much to create, do and learn. Organic wines will be available. We will cap off the evening with a Solstice fire, poetry, music, ice cream and s'mores.

**Mary & Martha's Place**  
St. Dunstan's 4393 Garmon  
Road 404.239.9382

**\$12/adults - \$6/  
children - \$30 family pre-**

## Advocacy Alert #1 American Clean Energy & Security Act

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) is currently before the House of Representatives. It is a strong bill that will encourage decreased energy use and increase energy efficiency as well as utilizing existing and new renewable energy sources. All of these factors will not only harness the ingenuity and creativity of Georgians, it will bring much needed green jobs to Georgia. It will also protect Creation for us and for future generations. For more information on the American Clean Energy and Security Act visit the [House Energy and Commerce Committee Website](#) or the [US Climate Action Network website](#).

Here at GIPL, we encourage you to call or email your Congressperson to urge them to support ACES. It is a critical time for this climate legislation and our congress people need our support. [Click here](#) to find your congressperson's contact info. If you need a sample email or call text, [email us](#), we would love to help.

## Advocacy Alert #2 Plant Washington Update

There are two new coal-fired power plants being proposed for Georgia. [Coal is dirty business](#), due to both the pollution produced when coal is burned (mercury, carbon dioxide, toxic ash, and more) and to the destructiveness of coal mining practices, [including mountaintop removal](#). Of the two proposed plants in Georgia, one of them, the [Longleaf Plant](#) proposed for Early County, is currently in litigation due to pollution concerns. The other, Plant Washington proposed for Washington County, is being planned by a consortium of EMCs (Electric Membership Cooperatives) called Power4Georgians.

Originally ten EMCs were part of this plan, but in the past month four of those EMCs (Greystone, Jackson, Diverse, and Excelsior) have dropped out of the deal, raising questions about the financial viability of the project.

Unfortunately, the remaining 6 EMCs (Cobb, Snapping Shoals, Pataula, Upson, Central Georgia, and Washington) have so far indicated that they plan to move forward on the project. GIPL is working with a number of other groups, as part of [Georgians for Smart Energy](#), to encourage alternatives to building new coal-fired power plants, including efficiency and renewable power generation. For more info visit [www.gipl.org/coal](http://www.gipl.org/coal)

What Can We Do?

1. If you are a customer of Greystone, Jackson, Diverse, or Excelsior EMC - write or call your EMC to thank them for pulling out of Plant Washington. To find the contact info for your EMC [click here](#).
2. If you are a customer of Cobb, Snapping Shoals, Pataula, Upson, Central Georgia, or Washington EMC - write or call your EMC to ask them to end their relationship with Power4Georgians and their plans to

register online:

[www.MaryandMarthasPlace.com](http://www.MaryandMarthasPlace.com)

## Events Page

There are lots of great Earth Day and Related events on our events page. Click on the calendar to check them out!



Click the calendar to see a list of upcoming events

## Donate Now

GIPL could not continue without your generous support. Please consider contributing by [donating today!](#)

Join us on

facebook

build a new coal-fired power plant. To find the contact info for your EMC [click here](#).

3. If you are a customer of another EMC - write or call your EMC to ask them not to join the effort to build Plant Washington.

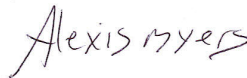
And anyone can help support the move toward clean renewable energy by buying green power blocks either from your local utility provider [Georgia Power](#) or [Green Power EMC](#) or through a national renewable energy provider - see [Green-e for a list](#).

If we are not in the office when you call, worry not, we are just at Turner Field. Go Braves! and Happy Summer to all!

Sincerely,



Katy Hinman, Exec Dir.  
Dir.



Alexis Myers, Comm.  
Dir.

and Introducing,



Katie Preston, Summer Intern

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