



# California Interfaith Power & Light

## SACRED ACTIVISM

## MISSION & VISION

California Interfaith Power & Light’s mission is to inspire and mobilize individuals and communities of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change.

We are greening our houses of worship, teaching and preaching about caring for Earth, and advocating for just and equitable climate policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

## OUR WORK

### Greening Our Facilities

We’re partnering with congregations in transforming their facilities with **solar panels, battery back ups, and air filtration** to serve as a refuge and resource for neighbors during grid blackouts, wildfire smoke, extreme heat, and other emergencies.

### Education & Awareness

We provide **workshops, webinars, and educational materials** (books, films, etc.) to over 720 member congregations across California. Raising awareness is step one in healing Earth.

### Public Policy & Advocacy

We work in a broad coalition of climate justice groups across California advocating for our planet in local, state, and federal arenas. Our most recent legislative win was in pressuring Gov. Gavin Newsom to **phase out gas-powered vehicles by 2035**.

*We do all of our work through a Climate Justice framework by centering the most under-served communities that are also the most affected by climate change.*

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you.  
— Job 12:7-8

"We are on Earth to take care of life. We are on Earth to take care of each other."  
— Indigenous Proverb

"When we know how to protect all beings, we are protecting ourselves."  
— Thích Nhất Hạnh

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF CALIFORNIA INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT IN ACTION

## **Environmental Justice - Health & Safety Setbacks**

Alongside our frontline partners, like VISION and STAND-LA, the faith community advocated for the passage of Senate Bill 1137, which will establish 3,200-foot health and safety setback between new and existing oil and gas drilling sites and homes, schools, and recreational centers. Multiple studies have established the link between fossil fuel extraction sites and cardiac and respiratory illness, higher rates of cancer and premature death. **Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles** has been a leader in this campaign.

## **Congregational Resiliency Hubs and Solar**

Recognizing the need for sustainable infrastructure, several CIPL members in the Bay Area are establishing their house of worship as Resiliency Hubs. In the face of more severe and frequent wildfires and extreme heat in the Southwestern U.S., these Resiliency Hubs will serve as safety and cooling centers, employing solar energy and battery backup, thus bringing mitigation and adaptation together. **Faith Baptist Church in Oakland** opened the city's first community resiliency hub in October 2022 and received GreenBuild's 2022 Legacy Project Award. "Humanity's scriptural mandate is clear," says Rev. Curtis Robinson, pastor of Faith Baptist. "Here's the garden. Take care of it. And be the best botanist you can be." Other congregations serving as resiliency centers are **Hope United Methodist Church in South San Francisco** and **Peninsula Sinai Congregation in Foster City**. More than 2,000 houses of worship in the U.S. are now powered by clean energy from Heaven via solar panels, with California in the lead with more than 300 solar congregations.

## **Advocacy - Transportation Electrification**

CIPL has long advocated for electrification of vehicles and investment in transit to reduce emissions and improve public health, especially around major transportation corridors. In 2022, California's ARB committed to policy that will have 100% of all cars and passenger trucks be electric by 2035. One example of congregational leadership is **Watts-Willowbrook Church of Christ** has produced EV education, resources, and Ride 'n' Drive events.

## **Education - National Campaigns, Events**

From teaching about climate change science and holding Earth Day/Week events, to hosting film screenings and community lectures, CIPL members are active in implementing the values of caring for Earth. All year-round, our congregations preach about sustainability, advocate for a just transition to a clean energy economy and commit to protecting Earth for future generations. Education and advocacy efforts align in rallies, public comments, petitions, legislative meetings, marches, and participation in global summits, while building bridges of friendship among diverse religious groups.



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