



Arizona Interfaith Power and Light Report
Arizona Ecumenical Council Quarterly Meeting
September 27, 2011
Rev. Doug Bland

MISSION--- “Arizona Interfaith Power & Light mobilizes people of faith in Arizona to reduce the causes of global climate change through, education, advocacy, action and prayer.”

One of our primary projects is **Cool Congregations**, where we train congregational leaders how to calculate their energy use, challenge them reduce their footprints by at least 10%, and send them back to their home congregations to help others reduce their footprint. See www.coolcongregations.com. On April 9 we sponsored a Cool Congregations workshop in Tucson at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC. January 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., we'll offer another Cool Congregation in the Phoenix area.

Great news! We received an Audubon/Toyota Together Green **Innovation Grant**. We're calling it “Footprints of Faith.” This \$20,000 grant will help us bring a version of the Cool Congregations program to three churches in South Phoenix. Our aim is to work through inner-city faith communities to increase awareness of global climate change and provide individuals and groups with strategies for reducing their carbon footprints.

Last spring, Community Christian Church, Tempe, sponsored a series of **storytelling concerts** on the four elements: “Water,” “Air,” “Fire,” & “Earth.” The four concerts raised more than \$1,000 for AZIPL. This money helps us meet our IPL Challenge Grant of \$9,000.

AZIPL is blessed to have Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings as our **Student Intern** during the 2011-2012 academic year. She will be part time at the UU church in Surprise and part time working for AZIPL. Lisa is completing her training as a Unitarian Universalist minister.

We continue to **lobby** for legislation friendly to the environmental. We find ourselves in very unfriendly times with many state and federal attempts to undermine clean air, clean water, endangered species and other important protections. We met with Rep. Schweikert, wrote letters and signed petitions. We encourage you to write or call President Obama and ask him to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline.

AZIPL activists sponsor several **Moving Planet** events in AZ on September 24---A Day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels. In Tempe/Phoenix people joined “A Walk around the World for Climate Justice” starting at the Global Institute of Sustainability and walking to area churches, a mosque and a synagogue. At each stop they heard a story about a different climate refugee (plant/ animal/ human.) In Tucson, they rode bikes in an event called “Connect 2 river paths on 2 wheels!” Some also joined to protest dirty coal and support jump-starting the solar economy.

Preach-in/ Teach-in on Global Warming, Valentine's Day Weekend, Feb. 11-13. You can register on the IP website, <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/preachin>.