



Just Energy: Caring for God's Creation

North and South Georgia United Methodist Women and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

We have spent the summer learning about Georgia's current energy practices and how our reliance on fossil fuel energy impacts the lives and health of our families, neighbors, and communities in Georgia. As people of faith, we are called into action to envision and enact a future where all of God's people are protected from environmental threats and injustices. There are steps that you and your congregation can take to reduce the amount of energy you consume and lessen the environmental and public health injustices caused by our current energy practices.

Ways to engage your Congregation:

1. Talk to your faith leader about why this matters to people of faith and how your faith tradition helps inform a commitment to care for creation.
2. [Form a Green Team](#). A Green Team is a group of three or more passionate individuals dedicated to advancing sustainability and environmental action in a community of faith. Green Teams meet regularly to cultivate individual and communal practices that embody their commitment to care for the natural world.
3. [Schedule an educational workshop, class, or film screening with GIPL](#). This is a great way to educate and engage the rest of your congregation.
4. [Register for GIPL's Power Wise program](#) to reduce the amount of energy generated onsite and save on energy costs.

Steps you can take at home:

1. Reduce the amount of energy you consume. Turn off lights when you aren't in the room. Unplug electronics when you aren't using them. Hang clothes to dry instead of putting them in the dryer.
2. Explore energy efficiency retrofits. Consider switching to LED lights. Install a programmable or smart thermostat.
3. Consider rooftop solar. Check out the [Solarize Atlanta 2.0](#) and [Solarize Savannah](#) campaigns.

Learn more about advocacy opportunities:

1. Energy Burden: <https://fairenergynow.org>
2. Coal Ash: <https://www.georgiacoalash.org/>
3. Contact the Public Service Commission and ask them to hold Georgia Power accountable for fair and just energy practices: <https://psc.ga.gov/>
4. Follow the Public Service Commission's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZSMyme2G_zmisHwuQAztFQ
5. [Register for GIPL's Advocacy 101 or Environmental Justice 101 workshops](#).

Additional Resources:

1. Visit UMW Climate Justice: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>
3. Read the UMW Principles (1 page) [13 Steps to Sustainability](#)
4. Read the UMW PDF document (8 pages), [Introduction: Creating Sustainable Events](#)
5. [Watch the recordings of the Just Energy Workshops](#)

Contact:

Hannah Shultz, GIPL Program Associate, hannah@gipl.org, 404-377-5552

Bev Marshall-Goodell, North Georgia Social Action Coordinator, bev.marshall-goodell@iaumc.net, 319-541-4003

Barbara Morris, South Georgia Social Action Coordinator, morrisbarbara583@gmail.com, 706-565-7767