



IOWA INTERFAITH
POWER & LIGHT



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Religious and Faith-Based Leaders Unite for Cleaner Air

EPA's carbon pollution limits will assist ongoing efforts to help those in need

Nearly 400 signatures of leaders from religious and faith-based organizations throughout the Midwest, including 80 representing denominations and communities throughout Wisconsin, are on a letter now headed to the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency in support of the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution at American power plants.

“The more we understand about how climate change is worsening already widespread human suffering, the more we feel a true responsibility to act,” said Bishop Jeff Barrow, Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. “Climate change is affecting the everyday lives of our brothers and sisters around the world, and we need to make wise choices today for a healthier future for this planet.”

Next week, the EPA is expected to unveil a draft plan to address how carbon could be regulated at U.S. power plants. Power plants produce 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution, the key driver of climate change. Faith-based organization and religious leaders throughout the Midwest have organized efforts to work with EPA and all stakeholders, including the utilities, in support of solutions for cleaner air. Their letter and names can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

Signatures by state: Illinois: 91, representing 14 faith traditions; Iowa: 97, representing 14 faith traditions; Minnesota: 93, representing 12 faith traditions; Ohio: 28, representing 12 faith traditions; **Wisconsin: 80, representing 16 faith traditions.**

“Our many voices represent not just a call for action, but a call for progress,” said Pastor Brian Sauder, minister at First Mennonite Church, Champaign, and executive director of Faith in Place, a sustainability partnership of more than 900 congregations in Illinois. “We all have the obligation – and the opportunity – to do the right thing for future generations.”

Throughout the Midwest and nationally, many religious leaders and organizations are educating members on how climate change is a moral and spiritual issue. There are numerous examples of

providing disaster relief for places impacted by drought, flooding and other storms linked to a changing climate. Many others also are taking charge by improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy at their houses of worship, schools and personal homes.

“Climate change is already impacting those who are most vulnerable in our communities and our world,” said Susan Guy, executive director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light. “People of faith have long been addressing global issues such as hunger, clean water, and disaster relief, and climate change is exacerbating these and other issues. Limiting carbon pollution from power plants is a key factor in creating meaningful solutions.”

According to the [World Food Programme](#), 20 percent more people will be at risk of hunger by 2050 due to the changing climate. [Refugees International](#) reports that over the past several decades, natural disasters have increased in force and frequency and are responsible for displacing over 36 million people in 2008 alone. Low income countries will be hit hardest by climate change, according to [UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#).

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Contacts:

ILLINOIS: Pastor Brian Sauder
Office: 217-649-1898
Email: brian@faithinplace.org

IOWA: The Rev. Susan Guy
Office: 515-689-1112
Email: director@iowaipl.org

MINNESOTA: Julia Nerbonne
Office: (612) 810-1577
Email: julia@mnipl.org

OHIO: Sara Ward
Office: (614) 561-6629
Email: sward@ohipl.org

WISCONSIN: Peter Bakken, Ph.D.
Office: 608-837-3108
Email: bakken@WisconsinIPL.org