

ANNUAL REPORT



POWER&LIGHT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Thank you for helping to make 2018 a year of deepening relationships and intersectional partnerships. Perhaps you

were at the Mississippi Headwaters with me this past September when over a hundred of us gathered to camp, dine and explore the streams, lakes and wild rice beds of the north. Even in the midst of this cold, long winter, it puts a smile on my face to remember the drums and the kids scrambling in and out of hammocks draped around the circle.

I especially remember the vase that Native elder Dawn Goodwin gave to Ruhel Islam to carry the holy water he had brought from his Hajj in Mecca, as a part of praying for the sacred water in our lives. What an incredible experience to gather with Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and many others to participate in a water ceremony led by Indigenous women.

At Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, we envision a world where thousands of individuals in communities around the state are successfully participating in a vibrant movement for change ~ self-organizing to set up meetings with decision makers, showing up in resistance, and building economic opportunities, so that the new energy revolution will help to heal the deep wounds of systemic oppression.

It's so amazing to see this happening today. Because of our organizing and the incredible work of grassroots partners,

Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan have fully committed to a Department of Commerce Appeal of the Line 3 pipeline decision. We have legislation moving in the Minnesota legislature that will set us on a path to 100% renewables before 2050. We have city governments investing in workforce development, access to solar, and energy efficiency improvements.

This is not an accident. Just last week, dozens of MNIPL congregations met with their elected officials, and six youth from Hinckley secured the support of their representatives for the Solar on Schools bill and a move towards 100% renewable energy.

How do we leverage our time to empower congregational leaders? First, we focus on leadership development, including our faith-inspired organizing training "Be The Spark". We've also committed to intersectional partnerships. Through our collaboration with the Just Solar Coalition, we've been successful at facilitating the purchase of more than a megawatt of solar.

With friendship and shared intention, we've been able to co-create spaces for deepening relationships with Muslim members of the MNIPL community at our Unity Iftar, where we broke the fast together and heard from exclusively Muslim women speakers.

It's been a busy time of growth and clarity. Thanks for your part in building the movement.

Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director



OURMISSION & VISION

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light is an interfaith community co-creating a just and sustainable world. We work in partnership with faith communities to build transformative **power** and bring the *lights* of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis.

At MNIPI we work to **build the** interfaith climate movement in Minnesota by empowering faith communities across the state to take action that is authentic. effective, and energizing in their context.

We do this in two ways: leadership development programs and action opportunities that provide tangible ways to make an impact.

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger

FREDERICK BUECHNER

WE ENVISION **100% ACCESS** TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2014, MNIPL joined together with a team of local partners to form the Just Solar Coalition: a network that embraces a vision of 100 percent access to clean energy. Together, we're working to build a renewable economy that includes everyone, helps to close the employment gap, and creates a new story about the community's role in the energy system.



Ed Owens, Taylor Wicklund, Alina Yaman, and Pastors Theresa and Roosevelt Williams at the Shiloh Temple solar array. Photo by Julia Nerbonne

The Just Solar Coalition now works with six solar developers to create model projects across Minnesota, employing workforces of >50% people of color and allowing local community members to become cooperative owners of their own energy. MNIPL serves as convener of the coalition, playing a central role in the group's work to advance equitable solar.

This has been an exciting year, with multiple solar projects coming to fruition. In March, we gathered with partners from the Just Solar Coalition and Shiloh Temple International Ministries to launch the first community solar array in North Minneapolis. This iconic Shiloh Temple project, developed by Cooperative Energy Futures and built by Innovative Power Systems, is cooperatively owned by Masjid An-Nur and Shiloh Temple as well as 26 neighborhood households. The project represents multiple years of collaboration, rooted in environmental justice values.

"This is a triumphant moment for our community and I'm proud to be a part of the process of restoring economic justice to our neighborhood."

BISHOP RICHARD HOWELL, SHILOH TEMPLE

In Duluth, our members partnered to launch the American Indian Community Housing Organization solar project at the Gamaaji Gathering Place, supporting AICHO's mission in education, culture, and empowerment. MNIPL members were key partners with AICHO, RREAL and Ecolibrium3 throughout the project, helping to raise funds and provide technical assistance. AICHO now receives \$3,000 per year in savings from the electricity generated, combined with energy efficiency improvements. *

"This is bigger than energy, it's about a larger part of equal access in our democracy. We want to take what's happening in Minnesota and replicate it throughout the country."

JACQUI PATTERSON, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NAACP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM, REFERENCING THE SHILOH TEMPLE SOLAR PROJECT

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

As we create bold solutions for climate justice, we recognize the vital work of resisting fossil fuel projects that would damage our communities. This was an important year in the movement to stop the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline, which threatens Minnesota waters, our climate, and Anishinaabe treaty lands as one of the world's largest proposed tar sands pipelines.

"Because we say yes to the sacredness of water and life, we must say no to the Line 3 project."

REV. REBECCA VOELKEL, LYNDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Together with partners, we organized more than 550 faith leaders to sign onto a public letter to Governor Dayton in moral opposition to Line 3. This impactful story was covered nationally in the Washington Post and AP, as well as local news sources. In June, we convened leaders across the



Rev. Susan Mullin, Rev. Dana Neuhauser, and Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud gather at the Governor's office in moral opposition to Line 3. Photo by Erika Sanders

major faith traditions to deliver this letter in a beautiful gathering at the Capitol, collaborating with Indigenous allies, the Poor People's Campaign, and the Minnesota Council of Churches. With the support of this incredible national campaign and the decades of deep relationships forged with our partners, we were able to significantly influence decision makers.

In September, we gathered at the invitation of Indigenous allies for an interfaith vigil at the sacred Mississippi Headwaters, which are threatened by Line 3. More than 150 people came together for a weekend of camping, friendship-building, and ceremony to honor the headwaters. We're grateful to our partners at Honor the Earth and MCC who co-hosted this event. *



INTERFAITH UNITY

Interfaith cooperation is an essential piece of our work. In May, we collaborated with partners in the Muslim community to hold the fourth annual Unity Iftar Block Party during Ramadan, the traditional season of fasting and reflection for Muslims all over the world. It was a beautiful night

Fourth annual Interfaith Unity Iftar. Photo by Devon Cupery

of connection and a testament to the vision we hold for our city. Our theme was women's empowerment, featuring female leaders in the Muslim community. MNIPL Board Member Ruhel Islam sang the Adhan (Muslim Call to Prayer), and we shared in a delicious meal prepared by Gandhi Mahal Restaurant. *

INTERSECTIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

The solar revolution is not only an opportunity to reduce carbon - it's also a chance to democratize our energy system and ad-



Bob Blake. Photo by Erika Sanders

dress systemic oppression. Toward this vision, we colaunched the Returning Relatives Initiative, a solar training program for incarcerated individuals, in

partnership with Solar Bear, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. The Willow River Correctional Facility hosted the program's first training with 13 participants, and the team then worked with solar companies to employ program graduates.

In March, with the leadership of Ed Owens, MNIPL, and the Just Solar Coalition, we convened the first People's Movement Assembly to move forward a vision of 100 percent access to renewable energy, featuring National NAACP Environmental Justice Director Jacqui Patterson. Also this year, we supported staff member Bob Blake in starting up Solar Bear, the first Native/minority-owned solar installation company in Minnesota. Bob's team completed a 600 kW rooftop solar array at the Red Lake Government Center, with more exciting projects in the works.

In Southern Minnesota, we've been collaborating with local organizations, churches, and the Just Solar Coalition to build participation in cooperatively-owned solar. One of our new co-op members is Partners for Affordable Housing, a nonprofit organization that assists Mankato-area residents who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. Local solar energy now powers 17 of their affordable housing units, generating an expected savings of \$100,000 over 25 years. *

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH BE THE SPARK!

Climate change particularly impacts young people, who feel strongly about having a future full of life and possibility. The Youth Be the Spark program is designed to empower youth to take leadership roles in their communities on climate solutions. This year, 24 youth participated in overnight youth adventure camp experiences to connect with natural world, build community around caring for earth, and learn leadership skills.

In June, we hosted the 9th annual All in the Circle: Creative Arts & Nature Camp, bringing together 60 youth and 15 youth counselors to dive into the inspiring world of beavers. All in the Circle is carefully designed to give children the opportunity to

fall in love with the earth and to be co-creators of a culture of kindness. *

"All in the Circle has an immeasurable impact on me as a youth leader...

My experience was full of laughter, running and playing in the sunshine, and feeling joy in my own, deep personal growth."

JOY GRESHAM, MNIPL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM



BUILDING THE INTERFAITH CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

It's our mission to empower others, to empower others, to empower others. For the sixth year, we offered our faith-inspired leadership training "Be The Spark" to two dozen people from around the state. Building on the wisdom of Marshall Ganz and Training for Change, we encourage faith communities to be strategic in their organizing.

This also marked the first year of our Movement Builder program, bringing together 120 faith communities around climate action. The program's structure is based on the "snowflake model" of organizing, where a core group of mentors works to empower and support leaders in faith communities across Minnesota. Through interviews and surveys, were able to show that by deepening relationships with these individuals, we could help

people to grow their impact. Participants have organized their communities to install solar arrays on churches, host educational events, take part in marches, and meet with elected officials. To all the amazing leaders in our network, thank you! *

"Be the Spark helps you connect what is deepest within you (your faith commitments, your experiences, and your dreams) to a vision of a better world, and then take concrete steps toward making that vision a reality.

REV. SUSAN MULLIN, DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION, FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, UNITED METHOD-IST CHURCH GLOBAL MINISTRIES CREATION CARE TEAM

2018 **BY THE NUMBERS**

INTERFAITH VOICES

550 faith leaders signed letter to Governor Dayton in moral opposition to Line 3

120 faith communities joined the statewide Movement Builder program

300 people gathered for the fourth annual Interfaith Unity Iftar

2000 petition signatures by faith actors

YOUTH

60 youth campers & **15** youth counselors took part in the two-week All in the Circle Creative Arts and Nature camp

24 youth participated in overnight youth climate leadership camp experiences

Engaged **120** students in carbon reduction and sustainability projects

Engaged 6 youth groups in Youth Be the Spark leadership development curriculum, climate and waste reduction education and project planning

2018 INCOME & EXPENSES

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

let Income \$ 6,196		
Total Expenses	\$ 496,951	
Greater Minnesota Programs	\$ 102,989	21%
Twin Cities Programs	\$ 333,208	67%
Fundraising	\$ 26,825	5%
Administration	\$ 33,929	7%
EXPENSES		
Total Income	\$ 503,147	
Solar Revenue	\$ 139,313	
Program Income, misc	\$ 48,752	10%
Organizational donations	\$ 12,458	2%
Individual donations	\$ 43,067	9%
Government contracts	\$ 10,000	2%
Foundations	\$ 221,465	44%
Congregations	\$ 28,091	6%
INCOME		

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS Cash & Cash Equivaler Accounts Receivable Other	nts	\$141,695 \$5,985 \$64,075	
Total Assets		\$211,756	
LIABILITIES AND N Total Liabilities Total Temp. Restricted Total Net Assets Net Income		\$34,042 \$40,000 \$131,517 \$6,196	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		\$211,756	
2018 INCOME	Program incom Organizational Individual dona Government co	Solar revenue 28% Program income, misc. 10% Organizational donations 2% Individual donations 9% Government contracts 2% Foundations 44% Congregations 6%	

Youth leadership team led an earth day event attended by 200 people and a climate action workshop for 150 middle schoolers

SOLAR

250 people subscribed to **8** solar gardens: Edina, Shiloh Temple, Waseca, Faribault, Ramp A, Pax Christi, St. Cloud, Clarks Grove

1.28 MW of community solar garden subscriptions recruited

13 Returning Relatives participated in solar training at Willow River Correctional Facility **17** affordable housing units in powered by local, cooperative solar through Partners for Affordable Housing in Mankato, MN

COMMUNICATIONS

MNIPL featured in 33+ news articles, including Washington Post, Star Tribune, MPR News, Pioneer Press, National Public Radio Climate Cast, Midwest Energy News, Healing Minnesota Stories, El Minnesota de Hoy

Facebook following grew by 55% to 3,419

163,500 video views; 57 videos published

864 Twitter followers

STAFF

Julia Nerbonne

Bret Pence Greater Minnesota Director

Erin Pratt **Program Director**

Sam Benson Solar Outreach Coordinator

Robert Blake Solar Outreach Coordinator

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Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light extends our deepest gratitude to our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters.

We've carefully prepared this list for accuracy and apologize for any mistakes or omissions. If you find an error, please contact Devon Cupery, Engagement & Development Manager at devon@mnipl.org.

\$40,000 & ABOVE

McKnight Foundation New Ventures Fund Skoll Foundation

\$10,000 - \$39,999

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"MNIPL has truly helped our congregation live out the Sustainability Committee's mission. For that reason, we are now an MNIPL sustaining contributor and look forward to closer relationships and continued support from MNIPL."

WALLACE WADD, THE GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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St. Luke Presbyterian Church

\$1000 - \$4,999

Edina Community Lutheran Church Episcopal Church in Minnesota First Universalist Church of Minneapolis Mayflower Community Congregational UĆC Mount Olive Lutheran Church Plymouth Congregational Church The Grove United Methodist

Church Unitarian Church of Underwood

\$500 - \$999

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SPECIAL THANKS TO Briana Baker

Cooperative Energy Futures Bethany Divakaran

Riley Jamison Muhammad Jiwa

Courtney Overby

Quaker Voluntary Service

Pastor Theresa Williams Pastor Roosevelt Williams Earl Wilson

Betsy Raasch-Gilman

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Tamara Rogers

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IN LOVING MEMORY

On the cover: families crossing the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota. Photo by Devon

Report Design: Patricia Lamas



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