



# virginia interfaith power & light Partnership Program

Trying to start or sustain a green ministry in your congregation or community? We provide personalized consultation, can celebrate your good work, and can connect you with ideas and resources for next steps.

## Why should my congregation or community become a VA IPL partner?

### Have you ever felt like the lone green sheep in your congregation or community?

By becoming a VA IPL partner, you will be connected to a supportive, statewide network of Virginians of many backgrounds and faiths seeking to care for Creation. VA IPL agrees to support your partner congregation or community by:

1. Offering **green leader trainings and providing resources** to help start a green team and/or implement certain greening projects in your congregation or community.
2. Connecting you to other green leaders across the state through a **listserv**, events, and conference calls.
3. Connecting you to **organizations** that are community leaders for your greening projects.

### Have you ever wanted your congregation or community to take its moral call to protect Creation to the next level?

You will have access to the latest news, information, opportunities, and programs from us. VA IPL agrees to support your partner congregation or community by:

1. Helping to arrange events, such as a **community dialogue**, a **guest speaker** on caring for Creation for a service or special event, or a **film screening** about caring for Creation, the environment, sustainability, or climate change.
2. Providing spiritually/religiously-motivated **resources** on your faith tradition's practices as they relate to Creation care, sustainability, and environmental impact.
3. Sharing your congregation or community's **stories**, concerns, talents, events, and challenges that fall at the intersection of faith, religion, environment, and climate with others in the VA IPL and the broader community.
4. Providing strategic action opportunities for your congregation or community to take that will move Virginia and local communities towards achieving climate justice.

**To apply or learn more, visit:  
[vaipl.org/partnership-program](http://vaipl.org/partnership-program)**

Questions? Please email us at [contactus@vaipl.org](mailto:contactus@vaipl.org) or call 434-218-3423.

# 5 Steps to Get Started

# 1

## Have a congregation or community-wide dialogue about caring for Creation.

How does your community feel about being a steward of Creation? What priorities are the most important to work on for your community? Talk to some influential community members one-on-one, invite a guest speaker who can tell the story of what is happening to our world, or host a workshop to have your community reflect on their call to respond as people of faith. VA IPL can help! Learn more at [vaipl.org](http://vaipl.org).

## Reaffirm your commitment to Creation Care by becoming a VA IPL partner congregation or community.

Identify volunteers to help your congregation delve deeper into Creation Care, apprise your leadership of the opportunities to partner with VA IPL, and submit the VA IPL Partnership Program application online or via mail.

# 2

# 3

## Provide resources to your leadership, as well as to your congregation or community.

Be sure the leadership of your faith community (e.g. pastor, imam, rabbi, etc.) understands what resources VA IPL has to offer. Share sample sermons, teach a sacred text study, or have an adult learning hour between services! Take part in VA IPL's advocacy campaigns by collecting postcards, participating in events, or meetings with decision-makers on our moral responsibility to protect Creation.

## Determine and launch a greening project or campaign at your congregation or community.

Plant a community garden, reduce your building's energy costs, put solar panels on your roof, or become a zero-waste congregation or community. These are just some of many potential project ideas.

# 4

# 5

## Become community ambassadors that advocate for healthy communities and environmental justice.

Spread the word in your faith community and outside of it about the urgency and moral responsibility to act to protect Creation. Let folks in the wider community know how they can get involved in this important work. By standing with front-line communities, we can ensure the safety and health of all Virginians. By bringing faith communities together, we can achieve justice-clean energy, clean air and clean water for all.

Join our email list!  
[vaipl.org/join](http://vaipl.org/join)

