

TIPL 2014 Annual Report

Public Policy Work: During 2014, TIPL made available at its climate vigils petitions urging TVA to close down its oldest and dirtiest coal plants. TIPL supported the EPA Clean Power Plan at the Climate Knoxville event, at the Atlanta EPA public hearing in July and in written comments submitted to EPA in November. TIPL advocated climate justice through weatherization of inner-city homes in meetings with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation and with the City of Knoxville.

TIPL Regional Events: TIPL had seven regional events in 2014. Six climate prayer vigils were offered: two each in East TN, Knoxville, and Nashville. In addition, East TN had Sister Paula Gonzalez as a program speaker. TIPL was a major partner in Climate Knoxville on the Square, a July rally in support of the Clean Power Plan. The Greater Knoxville TIPL has partnered with the City of Knoxville in an energy efficiency contest through the Georgetown University Energy Prize.

TIPL Tele-seminars: Quarterly teleseminars (conference calls with a presentation) were offered to the TIPL community. Topics and leaders of the tele-seminars included an inner city energy efficiency listening project (Josh Outsey of SEED), the influence of spiritual values on the City of Knoxville's climate work with Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, ways faith groups can finance solar projects on their buildings with Aries Energy, and preparing for the 2015 Preach-in, led by Ginny Ayers (TIPL Steering Committee.)

TIPL Outreach: Several TIPL Steering Committee members made presentations to faith groups, introducing them to TIPL, using a TIPL PowerPoint presentation. We reached out to groups in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Oak Ridge, Crossville, Elizabethton, and Nashville. TIPL had a booth at a UT/Knoxville sustainability fair.

Membership: TIPL ends 2014 with 18 faith group partners and 181 individual members. We have online application forms for members (individual) and partners (faith groups). We use a data management system to help us keep track of both members and partners.

Member and Partner Services: TIPL developed a Welcome Packet to introduce new partner faith groups to our activities and offerings. Members and partners monthly receive an e-newsletter to update them about what TIPL has done and is doing. The Greater Knoxville TIPL started regular planning calls open to all of its regional members. TIPL has partnered with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to encourage partner faith groups to do an energy audit of their worship buildings.

National IPL Engagement and Support: Two TIPL steering committee members attended the national IPL annual conference in Washington, D.C. in April. We regularly participated in the quarterly national IPL phone conferences. National IPL staff have generously provided TIPL with regular developmental support and technical assistance whenever we have requested its help.

Communication: TIPL has a number of ways to communicate with our members, partners, and larger community. Our website (www.tennipl.org) is our communication anchor. We have a monthly TIPL newsletter that is e-mailed to our members and partners. TIPL uses a conference call service for our steering committee calls, planning calls, and tele-seminars.

Annual Meeting: TIPL convened its second annual meeting in September at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Knoxville. On Friday night, our featured speaker, Sister Paula Gonzalez, offered her insights into the sustainable transformation. At our Saturday annual meeting, we made our plans for 2015.

Governance and Administration: The TIPL Steering Committee has monthly calls to conduct business and develop plans. Current Steering Committee members are Dan Joranko (President), Roberta Boone (Vice-President and Treasurer), Louise Gorenflo (Corresponding Secretary), Ginny Ayers, Gene Burr, Nathan Kahre, Rev. Steve Musick, Rev. Kay Reynolds, Toby Rogers, and Todd Waterman. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy serves as our fiscal sponsor. In 2014, the Steering Committee developed its policy manual.