

WISCONSIN INTERFAITH GROUP HAS BEEN INNOVATIVE!

Since its inception in 1999, this interfaith group has served as a leader in developing many innovative ideas, first as WCCC, then as WICEC, and now as WIPL (Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light

1. 3-P TO 4-P: During our early years when several members attended the national conference in Washington, DC, there was discussion at the conference to change from a 2-P (two pollutants - SOx & NOx) problem to a 3-P discussion (to include Mercury [Hg]). Wisconsin's contingency recommended to bring the argument to a **4-P or even a 5-P** proposition (including CO2 and Particulate Matter - especially particles smaller than 0.1 micron). The national program adopted our recommendation of a 4-P document. After a Letter to the editor, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel covered the 5-P argument on Dec. 16, 2002.

2. DIESEL SCHOOL BUS CONVERSIONS: WICEC was the leader in asking the State Superintendent of Schools to clean up dirty diesel fuel school buses. Action followed and we received recognition for our action;

3. CAFÉ: Wisconsin was the first to adopt a **Café** gimmick (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) to discourage the use of gas-guzzlers. A paper cup with MPG markings for various automobiles on the side has been a hit along with a complete Café Kit;

4. CARBON OFFSET: Wisconsin was probably one of the first interfaith groups offering a **Carbon Offset Program** providing funds to Aliguda village in Central India where the people planted a native tree species and developed a sustainable program providing oil, energy, fertilizer and funds.

5. ENERGY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: Wisconsin was the first to start an **energy monitoring system in congregations** under the guidance of Warren Gaskill and Kevin Little. Gaskill, Dave Steffenson, and some Franklin Energy folks taught the beginning session; Dave helped with promotion and wrote cover letters. Warren set up a web site and follow-up program. Later this developed into a Collaborative in which We Energies sponsored an **Interfaith Energy Stewardship Collaborative** <<http://www.we-energies.com/business/energyeff/AscensionLutheran.pdf>>;

6. WISCONSIN INTERFAITH EARTH MONTH POSTER CONTEST: Huda Alkaff has been successful in developing and running this contest for many years and has received recognition several times (see awards at: <<http://www.wisconsinipl.org/awards.htm>>);

7. WISCONSIN INTERFAITH CLIMATE & ENERGY CAMPAIGN (now WIPL) and THE ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP OF WISCONSIN: The program set goals and surpassed them in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing energy use for several years (see awards at: <<http://www.wisconsinipl.org/awards.htm>>);

8. ADVOCACY ROLES WITH STATE LEADERS: Board members often met with state legislators, the DNR, the Public Service Commission and made suggestions to the Governor's Global warming commission. Dave Steffenson, our interfaith leader, may have been the first to ask the Governor to carry out the big global warming commission study. We provided informal input and strategy suggestions to appointed leaders on the commission;

9. EFFECTIVE NEWSLETTERS: Our periodic newsletters with special columns provided by Sarah provided information that may have impacted the legislature and many Wisconsin congregations;

10. STATEWIDE EDUCATION-ACTION TRAINING CONFERENCES: While the national interfaith leaders wanted us to back up national lobbying efforts toward Congress, etc., we chose the strategy of state regional and statewide education-action training conferences that reached a large number of people around the state;

11. PROMOTING A HYDROGEN ECONOMY: Prior to our origins in 1999 one of our board members has attempted to promote the development of a hydrogen economy and the use of fuel cells. Since that time many countries, except the USA, are promoting and developing a hydrogen economy. Even the Big Three auto manufacturers have stated that we must move in that direction (see: <http://www.uscar.org/guest/article_view.php?articles_id=312> download a PDF copy of the report);

12. OUR STAND ON NUCLEAR ENERGY: From the beginning, our organization has been against the use of Uranium/Plutonium nuclear reactors for producing electrical energy. However, we have suggested to many authorities, legislators, DNR, and others that we would endorse a study for the use of Thorium as an alternative to the present Uranium/Plutonium nuclear plants. The use of Thorium MAY turn out to be a much

cleaner, safer and more abundant source of energy that could provide energy for nearly a thousand years (see: <<http://www.dauvergne.com/english/pages/abundance.htm>>);

13. RESIDENTIAL ENERGY MONITORING: Wisconsin might become innovative once again in being one of the first interfaith groups to encourage **residential energy monitoring**. Adam Borat presented such a program at our June 9, 2010, WIPL meeting and a collaboration may follow.

[Assembled by Wayne Stroessner and Dave Steffenson for 8/26/2010]