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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Caring for Creation: Workshops help congregations, households develop five-year plan for reducing carbon footprint**

Individuals and congregations can learn how to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs at two workshops—one for congregations (12 to 2:30 p.m.) and one for households (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.)—on Wednesday, June 11. Sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon, the workshops will be held at **Central Lutheran Church**, 1820 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Ave., Portland.

The workshops will provide consumers with tools—including a five-year plan to dramatically reduce carbon footprints—and know-how to increase energy efficiency and use renewable energy. “Scientists say we have less than 10 years to stabilize carbon emissions to prevent the worst effects of global warming,” says Jenny Holmes, Environmental Ministries director for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. “Although major policy changes are needed, OIPL offers these workshops because everyone can be a part of the solution of global warming and lead by example. No step is too small.”

The first workshop, “Save Your Congregation Energy and Money,” will be held **from 12 to 2:30 p.m.** Geared to the needs of congregations, the workshop will cover key principles of energy stewardship for congregations, low-cost and no-cost measures to save energy costs, and funding energy efficiency projects for religious facilities. The second workshop, “Energy Stewardship,” will be offered for individuals **from 6 to 8:30 p.m.** Topics will include top ideas to save energy costs for homes and businesses, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship.

Keynote speaker for both workshops is Doug Boleyn, who has over 30 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency and is energy consultant for OIPL, board member of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon, president of Cascade Solar Consulting, LLC, and a member of the Energy Trust of Oregon Renewable Advisory Committee. Case study speakers for the afternoon session are Sr. Pat Nagle, who will share about a major green remodel of her religious order's motherhouse, and members of Central Lutheran Church Green Team in conversation with Doug Boleyn about their energy audit and stewardship progress. Other speakers include Rebekah Skelly for the Energy Trust of

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African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren  
Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Oregon, and Matt Hale from the Oregon Department of Energy. For the evening session there will be a success story from Chris Runyard, a Zero Net Energy homeowner. The Rev. Brian Brandt, pastor of Central Lutheran Church, will give an opening reflection on faith and care of creation at both workshops.

A project of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, OIPL engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. OIPL offers opportunities for putting faith into action through wise electricity choices and energy conservation.

Registration will be accepted at the door. Cost is \$20 per workshop or \$35 for both workshops. Youth are free. A light meal and materials included. Scholarships are available. For discounts available to groups from a single congregation, call (503) 221-1054. To download a complete brochure, go to [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org).

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Oregon Interfaith Power & Light engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*