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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, congregations and businesses 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 Friday, April 27. Sponsored by Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL), the Oregon Department of Energy and Energy Trust of Oregon, and co-sponsored by Oregon Rural Action and CURRENT's of Justice for Peace, the workshops will be held at La Grande United Methodist Church, 1612 Fourth St., La Grande.

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. (child care provided). Topics will include top ideas to save energy costs for homes and businesses, affordable renewable energy options and the ethics of energy stewardship.

The 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. Speakers include Will Miller of the Energy Trust of Oregon; Rick Wallace from the Oregon Department of Energy; Nancy Van Sickle of Oregon Trail Electric

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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

Coop; and the Rev. Mark Schlessman of First Christian Church (noon only). For the evening session additional speakers will include Kent Osterberg of Blue Mountain Energy and John Lamoreau, former Union County Commissioner. The Rev. Clay Andrew, pastor of La Grande United Methodist Church, will give an opening reflection on faith and care of creation at both workshops.

To register for the workshops, call (503) 221-1054, ext. 203. Pre-registration for each session is requested by April 24, but registration will also be accepted at the door. Cost of registration per workshop is \$8 per individual, and, if registering at the same time, \$12 total for two people, or \$17 total for three. A light meal and materials are included. Youth are free. Scholarships are available. To download a complete brochure, go to www.emoregon.org.

A project of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, OIPL's mission is to assist congregations and their members to become better stewards by improving energy stewardship and investing in clean, renewable energy. OIPL offers opportunities for putting faith into action through wise electricity choices and energy conservation. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon 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.