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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workshops help congregations, households save energy and money

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 Monday, Sept. 29.**

Presented by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the noon workshop will be held at First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cowls St., McMinnville, and the evening workshop will be held a block away at McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, 544 NE 2nd Ave. The Oregon Department of Energy is a co-sponsor.

The workshops will provide consumers with tools and know-how to increase energy efficiency. The cost of and use of energy are increasingly on the minds of people for both cost and stewardship reasons. OIPL offers these workshops because everyone can be a part of the solution to improve energy efficiency and build a sustainable energy system. 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. Case studies of congregations that have significantly improved energy efficiency will be presented. Sr. Pat Nagle, IHM, will show how a green remodeling project becomes an opportunity to fulfill a religious order’s mission. Eric Canon, of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Forest Grove, will talk about his church’s dramatic savings from a heating upgrade. Matt Hale from the Oregon Department of Energy will discuss how congregations can use a special program that allows for non-profits to tap the Business Energy Tax Credit to finance their energy efficiency projects. David Christie of McMinnville Water and Light will present on incentives for energy efficiency upgrades available to non-profits and businesses.

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. Local contractor John Mead will explore case studies of local homes that have taken both simple and more involved measures to improve energy efficiency. Matt Deppe, conservation specialist from McMinnville Water and Light, will share incentives and resources available through their residential conservation program. Lloyd Meyer from BPA Conservation Office will speak about their Energy Efficient programs.

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ American Baptist Churches of Oregon ■ 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)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

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.

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 assists congregations and their members to improve energy stewardship by providing education, information and technical support.

Registration will be accepted at the door. Cost is \$15 per workshop or \$25 for both workshops. Youth and college students are free. A light meal and materials included. Scholarships available. For discounts available to groups from a single congregation, call (503) 221-1054. To download a complete brochure, go to www.emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project 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.