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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 (4 to 6:30 p.m.)—on Monday, Nov. 10. Presented by Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL), City of Ashland Conservation Division and Bonneville Power Administration, the workshops will be held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 717 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland. The Oregon Department of Energy is a co-sponsor.

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 climate change,” says Jenny Holmes, Environmental Ministries director for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). “The cost of and use of energy are increasingly on the minds of people. OIPL offers these workshops because everyone can be a part of the solution to building a sustainable energy system 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 4 to 6:30 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 studies of Ashland congregations that have made substantial improvements to energy efficiency will also be provided. Other speakers include Larry Giardina of Ashland Public Utilities. The Rev. Alicia Speidel, pastor of First Christian Church in Medford, will give an opening reflection on faith and care of creation at the noon workshop.

A project of EMO, 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 \$15 per workshop or \$25 for both workshops. Youth are free. A light meal and materials are 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](http://www.emoregon.org).

#### 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