



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2022 ALL APRIL



Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light Earth Day 2022 Toolkit

Earth Day continues to be a momentous and unifying day each year as millions of people around the world come together on April 22 to address the climate crisis and restore our earth. MNIP created this **Earth Day 2022 Toolkit** to help people of faith, spirituality, and conscience inspire, educate, and engage your community in working for climate justice during “Earth Month” (April 1-30) and beyond!

As we near Earth Day, we invite you and your community to focus your actions on three areas throughout Earth Month:



We hope the ideas in this toolkit inspire you and your community to:

[DIVEST from fossil fuels & INVEST in climate justice](#)

[RAISE YOUR VOICE for statewide climate action](#)

[CONNECT EARTH DAY to your rituals, traditions, and liturgies](#)

Before you explore the details of those Earth Month action opportunities, we want to lift up two essential elements of this work:

1) Make a Commitment to Act

Working together, we can rise to the challenges of our times and create a just and sustainable future. When we are alone, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Taking action in community creates a powerful sense of momentum that builds a statewide movement for climate justice!

Set an Intention to Act

That's why we are asking you to make a **commitment of intention**. [Complete this short form](#) to let us know that you and your community plan to act in April. You don't need the specifics of what you might do or who might be involved. **But setting an intention to do something in connection with Earth Month is a simple and motivating first step.** It also allows us to share the collective impact at the end of Earth Month, when we hope to celebrate the actions of 50+ faith communities.

Share a Financial Gift

We also invite you to make a [financial contribution](#) to support MNIPL's work in honor of Earth Month. Building a climate justice movement takes real resources. Our funding doesn't come from companies trying to benefit from the harm done to our planet. We rely largely on grassroots activists and community members just like you. Please consider a [one-time gift](#) or become a [sustaining donor](#) with a monthly contribution of any amount that feels meaningful to you. Thank you so much—we couldn't do it without you!

Deepen your work for climate justice all throughout the year by becoming a certified MNIPL [Climate Justice Congregation](#). This is a great way to galvanize your faith or spiritual community into committed climate action!

2) Share Your Stories to Grow the Movement

Individual actions can have the power to become collective actions when we share our stories and inspire others. Let MNIPL and others in your community know what you're doing for Earth Month. Your successes, big or small, motivate and inspire others to act. The more stories we collect and share, the bigger our impact will be!

We can amplify your actions across MNIPL's network and the larger climate movement on social media and on our website. **Tag us (@MNIPL)** when you share your actions on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Also use these **hashtags**:

#EarthDay2022
#ClimateJusticeNow
#MNIPLEarthMonth

Social Media Examples:

DIVEST/INVEST

Take a photo of yourself cutting up your credit card from a bank that funds climate change and post on social media. Include links to divestment resources (from this toolkit) that helped you, so others can start to divest too. Tag your bank in the post so they know why you closed your account!

RAISE YOUR VOICE:

While meeting with your state legislator on Zoom, take a screenshot and share it on social media, tagging your legislator and showing the world that people in their district want climate action now!

CONNECT EARTH DAY:

Take a photo at any gatherings with your community around Earth Day, share what you did as a group, and tag MNIPL.

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Fossil fuels generate much of the greenhouse gasses that cause climate change. They are also the source of a large portion of the global economy: [\\$2.1 trillion in 2021](#).

Moving investments to financial institutions that have sworn off fossil fuels siphons off capital from the fossil industry. It also signals to the government and other leaders that the world is embracing the change we need. This is a powerful way to put our finances in line with our beliefs and values.

Divestment is simply ensuring your money does not support fossil fuels.

Divestment has been an effective strategy in justice efforts around the world, from the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In today's climate movement, already [1,500 institutions have divested nearly \\$40 trillion](#) from fossil fuels, and divestments have [impacted the ability of many companies to raise capital](#).

These campaigns not only pull resources away from companies or politicians, but force the question of what we want to *invest in*. This creates the groundswell needed for change.

Faith-Based Organizations are Leading the Way

Of the types of institutions that are divesting from fossil fuels, [faith-based organizations are the leaders at 35.3%](#). Here are just a few national and global examples of faith-based divestment leadership:

[The Fatwa by the Fiqh Council of N. America and Muslim Judicial Council](#)

[The Universalist Unitarian Association in 2014](#)

[The Episcopal Church in 2015](#)

[The Evangelical Lutheran Church \(ELCA\) in 2016](#)

[The Methodist Church globally in 2017](#)

[42 Catholic Institutions following the release of Pope Francis' Laudato Si](#)

Action Ideas

Divestment is a practical way to live out your values. The act of divesting and making intentional investment choices aligns your work for a healthy planet with how you earn money and manage your financial future.

You can divest privately or you can share your decision with others. Either way, you join hundreds of thousands who are transforming our world and saying “No!” to the deadly consequences of fossil fuels.

Individual/Household

Reflect on your relationship with wealth. What does your faith tradition teach? What guidance does your personal values offer?

[Read this personal account](#) of why someone chose to divest.

Find out if your financial institutions are funding fossil fuels: look up [your bank](#) and your [investment accounts](#).

Move to a community-based actor such as a credit union and close credit cards that are connected to harmful funds. Here are some resources to help with your decision-making: [Bank.Green](#), [Green Century Funds](#), and [As you Sow](#).

Get more ideas, resources, and further actions at [stopthemoneypipeline.com](#).

Faith/Spiritual Community

Consider hosting MNIPL's Divestment 101 workshop. Whether your congregation or community is interested in divesting its pension funds, endowment, and other financial resources or you want to inspire individual members to divest, we can help you start the conversation. Our divestment workshop is one hour and can be held either in-person or online. Contact Buff Grace, Director of Faith Networks, at buff@mnipl.org for more details and to schedule.



With over \$9 billion in Minnesota's budget surplus, this legislative session offers a great opportunity to invest in clean energy solutions and clean transportation, advance environmental justice, and make long-term climate investments.

One exciting proposal is the [Build MN Climate Action Plan](#), which would invest \$1 billion of the surplus in climate solutions.

MNIPL is helping people of faith and conscience advocate for bold climate action and stress that climate must be a

top priority. **We hope to have at least 10 virtual meetings with state senators this spring.** Even if your legislators already prioritize climate action, meeting with them is an important way to show them that their constituents have their back on climate. This way, we can build pressure for climate action this year, and in the years to come!

Raise your Voice for Statewide Climate Action

Get started by filling out MNIPL's [State Senator Meeting Interest Form](#). We'll let you know if a meeting in your district has already been scheduled or help you schedule your own and invite others in your community or even neighboring congregations to join you.

Check out our [legislative meeting toolkit](#), which guides you in how to initiate and host a virtual meeting. Whether you've met with your representative many times, or this is your first time, we're here to help you be successful!



This year, Earth Day occurs during a season of sacred days spanning three different religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The month of April includes celebrations of Ramadan, Passover, and Easter. This convergence offers people observing these holy days a unique opportunity to reflect on how their specific traditions call one to care for the earth.

It's also no coincidence that Earth Day is in April. Especially for us in Minnesota and northern areas, this is the month when spring starts to feel very real. We

can feel deep in our bodies the earth's invitations to grow, move, sprout, and be renewed in our connections to nature, life, and one another.

While the urgency of the climate crisis calls us fervently to act, we do that work from a place of grounding—each of us drawing strength, resiliency, compassion, and courage from our faith, our beliefs, our practices, our values, the community we gather with, and the taproot that brings us back to our center again and again.

Whether you are observing a set of holy days in your tradition, are part of a faith community, or are following your own path of attention, there are multiple ways to connect your heart and spirit with Earth Month.

Connect Earth Day to Rituals, Traditions, & Liturgies

Create a ritual with yourself, your community, or your friends. Rituals can be quite simple and are “set aside time” to help inspire interconnectedness and focus. You can use your breath, the natural elements, art, silence or sounds, movement or stillness. For inspiration that is not connected to a particular tradition, explore MNIPPL's [Water and Star's winter solstice guide](#).

If you gather with a religious or spiritual community, encourage the inclusion of elements that celebrate Earth Day. During worship, prayer, meditation, silence, song-making, meetings, faith formation, religious education, or any of the multitude of ways our

communities come together, we can connect our meaning-making with the gifts, teachings, and obligations we receive from the earth.

Explore these Earth Day resources from different religious traditions and spiritual practices:

[Multi-faith collection of earth prayers](#)

[An Interfaith Garden Blessing](#) with further garden prayer resources

[Muslim Scripture on Earth Care](#)

[Jewish Earth Day prayers and resources](#)

[A Bibliography of Earth-Based Judaism](#)

[Jewish Prayer for Planet](#) (Reflection and Prayer)

[Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth](#) Spring for Change worship resources and sacred activism

[Touching the Earth to Mother Earth](#) (Buddhism; Plum Village)

[Grounded by the Earth](#) (Buddhism; Insight Meditation)

[Roman Catholic Laudato Si Prayer Network Resources](#)

[Mainline Christian resource: The Season of Creation](#)

[Lutherans Restoring Creation Sermon and Worship Resources](#) (ELCA)

[Episcopal Creation Care Worship Resources](#)

[United Church of Christ & DOCC Earth Day Prayers](#)

[Presbyterian Earth Care Worship Resources](#)

[Methodist Earth Month Resource](#) including worship resources