



## Interfaith Power & Light New Mexico

& El Paso Region

PO Box 27162, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125 [info@nm-ipl.org](mailto:info@nm-ipl.org) [www.nm-ipl.org](http://www.nm-ipl.org)

November 2023

Dear Environmental Improvement Board and Albuquerque Bernalillo Air Quality Board Members,

As faith leaders in New Mexico, we are deeply concerned with public health, environmental justice, and economic equity in our communities. This long summer of extraordinary heat in New Mexico and around the country brings us face to face with the cascading impacts of a climate changing world and our grave ethical responsibilities to *care for creation* and *all our communities of life*.

The impacts of the climate crisis are all around us. Air pollution, food insecurity, and water crises impact public health for all. Frontline and BIPOC communities suffer unequally. The vitality of our lands, creatures, and economies which are part of our cultural heritage as a rural state are jeopardized.

Our faith traditions instruct us to care for all of life and creation. Guided by these diverse traditions, we seek to find ways to move beyond reliance on fossil fuels and toward forward-looking technologies. We realize no one action or technology is a complete solution and there are various complexities to consider. Still, we need to address the crises we face. Many faith traditions are formally calling for bold action now, including Pope Francis as he revises the Catholic encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Care of Our Common Home* to address the evolving context and urgency of the climate crisis.

We urge the Environmental Improvement Board and the Albuquerque and Bernalillo Air Quality Board to adopt the full Advanced Clean Cars and Trucks Standards (ACC II). Adopting these rules in full is an urgently needed step toward meeting the enormous tasks of economic and social transformation before us.

The ACC II standards will help protect and improve our overall air quality and public health. Proposed standards address the outsized impacts of harm from pollution and climate change. The rules broaden access to cleaner transportation options for low-income communities, address air pollution, and help actualize the transportation infrastructure necessary to make zero-emissions vehicles accessible for all, especially for low-income and rural communities.

We realize adopting these rules involves weighing various complexities as we collectively face the necessary transition away from a fossil fuel economy in our transportation systems. Manufacturing EVs still requires burning fossil-fuels and there are many concerns about the impacts of mining for critical minerals required in their production. Though it is scientifically proven that the transition to electric vehicles will reduce carbon emissions, we realize that working on related environmental justice concerns like mining is essential. Interfaith Power and Light continues to work on these complex, ethical and moral concerns. We continue to engage in education on conservation and shifting our consumptive worldviews so that our living may reflect our sacred calling to care for all.

Thank you for serving the common good with integrity, dedication, and compassion for all by considering these important rules and adopting them in full.

In Peace and Good, Signed Faith Leaders,

Sr. Joan Brown, ofs, Exec. Dir. New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light (NM IPL), ABQ  
Clara Sims, Member in Discernment, United Church of Christ, Asst Exec. Dir. NM IPL, Los Lunas  
Rev. Sue Joiner, First Congregational United Church of Christ, ABQ  
Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv. Director Holy Cross Retreat Center, Mesilla Park  
Rev. Kenneth Cuthbertson, Ph.D., Presbyterian (PCUSA), Retired, ABQ  
Rev. Lynne Hinton, Conference Director of NM Conference of Churches, ABQ  
Sr. Mariateresa Tellez, Religious of the Assumption, Chaparral  
Bonnie Crispin, Elder, New Life Presbyterian Church, ABQ  
Matalie Wham, Church Musician/Pianist, New Life Presbyterian Church, ABQ  
Rev. Erica Lea-Simka, Pastor, Albuquerque Mennonite Church, ABQ  
Sr. Theresa Louisa Woo Ching, Mother Superior, Villa Guadalupe Little Sisters of the Poor, Gallup  
Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Miller, Disciples of Christ pastor, retired, ABQ  
Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe  
Rev. Dr. Robert Woodruff, Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, ABQ  
Tanya Barlow, NM conference United Women in Faith VP, United Methodist Church, Capitan  
Rev. Edward Barlow, Retired pastor of the Methodist church, Ruidoso, NM  
Cheryl Foote, St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Rev. Gary Kowalski, Unitarian Congregation of Taos, Taos  
Rev. H. Blaine Wimberly, Cedar Crest  
Abbot Joel Garner, O.Praem Abbot, Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey, Albuquerque  
Rev. Madeline Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe  
Sister Maria Isabel Galbe. JPICS Coordinator, Religious of the Assumption, Chaparral  
Rev. Dr. Harry W. Eberts Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe  
Idolia Hawkins Chair, Central United Methodist Church Green Team United Methodist, ABQ  
Mark Maynard, First Presbyterian Church, ABQ  
Mrs. Lana K Green, Earth Future, St. James Episcopal Church, Taos  
Father Anne, Father Anne Ministries, LLC, Albuquerque, NM  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock, Associate Conference Minister, Southwest Conference United Church of Christ (AZ, NM, and El Paso TX)

Rev. Munro Sickafoose, Unitarian Congregation of Taos, Taos

Charlotte Smith, Baha'i community, Albuquerque

Rev. Jean Darling (ret.) Unitarian Universalists of Santa Fe, Santa Fe

Rabbi Neil Amswych, Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe

Sister Marlene Perrote, rsm, Mercy Sister Advocate, ABQ

Rev. Andrew Black, EarthKeepers 360, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Larry Rasmussen, United Church of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM

Rev. Joan Jiko Halifax Abbot, Upaya Zen Center, Santa Fe

Rev. Talitha Arnold, United Church of Santa Fe, NM

Ed Carpenter, Father, St. Luke Catholic Church, El Paso, Texas

Rev. Liz Luoma, Unity Santa Fe

Rev. Susy Gaffney, MDiv, BCC member of First Congregational, UCC ABQ Hospice Chaplain, Abode Hospice Albuquerque, NM

Rev. Jeremiah Griffin, St. Chad's Episcopal Church, ABQ

Mirabai Starr, Interfaith Leader, Author, and Teacher, Taos

Lana Green-Ludden, St James Episcopal Church, Taos

Rev. Anne Morawski, Retired Pastor ELCA, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Albuquerque

Rabbi Nahum Mann-Lev, retired, Santa Fe

Rev. Anita Amstutz, Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Ranchos de Taos, NM

Todd Wynward, Mennonite Faith Leader, Exec. Director TiLT, Taos, NM

Rev. Bob LaValle, Associate Minister, First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, ABQ

Fr. Rev. Alex Lenzo, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Rio Rancho

Rev. San Williams. First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe

New Mexico Conference of Churches

Kurt Ragar, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico, Rocky Mountain Synod ECLA

Rev. Virginia Bairby, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Taos

Rev. Lyn Bussian, retired, Peace Lutheran Church, Las Cruces

Roger Ludwig, Earth Future Committee, St James Episcopal Church, Taos

Dr. Kathleen O'Malley, Albuquerque, NM

Paul J. Citrin. rabbi, member of Congregation Albert, Albuquerque

Rev. Blaine Wimberly, Mountainside UMC, Cedar Crest

Rev. Stephen Helmreich, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hobbs NM

Don Handrick, Senior Buddhist Teacher, Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), Santa Fe, NM

Rev. Anne Morawski, retired, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Dr. David Wasserman, Presbyterian Church (USA) Taos, NM

The Rev. Dr. Holly Beaumont, Organizing Director, Interfaith Worker Justice, NM