

## Why Ring Our Church Bells 350 times?

**350 is the number that represents safety.**

Recent scientific research indicates that we have substantially underestimated the rate of global warming. NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen reported in 2007 that "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted," then we need to reduce the level of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere from its current level of about 387 parts per million (ppm) to at most 350 ppm.

We have reached a critical point and must act quickly in order to forestall potentially catastrophic changes to life as we know it on this planet. The longer we stay above 350 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>, the greater the risk that we will reach the "tipping point" that will cause "runaway warming."

*"The world has already reached the level of dangerous concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We need immediate and very deep cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if humanity is to survive."*

*-- Dr. Rajendra Pachuri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

*See other side for what you can do....*



## What you can do...

Join in advocacy to help society transition to energy efficiency and to safe, clean, renewable energy.

**International:** The United Nations is negotiating a new international climate treaty. Our political leaders should call on the U.S. to negotiate a Copenhagen treaty that commits the world to getting back down to 350.  
([www.350.org](http://www.350.org))

**National:** Eliminate subsidies for dirty, expensive, non-renewable, unsafe energy technologies such as coal, oil, nuclear, tar sands, oil shale, coal gasification, and unsustainable or polluting biomass and biofuels. Expand support for high-efficiency technologies, lighting, buildings, transportation, and manufacturing, and for safe, clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, wave, sustainable biomass, etc.  
([www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org))

**State:** Efficiency first: prioritize funding and programs to reduce energy needs and costs, such as weatherizing buildings. Prioritize clean, safe, renewable energy sources (not sources that are substantially dependent on coal, oil, natural gas, uranium and tar sands, etc., or on unproven technologies). Prioritize care for the poor and investment in low-income communities. Invest in training and support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to obtain jobs in the growing green energy sector. Expand investment in public transportation.  
([www.newenglandclimate.org/mass.htm](http://www.newenglandclimate.org/mass.htm))

### Reduce your own carbon footprint.

- Arrange for a free energy audit of your home ([www.MassSave.com](http://www.MassSave.com)).
- Implement the findings.
- Have your congregation join Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light.
- Visit [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org) for information on everyday stewardship, carbon offsets, and more.
- Buy clean energy ([www.CleanEnergyChoice.org](http://www.CleanEnergyChoice.org)).
- Drive less, carpool more.
- Walk, bicycle, or use public transportation.
- Turn off the lights.
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Turn down the heat in winter; turn off or turn down the air conditioner in the summer.

Give thanks that you can make a difference!



# 350 RINGS

## A Call to Action

### Heard the Bells? Called to Action?

Here are three things that will enable you to make a difference, starting at your home!

**1. Know What You Are Doing** — Get the *Utility Use and Cost* form from MIP&L. It provides a simple, efficient way to assemble information on your gas, electric, oil and water/sewer use. This is how you will know, then change, your use patterns. This Excel form is available at [www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org). Get the form, and the *Everyday Environmental Stewardship* (“EES”) brief that explains how to use it. And even better, the *UU&C* form automatically calculates your **Carbon Footprint**. Use it, and encourage your friends to use it also.

**2. Get Help To Change** — Have an Energy Audit. They’re free! Go to [www.MassSave.com](http://www.MassSave.com) to arrange it. You can get an *EES* on how to prepare for the audit. It’s like getting ready to visit the doctor. You want to know, then describe your condition. When the audit is done, implement the findings! You’ll save money and reduced environmental impact. *What’s not to like!*

**3. Buy Clean Energy** — It’s easy being **GREEN!** Go to [www.CleanEnergyChoice.org](http://www.CleanEnergyChoice.org) and sign up now for Clean Energy. There are *EES* briefs to help explain all the ways to **being GREEN**, including lighting, heating, hot water, +.

For more help on other *Everyday Environmental Stewardship* possibilities,  
go to the Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light website

[www.MIPandL.org](http://www.MIPandL.org)

Click on the *Everyday Stewardship* link at the upper right corner.  
Remember, it really isn’t rocket science. It’s faithful action.