



YOUTH GOV

FILM SCREENING TOOLKIT
Presented by Interfaith Power & Light



Interfaith Power & Light
A Religious Response to Global Warming

Interfaith Power & Light is pleased to offer YOUTH v GOV, an inspiring film that follows 21 young Americans suing the world's most powerful government to protect their constitutional rights to a stable climate. Intergenerational climate justice is a core value of Interfaith Power & Light. We are inspired to safeguard a healthy climate so that future generations may thrive on our Sacred Earth. Thanks to Barrelmaker Productions for this opportunity.

This toolkit contains:

- IPL Welcome Letter
- Film overview and screening tips and best practices
- Sample promotional guide
- Faith-focused and general discussion questions to spark meaningful conversations
- Screening host and audience surveys
- IPL Audience Sign-in Sheet: If you are doing an in-person COVID-safe event, please pass it around at your screening and mail back to IPL, 672 13th St., Ste. 100, Oakland, CA 94612. Or take a photo of the sign in sheet and email to Sarah at programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org By signing, audience members can join the nationwide movement and receive faith-based resources for caring for the Earth



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A Religious Response to Global Warming

Dear Friends,

Thank you for screening YOUTH v GOV for your group.

YOUTH v GOV is the story of America's youth taking on the world's most powerful government. Armed with a wealth of evidence, twenty-one courageous leaders file a ground-breaking lawsuit against the U.S. government, asserting it has willfully acted over six decades to create the climate crisis, thus endangering their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. If these young people are successful, they will not only make history, they will change the future.

At Interfaith Power & Light we are inspired to act on climate change to safeguard the Earth for future generations and we support these young people as they fight for the future for us all.

YOUTH v GOV is the featured film of Interfaith Power & Light's Faith Climate Action Week, April 22-May 1, 2022. Our theme **Sacred Trust: Our children's right to a livable future** examines our responsibility to safeguard our Earth for future generations, and how our faiths call us to respond with bold and just solutions to climate change.

[View the trailer and register to host a group screening here.](#)

IPL's arrangement for this film does not support individuals streaming from home. All viewers must host or attend a congregational screening. Designate someone at your congregation to be the host and share via streaming or DVD.

As the host of your event, consider hosting a post film discussion of the film using the discussion questions in this guide. IPL invites you to invite your group to attend IPL's webinar April 27, 2022 at 4:30pm Pacific with the filmmaker and two youth plaintiffs from the film, but we encourage you to host a conversation also.

Also consider suggesting a collective action you can do as a congregation or group of congregations.

Download the organizer's kit for Faith Climate Action Week for ideas on how to engage your congregation in local climate action with and for youth and children.

[Download the Faith Climate Action Week organizer's kit here.](#)

In the kit find ideas and guidelines to:

- Educate your congregation about local climate impacts on future generations
- Invite youth and children supported by adults to respond to the film through art in the #imagineIPL social media campaign
- Support youth and children in identifying a local climate action and carrying it out

Thank you for working together to safeguard a livable future so that all of our children and grandchildren may thrive,

Sarah Paulos, Community Engagement and Programs Director

programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org

ABOUT THE FILM

LOGLINE

YOUTH v GOV follows 21 young Americans suing the world's most powerful government to protect their constitutional rights to a stable climate. If they win, they will change the future.

SYNOPSIS

YOUTH v GOV is the story of America's youth taking on the world's most powerful government. Armed with a wealth of evidence, twenty-one courageous leaders file a ground-breaking lawsuit against the U.S. government, asserting it has willfully acted over six decades to create the climate crisis, thus endangering their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. If these young people are successful, they will not only make history, they will change the future.

VIEWING AND SCREENING - TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES

HOW TO SCREEN FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

IPL's arrangement for this film does not support individuals streaming from home. All viewers must host or attend a group screening. Designate someone at your congregation to be the host and share via streaming or dvd to your group.

The window for streaming to your group is April 11-May 1, 2022

[REGISTER HERE](#) to stream the film during that window for your group. Register by April 5.

DVDs will be available at the end of March. [Access them here.](#)

Screening rights are included, which means it's OK to screen to your congregation as long as you do not charge for admission. To screen on a college campus or local public movie theater or to the general public contact programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org to connect with the film team for special arrangements.

Virtual Community Screening

Hosting a virtual screening event will require Zoom, Zoom Webinar, Google Meets, or a web conference software of your choice in order to screen-share the film.

Set up a registration to collect names and emails of your viewers, then send them an email with the link to access your online event a day or two in advance of your event. This film requires that you **DO NOT** share the link to your online event publicly, (ex. through newsletters or social media,) only through registration as suggested.

Many of these online platforms such as Zoom have been adapted for audio visual events just like this. **We strongly recommend you test this out before your event, to ensure you are comfortable with the technology and that your internet is fast enough.** Be sure to optimize your screen share settings for the best audio/video experience. For example:

For Zoom / Zoom Webinar:

1. Click Screen Share in the bottom toolbar.
2. Select the Desktop window you would like to share, which will be the browser window that has the film.
3. Be sure to check Optimize for Video Clip. This should automatically check Share Sound as well, but if not, do so.
4. When the film is done, click Stop Share.
5. You will then be visible again on your Zoom/Zoom Webinar, to host your post-screening conversation or give your call to action.

Consider sharing your list of audience emails with IPL (ask members to opt in before sharing with us) so that they can keep abreast of future offerings from IPL.

In-Person Community Screening

Please follow COVID-19 safety guidelines in your area. Consider an outdoor screening. Be sure to arrange for a good sound system. This is also a great way to enjoy a film about the planet in nature itself.

1. Prior to the screening, set up your tech - make sure the streaming link is ready to go and queued up from the beginning of the film.
2. Introduce your screening. If there is a Q&A or workshop afterwards, be sure to announce this so people know to stick around.
3. Hit play!

4. Pass around the IPL sign up sheet to collect names and emails, mail to IPL at the address on the sheet, or take a photo of the sheet and email to programs@interfaithpowerandlight.org. Sign up sheet is the final page of this kit.

Post-Screening Discussion

We encourage you to identify someone with formal or informal facilitation experience to moderate the post-screening discussion. That person can be you! The facilitator should be ready to manage time effectively and support people to voice their reactions to the film. You can use some of the sample discussion questions in this guide to help guide the conversation with panelists or audience members.

PROMOTIONAL GUIDE

Below, please find sample language and resources to promote your screening event through your newsletter, social media, or any other communication tool you use. **Ask other congregants to help spread the word too!**

Extend an invitation to your screening, or partner with, a neighboring congregation.

WEBSITE:

www.youthvgovfilm.com

TRAILER:

<https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/featured-film-kit/>

SOCIAL FOOTPRINT:

Facebook: [@youthvgovfilm](#) [@youthvgov](#) [@interfaithpowerandlight](#)

Twitter: [@youthvgovfilm](#) [@youthvgov](#) [@interfaithpower](#)

Instagram: [@youthvgovfilm](#) [@youthvgov](#)

RECOMMENDED HASHTAGS (to use along with your own) [#youthvgovfilm](#) [#youthvgov](#) [#climatejustice](#) [#FCAW22](#) [#interfaithpowerandlight](#) [#JulianavUS](#)

ASSETS

IPL Branded Promotional Images for Newsletters and Social Media and a Poster:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11OGg6Fo3ndltS9dba1MGAnWIZLzxaceG?usp=sharing>

Feel free to use the blurbs below in newsletters or e-blasts.

Short Synopsis:

YOUTH v GOV follows 21 young Americans suing the world's most powerful government to protect their constitutional rights to a stable climate. If they win, they will change the future. As people of faith we care about climate justice for future generations.

For your screening, add: "Join us for a special screening of the film."

Long Synopsis:

YOUTH v GOV is the story of America's youth taking on the world's most powerful government. Armed with a wealth of evidence, twenty-one courageous leaders file a ground-breaking lawsuit against the U.S. government, asserting it has willfully acted over six decades to create the climate crisis, thus endangering their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. If these young people are successful, they will not only make history, they will change the future. As people of faith we care about climate justice for future generations.

For your screening, add: "Join us for a special screening of the film."

PROMOTE YOUR SCREENING ON SOCIAL

Here are suggested social media posts for outreach to your community. Feel free to adapt to suit your audience, and tag @youthvgovfilm @interfaithpowerandlight (or on Twitter and Instagram: @interfaithpower)

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

@youthvgovfilm follows 21 young Americans suing the world's most powerful government to protect their constitutional rights to a stable climate. If they win, they will change the future. As people of faith we care for the future Earth our children will inhabit. Don't miss your chance to catch the film with us at [*add your screening info*].

How can we bring accountability over the climate crisis? This inspiring story of youth activism documents 21 activists from across the nation as they file a groundbreaking lawsuit against the United States. The case reveals evidence that the government has endangered their constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property by acting over six decades to create the climate crisis. YOUTH v GOV, an award-winning film, shows the power of young people to lead. Our faiths call us to safeguard the Earth for future generations. Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

"The people who are contributing the least amount of carbon emissions to the world are the ones being most affected by it." - Vic Barrett, Juliana plaintiff. A case with 21 plaintiffs could have an impact on the entire world. In @youthvgovfilm, young people demand accountability from the world's most powerful govt. As people of faith we act for climate justice. Watch the film with us [*add your screening info*].

Armed with the knowledge that the US has willfully ignored climate change and actively promoted the industries that cause it, 21 young plaintiffs have taken it upon themselves to hold their government accountable. @youthvgovfilm follows them on their years-long journey to see

their day in court. Intergenerational climate justice is a value of people of faith. Watch the film with us [*add your screening info*].

TWITTER

@youthvgovfilm follows 21 young Americans suing the world's most powerful government to protect their constitutional rights to a stable climate. If they win, they will change the future. Watch the film with us [*add your screening info*].

Around the world, young people are standing up for their generation and every one that follows. Join the plaintiffs of Juliana v. U.S. as they challenge the U.S. government to protect their future in #YOUTHvGOV. Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

What happens when the government willfully exacerbates the climate catastrophe? Young people take matters into their own hands. Join the 21 plaintiffs of #YOUTHvGOV as they take climate science to the courts. Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

It shouldn't be controversial to ask the government to preserve a habitable planet. Today and always we're grateful for everyone – ESPECIALLY the young people – standing up for our shared future. Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

"The federal government has known for decades that carbon dioxide pollution was causing catastrophic climate change..." Learn more about the constitutional climate lawsuit filed by Our Children's Trust that's at the heart of #YOUTHvGOV! Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

The young plaintiffs of Juliana v. US know that #ClimateChange isn't some obscure, far-off threat, and many of them have experienced its impact first-hand. Join their fight to hold their leaders accountable in #YOUTHvGOV. Watch @youthvgovfilm with us [*add your screening info*].

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the people you love who will come after you? **Who is your next generation?** They could be related by blood or not. Share their names and how they are related to you.
2. What are your hopes for them? In general. (ie. Healthy, happy, thriving lives?)
3. If you are not old enough to know someone who is your next generation - share your hopes for yourself and your own generation. In general (ie. Healthy, happy, thriving lives? Clean air, water, land? Access to healthy food, nature, etc)
4. Have you thought about the climate impacts on your next generation and all future generations? If so, what have been your thoughts?
5. Or if you are not old enough to know someone who is your next generation, what are your thoughts about the climate impacts on your own generation?
6. How does your religious faith influence your thinking on the moral right of future generations to a livable climate?
7. Intergenerational climate justice calls us all to a sacred duty to care for the Earth/Creation and preserve our common home so that future generations may thrive. For instance, the Seventh Generation Principle is based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)

philosophy that we should consider how today's decisions impact those seven generations from now. What does your religion or faith say about responsibility towards future generations?

8. Intergenerational injustice, racial injustice, and climate injustice converge to have a disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-wealth communities. These communities are suffering the most from climate change impacts that will only worsen with time. What impacts on these groups are you seeing in your community?
9. Before watching the film, did you know that there are legal rights of future generations to a livable climate?
10. The "public trust doctrine" calls the government to protect certain natural resources for the public good. A U.S. District Court judge ruled that this principle applies to the atmosphere, "Exercising my 'reasoned judgment,' ... I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society. " Do you agree with the judge? Why or why not?
11. The Bill of Rights of our constitution protects our "fundamental right to life, liberty, property". How does climate change pose a threat to these rights?
12. What are your thoughts about the legal rights of future generations to a livable climate after watching the film? Any different than before?
13. Brooks Berndt, the environmental minister of the national United Church of Christ says, "No voice is as morally powerful and persuasive as that of youth. One of the most important acts a pastor or youth minister can take to address our climate is to hand over the microphone and the pulpit to a climate prophet of the younger generation." Why do you imagine he says this? Would you like to see that happen in your congregation? How could you make it happen?
14. What climate actions would you like your congregation to engage in now that you've seen the film? Consider a local action, what options do you know about?
15. What resources does your congregation have to offer the movement? Consider people - (young and not young), their interests, connections, skills, and expertise. Consider congregational property, financial resources, etc. What else do you need and where can you get it to get involved with action to safeguard our children's future?

More Resources

YOUTH v GOV documentary [TAKE ACTION TOOLKIT](#)

[Our Children's Trust](#) is a non-profit public interest law firm that provides strategic, campaign-based legal services to youth from diverse backgrounds to secure their legal rights to a safe climate. We work to protect the Earth's climate system for present and future generations by representing young people in global legal efforts to secure their binding and enforceable legal rights to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate, based on the best available science.

Our Children's Trust [Action Toolkit](#)

Short films about individual state cases and some of plaintiffs holding their state governments accountable:

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/short-films>