

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Core Principles for a Quaker Witness and the Growth Dilemma Project's Agenda

As Quakers, we recognize our interconnectedness with the living earth. Yet we see that humans are exceeding the earth's carrying capacity and damaging its commonwealth of life.

- ⤴ **We value equality.** *Yet we see economic inequality increasing dramatically.*
- ⤴ **We value integrity.** *Yet Gross Domestic Product is a false measure of prosperity.*
- ⤴ **We value simplicity.** *Yet our "growth economy" requires ever-increasing consumption, debt, and intrusion on the natural world to sustain itself.*
- ⤴ **We value community.** *Yet those without adequate employment, without food security, and confined to prisons grows, while God's community of life is diminished.*
- ⤴ **We value peace.** *Yet the violence and devastation caused by our economic system's exploitation of people and planet is alarming.*

The Growth Dilemma Project (GDP) is charged with:

- ⤴ *helping Friends learn more about the intersection of ecology, justice, and the economy,*
 - ⤴ *fostering wider dialogue about the need for fundamental change in the economic system.*
- Both tasks require an honest appraisal of reasons for our economy's current failings.**

The GDP Agenda: ". . . to plant seeds for future harvest."

- ⤴ **Build awareness among Friends** about the economy's systemic failures and opportunities for systemic change based on past and current experience.
- ⤴ **Convince Friends Committee on National Legislation** to revise its Policy Statement so it identifies the systemic failures of the growth economy in a context of FCNL's intent to "promote a paradigm shift in perspective and framing of policy issues."
- ⤴ **Communicate with policy-makers, policy allies, and staff in Washington, D.C.** about the conflicts between Friends values, ecological realities, and the current economic system.
- ⤴ **Promote a Yearly Meeting minute** that calls for "a paradigm shift in perspective" about ecology and the economic system.
- ⤴ **Collaborate with Quaker Institute for the Future** on publications about the failures of, and alternatives to, the growth economy.

You can be involved:

- ⤴ **Browse the discussion materials**, articles and links on our web page by searching for "GDP at PYM."
- ⤴ **Use our questions, queries and graphics** for a discussion at your monthly meeting.
- ⤴ **Invite a GDP resource person** to your monthly meeting for a presentation.
- ⤴ **Become a GDP Contact** from your monthly meeting to GDP's wider Friends network.
- ⤴ **Come to our monthly Gatherings for Discussion and Discernment**, on first Tuesdays, 7 pm, at Friends Center (Worship begins at 6:30). **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

"Let us seek and speak truth more openly and boldly."