

Addressing ecological destruction, income inequality and racial injustice

Traditional Quaker testimonies highlight both the connections among these concerns and the imperative to act.

We value equality. Yet we see economic disparities increasing dramatically, with racial minorities experiencing the brunt of both income inequality and environmental damage.

We value integrity. Yet Gross Domestic Product is a false measure of prosperity, and truth is being sacrificed in advertising, mass media, public discourse, and politics.

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 our society is deeply divided by racism and privilege, by vastly different levels of access to economic, political, and social resources. Thus, God's community of life is diminished.

We value peace. Yet the violence and devastation caused by our economic system's exploitation of both people and planet is alarming.

In pursuit of justice and a world with a future, the Eco-Justice Collaborative engages in projects supporting Friends in their quest for a nation and economy that serve justice and the commonwealth of life.

Ecological destruction, income inequality and racial injustice cannot be treated as isolated concerns. We may be called to focus on different aspects of the whole, but without awareness of that whole, our work will fall short.

We invite you to visit our website

<http://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/>

Get Climate Action Alerts Quaker Action Mid Atlantic Region QAMAR

Sign up to receive time-sensitive alerts:

<https://forms.gle/36nTBcsFYDX9zeXNA>

or Contact: Liz Robinson

Lizhrob2@gmail.com

Monthly Newsletter

Share a story, an upcoming event, actions, or resources.

To subscribe contact Ruth Darlington
rdarlington49@gmail.com

Or subscribe to PYM Peace and
Social Justice Network

<https://go.pym.org/l/791983/2019-08-27/gmg>

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Some previous newsletters at:

<https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/news/>

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends **Eco-Justice Collaborative** **2024-2025**



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Rally at Love Park Philadelphia, PA. RGGI is a cooperative effort among twelve Eastern states to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from power plants within each participating state.

"I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that."

*Gus Speth, Author & Top U.S. Advisor on
Climate Change*

Eco-Justice Collaborative

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Climate Work

Climate Sprint Report 2021:

[Moving Forward Together in the Face of Climate Change](#)

Action Areas Adopted

Activism: We will put our beliefs into action through advocacy, direct action, and public witness. The PYM will regularly speak as a body on specific issues impacting climate change

Education: We will commit to reaching a shared understanding of the causes and costs of climate change.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint: We will take steps to reduce our impact on the earth, as individuals and as a community, by such means as making changes to our property and using less energy in all aspects of life.

Finances: We will recognize the effects our collective purchasing and investing choices have on climate change, and act accordingly.

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope: We recognize that bold work to address this crisis requires spiritual grounding and the support of a community.

Groups we work with

Climate Witness Stewards climatestewards@pym.org

Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region:

A 501(c)4 which supports lobbying in the public interest. <https://www.quakeract.org/>

Quaker Earthcare Witness <https://quakerearthcare.org/>

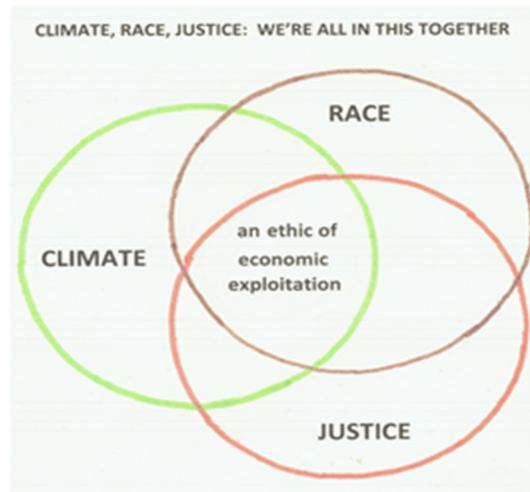
PA Interfaith Power & Light <https://paipl.us/>

Philly Thrive <https://www.phillythrive.org/>

GreenFaith South Jersey Circle <https://greenfaith.org/about-us/>

EQAT Earth Quaker Action Team <https://www.eqat.org/>

Climate, Race, Justice; We're All in This Together, is a video focusing on these three overlapping crises. It features short clips of prominent figures at the intersection of racial justice and environmental sustainability, highlights how some Friends are responding, and includes queries for worship sharing about ways Friends can engage with integrity, resilience and spiritually grounded faith. View the video at <https://vimeo.com/174734727>, or invite a member of the Eco-Justice Collaborative to visit. Contact: Pamela Haines, pamelahaines1@gmail.com.



Greening Sacred Spaces EJC and the Climate Action Working Group encourages all Friends to actively contribute to healing nature and our relationship with it. We create and assemble practical landscaping resources for Friends Meetings, schools, retirement communities, cemeteries and retreat centers. We urge everyone to become certified by one of the following national programs: [National Wildlife Federation \(Certified Wildlife Habitat Program\)](#), the Mid-Atlantic Audubon [Society Bird Friendly Certification](#) and Tallamy's [Homegrown National Park](#). Contact: Paula Kline, kline.paula@gmail.com

Transition Philadelphia is working on the city becoming a Transition Initiative. Contact: Rita Varley, varleyrita@gmail.com

Community Solar and Energy Policy Watch.

Fully 70% of Pennsylvanians cannot access solar energy, either because their roofs are too shady, they don't own their own homes, or they have insufficient access to capital. Community solar will not only solve this; with the advantage of economies of scale, it will bring down the cost of solar. Legislation is pending in Harrisburg to enable community solar and has broad bi-partisan support. We track this and other legislation and encourage Friends to weigh in with their public officials on solar and other energy policy issues. Contact: Liz Robinson, lizhrob2@gmail.com

Democratizing Finance Addressing the economics half of "Eco-Justice", we recognize the links between banks and fossil fuels; private wealth concentration and increased human need; the growing power of finance and the starving of the commons. The Philadelphia Public Banking Coalition, with its Bring Our Money Home campaign, addresses issues of economic and financial democracy as it builds a movement to pull our public dollars from the big national banks and put them to work locally addressing critical human and environmental needs. Contact: Pamela Haines, pamelahaines1@gmail.com.

The Carbon Forest Project Unami Friends Meeting, Pennsburg, PA., has created a project to plant new native hardwood forests to sequester CO₂ from the atmosphere. The Carbon Forest Project committee is partnering with land conservancies, finding a place to plant our first 10-acre forest, and building a funding base so that this happens soon. Our carbon sequestration forests will be permanently protected from logging and could eventually become old-growth forest. Contact: John Munro at munroecological@gmail.com

