

**Eco-Justice Working Group  
Friendly Households Transition Initiative  
Report to Annual Sessions July 2015**

Friends,

Friendly Households Transition Initiative of the Eco-Justice Working Group offers this update on progress within our Yearly Meeting since our last report at [Interim Meeting in October 2014](#). At that time, we reported on our effort to encourage monthly meetings and their members to switch to 100% renewable energy. We offered resources and assistance.

Our purpose is to be faithful to previous minutes, beginning in 1998, approved by this body and calling us to: “Reduc[e] negative human impacts on the earth’s air, water and soils, and ... [to find] ways of bearing witness to the ecological and spiritual imperative that our society transforms its relationship with the earth.”

Now 17 years later, leaders in other religious communities are proclaiming the same concern. In June, Pope Francis issued this appeal in his Encyclical entitled, “Praise be to you, my Lord.” He called on us to protect the earth and said:

“...Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. ...Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest.

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

In the same spirit, we urge all Friends and Friends Meetings to recommit our spiritual life energy to this sacred task of protecting all life by reducing harmful emissions.

In October, we reported on the electricity energy survey sent to the clerks of property committees. We asked each meeting to share information regarding their energy supplier, other efforts they may have made to reduce their emissions, and any obstacles they faced.

Highlights included:

- At least 14 meetings have some or all of their electricity supplied by renewable sources. In gratitude we created beautiful lawn signs for meetings to announce the switch
- Westtown School now has 100% wind energy. Delaware Valley Friends School has a 85.6kW rooftop solar electric installation
- 50% of the meetings were familiar with the Friendly Household’s project
- Those meetings which had conducted an energy audit had taken action to reduce their carbon footprint
- Many meetings still expressed questions whether renewable energy was available

- The majority were interested in learning more about renewable energy

Based on this survey and the recent advances in renewable infrastructure and technology, Friendly Households seeks to respond faithfully to our minutes regarding an earth restored by coordinating a just transition to the use of renewable electricity to power our meetinghouses and homes by 2016.

To the end of inviting all to share in this work of prophetic witness, we have:

- 1) shared the goal of 100% of our meetinghouses subscribing to 100% renewable electricity by 2016 through calls and emails to more than 45% of our meetings during the first half of the year
- 2) formed an ad hoc *Just Transition* renewable energy group to support this energy shift over the next 12 months
- 3) scheduled a program in October for Friends schools and other Friends institutions to learn how to make the switch to renewable energy
- 4) initiated a reading and discussion group to begin after Annual Sessions 2015, open to all, of the inspirational vision in *Reinventing Fire* by the Rocky Mountain Institute
- 5) begun exploring how Friends can participate in Solarize and Community shared solar projects.
- 6) a wish to explore creating a revolving loan fund to assist Friends in the process of transitioning to renewable energy

The Eco Justice Working Group unite with Pope Francis' faith that humanity **still** has the **ability to work together** in building our common home. We invite you to keep faith with the coming generations and take on this sacred and urgent work. Assure that your meeting has switched to a renewable electricity provider. Do so yourself. [Join our discussion group](#). Volunteer to help with outreach, developing a loan fund, facilitating solar installation projects. This body represents highly talented and gifted individuals. Share those skills. This is our common business and we will do it best working together.

We ask that our common goal to reduce emissions by transitioning to renewable energy be adopted by all monthly meetings and that PYM resources be made available as needed to fulfill this goal.

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