

**A Statement on
Moving Forward Together in the Face of Climate Change**

Approved _____

Contents (click on a heading to jump to there)

Statement.....	2
Introduction.....	2
Background.....	2
Proposed Actions.....	2
Appendix 1: Spiritual and Moral Basis for Action.....	4
Appendix 2: An Outline of Necessary Actions.....	5
A: Activism.....	5
B: Education.....	7
C: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint.....	8
D: Finances.....	9
E: Mourning Loss/Instilling Hope.....	9
Appendix 3: Resources, Leadership, and Accountability.....	11
Appendix 4: History of Response to Climate Change by PYM.....	15
Appendix 5: Action Matrix.....	17
Appendix 6: Individual & Household Climate Change Playbook.....	21
Appendix 7: Monthly & Quarterly Meeting Climate Change Playbook.....	26
Appendix 8: Yearly Meeting Climate Change Playbook.....	32
Appendix 9: Project Drawdown.....	39

Statement

Introduction

This statement was prepared for the Quaker Life Council of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) by the Climate Change Sprint in response to the yearly meeting's commitment on March 27, 2021 to come under the weight of the climate crisis and climate injustice. We committed the entire yearly meeting to strengthen and expand our response to climate change as a corporate witness. This Statement sets out the ways and means for all Friends to carry out that commitment.

As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we witness to the truth of our times. In this moment, we recognize that we are facing an existential crisis that requires more than individual actions. We already face catastrophic fires, storms, droughts, crop failures, and floods. *Scientists tell us that what we do in the next decade will determine the fate of humanity.* Racial injustice, social injustice, and the climate crisis are inextricably linked; marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities suffer greater effects of this crisis. Many people already suffer and call us to act. Future generations depend on us to act. Knowing the consequences of inaction, integrity demands that we act.

On a fundamental level the Climate Crisis and our response to it is deeply linked to our testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

As people of faith, seekers of the truth, and stewards of Creation, we must act with urgency to prevent further suffering and destruction of our planet. We seek to energize everyone involved with PYM to actively undertake this leading and help halt the destruction of life on this sacred earth.

Background

Throughout our history, Friends have responded to that of God in every person by working to relieve suffering. Our shared experience of how we have been called to live in the world is expressed in our testimonies. As the climate crisis causes untold suffering, contributes to instability and injustice, and ultimately threatens all life on earth, all our testimonies demand that we act now. In fact, we embrace the concept that there is that of God in all Creation. Appendices 1 and 4 provide further background on Friends' spiritual and historic commitment to this vital testimony.

Proposed Actions

This statement stretches us beyond our past positions and actions. We will maintain a vision of the long term in our decision making and address the interdependent economic, environmental, social and political systems that drive the climate crisis and climate injustice.

Specifically, we are called upon to expand our work in five areas:

1. **Activism:** Most vitally we will put our beliefs into action through advocacy, direct action, and public witness. The yearly meeting will regularly speak as a body on specific issues and possible legislation impacting climate change and the fact that the burden of climate change falls disproportionately on poor and minority communities. Quarterly and monthly meetings and individuals will work together to develop effective voices to be heard by federal, state and local governments. We will strive to broaden our collaboration with all Friends' organizations, also welcoming the diversity of religious

and secular groups committed to addressing the climate crisis.

Friends will also consider situations where group direct action is appropriate, as for example the work of the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT).

2. **Education:** We commit to reaching a shared understanding of the causes and costs of climate change. We will offer education to every member of the yearly meeting about how we can respond to this crisis. Those members of the yearly meeting with particular knowledge of Climate Change and Eco-Justice issues will provide online information, webinars, workshops and traveling ministry for all of us. Quarterly and monthly meetings and their members will commit to making use of those resources to increase their awareness of the needs and opportunities to act to interdict the climate catastrophe.
3. **Reducing Our Carbon Footprint:** We will take steps to reduce our impact on the earth, as individuals and a community, by such means as making changes to our property and finding ways to use less energy in all the aspects of life. We recognize that making significant reduction in carbon emissions also requires taking action for systemic change.
4. **Finances:** We will recognize the effects our collective purchasing and investing choices have on climate change, and act accordingly.
5. **Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope:** We recognize that bold work to address this crisis requires spiritual grounding and the support of a community.

Appendix 2 describes the actions in each of these 5 important areas.

Appendices 2, 3, 5 and the three Playbooks for Individuals and Households, Monthly and quarterly meetings, and yearly meeting (Appendices 6-8) look at our existing and potential resources, leadership, and accountability structures. Endorsement of this statement does not mean that every activity in these appendices will be carried out exactly as described, for we anticipate that our capacity and related circumstances will always be changing. Endorsement of this statement means that we wholeheartedly understand the crisis we face and pledge to the best of our ability – both as individuals and as a corporate body -- to carry out the intent of this statement.

Recognizing that monthly meetings will be at the heart of this work, they are specifically encouraged to determine how best to keep these commitments before the eyes of the meeting. This could be in the form of a committee to plan actions and report regularly, or an individual charged with those responsibilities.

The entire yearly meeting is under the weight of this urgent concern. This means that each of us is asked by our religious community to carry it into the yearly meeting, quarterly meetings, monthly meetings, and our individual lives. This also means that we do not have to process our fear, grief, and exhaustion alone. We are called to support, teach, and encourage each other. We hope every member of PYM will rise to this challenge.

Respectfully, The Climate Change Sprint:

William Cozzens, Germantown
Ruth Darlington, Medford
Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Chestnut Hill
Patricia Finley, Old Haverford Friends Meeting
Robert L. Greene, Clerk, Princeton Monthly Meeting
.O, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting
Kathryn Metzker, Willistown Monthly Meeting
Christy Tavernelli, Earth Quaker Action Team Board member
Shelly (Liyiran) Xia, Eco-Justice Collaborative member

Appendix 1: Spiritual and Moral Basis for Action

The Urgency of This Moment

Friends have a long tradition of respecting science as a means of understanding the world we live in. For over a century, with increasing urgency, scientists have been reporting on the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. We are concerned today with “abrupt climate change” -- a tipping point after which it becomes difficult to predict or adapt to environmental changes.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) warned that we must reduce our carbon emissions by 50% by 2030, and to net zero by 2050. Unfortunately, the rate of global emissions has continued to increase since 2018. We are not yet on track to achieve the necessary reductions we need to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. Moreover, global warming is not our only threat. We must also address loss of biodiversity and agricultural viability, and global injustice and unrest caused and exacerbated by environmental factors.

The Human Cost and Deep Inequity of the Climate Crisis

Many people around the world are already experiencing an unlivable situation. We can see the effects of climate change in our lifetime: extreme weather destroying homes, eroded landscapes and limited resources forcing movement and migration.

And, these effects are not being felt equally. Communities of color are often subjected to the harshest conditions and the least relief. In the city of Philadelphia, a neighborhood’s air quality and proximity to toxic sites can vary widely depending on its racial makeup and wealth — a pattern seen across the U.S. Extreme weather can be deadly for communities without access to utilities, housing, or adequate medical care.

PYM's commitment to addressing climate change grows directly from our testimonies of equality and stewardship for the natural world. We strive for a society where all people can live full lives without fearing for their health and safety. We seek to live in right relationship with each other and the natural world.

Our Natural World and the Need for Stewardship

Human activity, especially the consumer-oriented lifestyle, is largely responsible for global warming, loss of habitat and biodiversity, and other adverse impacts on the natural systems that we depend on for our very existence. We are called to use the earth’s resources responsibly and with consideration for the needs of the rest of the earth’s creatures and of future generations. Just as we are the one species capable of destroying the planet’s life support system, we are also the one species capable of undoing that damage.

PYM’s Role

Although Friends are relatively few in number, our reputation for advocacy based on ethical and moral principles and our historical support for peace and justice give Quakers authority in public forums. We must not hesitate to exercise that voice.

Appendix 2: An Outline of Necessary Actions

A: Activism

There is a vital need for the voices of Friends to be heard loud and clear in the corridors of political and economic power. While individual actions (what we eat, how we travel, how we heat and power our homes, etc.) can have an impact on climate change, significant progress in reversing climate change will happen only if we take action at the level of our government, economy, and society. Therefore, this PYM witness calls for public engagement on the issue of climate change. This can take the form of advocacy for public and corporate policies, and nonviolent direct action.

The yearly meeting will devote resources as needs become clear.

Thinking Holistically: Friends need to think holistically about the ways social and ecological systems interact and impact one another. Systemic thinking requires that we ask deeper questions and seek greater understanding of our role as advocates for a more just and sustainable world. We can and must understand that racism, extremes of wealth and poverty, and climate disruption, have interrelated causes and effects.

The current economic system's institutions have contributed to creating and perpetuating these socially intractable and ecologically destructive threats to a viable future. Systemic problems cannot be overcome by the system that creates them.

Our advocacy is more effective and strategic if we can identify local specific actions or campaigns that seek long term solutions; we can understand how small doable steps taken now can lead to longer term solutions; we focus our talents and energy on what will make the most difference both now and in the future; we understand that our lives depend on ecological systems that are currently under great stress; and we avoid wishful thinking.

Once Friends working on violence, racism, extremes of wealth and poverty, or the climate crisis come to understand the underlying causes and consequences of these issues, we can be part of a more inclusive Friends witness.

It is to this end that we urge that Friends make these connections apparent and work to address the underlying economic, social and political sources of systems that obstruct us from having a sustainable world for future generations.

Advocacy: Effective Friends' advocacy will focus on federal, state, and local governments in the states where PYM meetings for worship are located (PA, NJ, MD, DE). Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) addresses U.S. policy. PYM will collaborate with FCNL to mobilize Friends within PYM on national policy campaigns.

Nonviolent Direct Action: Friends may also feel that the urgency of an injustice compels them to take part in public action, ranging from public assembly to civil disobedience. In some cases, groups providing outside pressure can act in tandem with groups lobbying for change. Friends have a long history engaging in nonviolent direct action. The climate crisis challenges Friends to again ask where we are led, and then to act boldly and strategically to end injustice.

Activism by the Yearly Meeting

Provide leadership in activism: The yearly meeting will provide benchmarks, expectations, and models of engaged activism for PYM Friends and meetings.

Speak out for the PYM corporate body: The Presiding Clerk and the General Secretary of the yearly meeting are charged to speak on behalf of the yearly meeting, and will use this responsibility to support our witness on climate change. They will collaborate with those in our yearly meeting and the larger community who have specific and relevant expertise. Appointed groups within the YM that have missions aligned with this ministry may also speak for their group.

The YM and groups within it will join other organizations in witness through sign-ons, participation in their campaigns, and sharing news of the organizations' work.

Facilitate participation in public witness: The YM will use its communication channels to share opportunities for meetings and Friends to engage in public witness, such as advocacy, nonviolent direct action, and demonstration.

In the four-state PYM area, Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) is a strong example of a group grounded in Quakerism and carrying out focused, well-organized direct-action campaigns. EQAT is an organizing home for Quakers of all ages, including Quakers taking part in direct action for the first time.

Friends can also continue to collaborate with and support the nonviolent direct action of non-Quaker organizations in the four-state PYM area, such as POWER Interfaith, Sunrise Movement, Philly Thrive, and the New Jersey Environmental Alliance.

Activism by the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings

Speak out for the meeting: Each meeting can share publicly the work they engage in and speak to local, regional and national climate change concerns.

Advocacy: It is extremely important that meetings band together with others who are in the same congressional district and state legislative districts to develop advocacy teams to address the crucial issues being decided at the state and federal levels.

Facilitate participation in public witness: Meetings can encourage Friends to participate beyond words in demonstrations and direct action. Concerted support from groups of Friends to direct action groups like those described above could powerfully bolster their campaigns for transformation. Where appropriate meetings should also coordinate with the activities of local environmental groups.

Activism by Individuals & Households

Often the voices of individuals joined together can have a cumulative effect on policy makers and businesses. Friends can join their individual voices together to advocate for specific changes, through making their beliefs known in support of campaigns for change and through participating in action.

B: Education

Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population and among Friends is uneven. Gaining support for action requires that people understand this issue.

We must provide education for all ages to support a shared understanding of this issue, as described in this report: the causes of climate change, current and future impacts, intersections with social injustice, and the spiritual and moral necessity of taking action.

We will provide education with an action-oriented focus, stressing what meetings, other Quaker communities, and individual Friends can do to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Education should promote understanding of changes needed in all levels of society, so that individuals, households, and meeting communities can take effective action to address climate change.

Education at the Yearly Meeting

Resource Library: Training programs and educational materials and tools that can be used by Friends will be placed in an electronic resource library. These should include resources relevant to individuals and groups of all ages. Materials will be organized in modules that can be delivered (“taught”) in a variety of locations, for example, religious education settings for youth and adults in monthly and quarterly meetings, households, and young adult Friends retreats.

Programs and Events: All PYM programs and events will be organized with an attention to this witness (e.g. making sure meal and travel logistics consider sustainability). Specific programs and events, such as Thread Gatherings, can be offered through PYM to all Friends and meetings. Programs, events and training offered by others outside of PYM will be publicized to PYM Friends. The yearly meeting will also provide opportunities for training for Friends on specific techniques and skills for effecting change.

Communications: The availability of the educational content, programs, and training will be publicized to Friends with a variety of PYM communications channels.

Education at Monthly and Quarterly Meetings

Programs and Events: Religious Education, forums, and special events can be offered with a focus on climate change. In addition, there are many learning and training opportunities offered by other organizations which the meeting can publicize and attend together.

Resources and Story Sharing: Friends in meeting can create opportunities to share with one another their own learning, experiences, and the resources that support them.

Local meetings are encouraged to subscribe to Friends’ publications, such as Quaker Earthcare Witness’s *Befriending Creation*, and others reviewed in *Friends Journal*, and regularly make meeting members aware of their availability. Project Drawdown is widely considered as the most comprehensive resource for climate solutions. See Appendix 9 for details on how meetings and individuals can implement these solutions in their communities.

Education for Individuals & Households

Friends are urged to become familiar with these resources for understanding why and *how* to take effective action and to identify when and how they will learn together. The success of all these efforts ultimately rests on individuals understanding the nature of the climate crisis, and what we can do to have a positive effect. The yearly meeting will provide resources on those topics that Friends are encouraged to use.

C: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

As a faith community we are called to live into our witness and be examples in the world. We begin our witness at home and in our communities by reducing our carbon footprint, at least to the level called for by the IPCC -- 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

Although we as individuals are responsible for our demands for energy, the fossil fuel industry itself has manipulated our dependence on this form of energy. Because of lobbying, railroads and mass transit do not have the same subsidies as transportation utilizing fossil fuels. Today the fossil fuel industry also lobbies at state and federal levels to interfere with clean energy infrastructure, subsidies, and rebates. This is why structural change is so essential. In order to address the root of this crisis we must work on a larger scale than the individual and the local community.

PYM Commitments to Carbon Footprint Reduction

The YM will vigorously reduce the carbon footprint of our operations at all levels: facilities, events, travel, materials used, etc.

The Education and Activism Action Areas will include a focus on individual and systemic change in our carbon footprint.

Among the curated resources provided on the Climate Action Network (Appendix 3 below) will be tools to help monthly and quarterly meetings assess their carbon footprints and move toward net zero emissions. These may include information about how to arrange energy audits and engineering analysis, how to train and support “green teams” to analyze buildings and facilities, how to plan for energy improvements, and how to sponsor joint buying arrangements to take advantage of volume discounts.

Monthly and Quarterly Meetings Carbon Footprint Reduction

Meetings can reduce the carbon footprint of operations at all levels from property management, to travel, to materials used, etc. They can assess their carbon footprint and set goals to move toward net zero emissions. Meetings’ work in the Education and Activism Action Areas need to be reflected in what they witness to the world in their own conduct.

Individuals & Households Commitments to Carbon Footprint Reduction

Friends can also take actions to reduce their carbon footprints and those of their communities, such as their workplace, school and neighborhood. Their/our work can extend to education and activism focused on systemic changes that will decrease our communal carbon footprint.

D: Finances

A component of our commitment to addressing climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments, and related financial systems. Meetings, individual Friends, and families are actively encouraged to align their own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change.

Finances in the Yearly Meeting

Investment decisions will incorporate the promotion of a sustainable environment to have a greater social and environmental impact.

The annual budget will consider the financial needs of this ministry.

Philanthropy: PYM will add an environmental focus to the distribution of its funds through contributions and grants when possible.

Finances in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings

Investment decisions can incorporate the promotion of a sustainable environment to have a greater social and environmental impact.

The meeting's budget can consider the financial needs of this ministry.

Philanthropy: The meeting can add an environmental focus to the distribution of contributions and grants when possible and applicable.

Individuals & Households Commitments to Finances and Climate Change

Individuals and families should consider the ways their purchases, investments, and other use of resources can be used to address climate change.

E: Mourning Loss/Instilling Hope

For many, the seeming inevitability of climate change and further environmental destruction bring forth a sense of hopelessness. In addition, many Friends feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature. Many of the things we have loved in nature (such as large flocks of birds migrating south, a profusion of monarch butterflies, moths swarming outside the porch screen, choruses of toads in the yard, ice on a pond thick enough to skate) will not be available to future generations. Their loss is just as real as the loss of a beloved person. Add to that our understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today, and it is not surprising that many of us are dealing with despair.

Even while we know that urgent action is required, we cannot be sure that we can do enough, fast enough to avoid catastrophic climate change. We do not have the luxury of saying that our work may not be completed in our lifetime, because transformation to prevent the worst impacts of climate change must happen in this decade.

To avoid paralysis, Friends in mourning – fearful of what may come, or disheartened by the difficulty of meaningful change -- need support to find hope and a renewed spirit for action. As part of our corporate commitment to addressing climate change, we must engage in space for mourning and fear, and also to

encourage hope in the face of climate change. As a community, we need to find ways to mourn what has been lost while celebrating and protecting that of nature which remains.

In all of the work we do, from programs to finances to relationships, and in addition to that work, we need to ensure we are creating space to experience the depths of feeling and the presence of God.

Appendix 3: Resources, Leadership, and Accountability

This section identifies resources, leadership, and accountability structures that will help in carrying out our response to the challenge of global climate change.

Resources Within the Yearly Meeting

The governance of PYM, including clerks, councils, committees, collaboratives, granting groups, representatives appointed to represent PYM to Quaker organizations, and Bridge Contacts, must all consider the way in which their responsibilities and decisions can be exercised with attention to the overriding challenge of climate change.

Annual and Continuing Sessions will reflect and deepen our commitment to action against climate change through the content and logistics of the program. An activity to focus our minds and spirits on this ministry will be included in the agenda every year.

PYM Friends and Groups: PYM includes 13 quarterly meetings, more than 100 monthly meetings, 10,000 people, and many committed groups based on identity or ministry, such as Young Adult Friends and our collaboratives. Each of these people and groups is under the weight of our yearly meeting-wide, minuted concern for climate change. Each of them will act in every way they can in each of the five named areas of action.

Eco-Justice Collaborative: Through years of service carrying this witness for PYM, the Eco-Justice Collaborative (EJC) and its members have shared their deep understanding of the issues. It has been a home base for Friends acting on their leadings in the intersection of racial, economic, and climate justice. EJC has organized events, prepared written materials, and advocated for policy change and the adoption of responsible energy practices. Its members act as an incubator for new projects focusing on creating a just transition to a stable climate and a caring and equitable economy. They have tools, knowledge, wisdom, programs, resources and events which are in place to support PYM to take further steps in this witness.

The EJC will provide continued leadership as it encourages PYM Friends to carry out the intentions of this statement. EJC will also provide expertise, content, and continuity for activity in all of the Action Areas listed above.

PYM Climate Action Network (CAN): PYM and its Eco-Justice Collaborative will build and maintain a Climate Action Network of Friends who agree to work together on climate and justice issues and to be a conduit of information to their meetings. The network will exist also as a database that includes information on legislative districts so that Eco-Justice Collaborative can notify Friends when to contact federal, state, and local representatives, especially when the need for advocacy is urgent. Resources available to the network will include internet resources to facilitate connection among Friends and meetings and to mobilize action both online and off. The Climate Action Network is a concept already in development and will need the help of all Friends to make it a living reality.

While all Friends are expected to become active in this ministry, meetings are encouraged to identify **Climate Action Network Contacts** to promote this ministry within and among meetings.

Resource Friends: A group of experienced Friends who can speak to the important topics for climate change education will be identified, supported and managed along with other Resource Friends. They can be available to meetings and PYM groups. Two Climate Change [Resource Friends](#) are already in place.

(<https://www.pym.org/working-together/resource-friends/>)

Staff: PYM staff provides expertise, support and continuity of relationship as foundational support for our community's work. Their steady and consistent service focuses on providing and building capacity for community engagement through a skilled and wide variety of communications, connection-building, programs and events. The staff is positioned to be able to support the work of all of the people and groups listed above.

Relationships with Other Organizations: Many Quaker, faith-based, and secular organizations are formed specifically to engage in this ministry. While PYM has a unique voice in the world, we do not need to base all that we say only on our own experience and expertise. When we join with others we are able to strengthen all of our capacity and to amplify the essential message. Partnerships also are a key ingredient in managing the experience of mourning and loss as well as finding our resiliency.

Communications: The PYM staff-managed communications channels, including the website, email, print, and social media, will connect Friends and meetings with information, resources and tools to support their work. These communication channels will also provide Friends and meetings with information about the witness and related activity within the PYM community. All Friends can contribute to the content that is shared through communications.

Resource Library: A curated online library of resources to support the work of the yearly meeting, monthly and quarterly meetings, and individuals will be maintained. Friends who wish to volunteer to assist with this work are welcome. Friends who wish to volunteer to assist with this work are welcome.

Property: Managers of PYM properties will consider how these properties could be used to support biodiversity and surrounding communities.

Resources at Monthly and Quarterly Meetings

Meetings are asked to consider ways in which they can keep these existential issues in the minds and hearts of their members on an ongoing basis. To allow meetings to be faithful to these tasks, it is recommended that monthly meetings identify a consistent practice or structure to carry the concerns and regularly raise them up for the meeting. In many meetings this might well be entrusted to a new committee responsible for linking all the parts of our yearly meeting community engaged in this work and leading the action of the monthly and quarterly meeting. In other smaller meetings, an individual could lead this work.

This can include making regular announcements about issues from the Climate Action Network, requesting visitation from Resource Friends, EJC, or Friends involved in climate issues, and promoting both ministry at or after meetings and participation in programs from our yearly meeting that address climate change and environmental justice.

Additionally, each meeting committee is called upon to be under the weight of this concern.

Meetings are asked to consider how their relationships with other Quaker bodies and other faith and secular organizations can carry the ministry of addressing climate change.

Friendly Households is a program designed to support sustainable choices that promote healing and transformation in ourselves, our homes, our meetings, our local and global communities, and our planet earth. Friendly Households is also known as a mini-transition initiative that promotes community building, action, and change. The Friendly Households Program encourages commitments to learn, share ideas, and take practical steps – small and large – to live more lightly on the earth and to embrace opportunities for positive societal change – all the while deepening our spiritual grounding and accountability to one another. Friendly Households' materials offer a guideline for effective change for individuals, households or meetings, or out in the public domain to help make the systemic changes needed to live in a more sustainable, just, and more peaceful world. The flexibility of the materials enables a group with diverse interests and concerns to come together and work simultaneously in several areas. In some cases, Friends unite on a group action or project.

Accountability

Approaches to accountability of the yearly meeting include:

- **Appoint an accountability body** called the Climate Witness Stewards. The Stewards will report directly and independently to the yearly meeting, recommend benchmarks and provide a level of approval to climate related activity.
- **Benchmarks** of what we hope to accomplish for the yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings and for individuals and households.
- **Queries** can direct us to pay attention. The following query will be included as part of the yearly meeting decision making process:
 - *How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?*

Additional queries for specific action areas may be added.

- **Reports** will be shared on an identified and regular basis by the yearly meeting, by monthly and quarterly meetings and by individuals and households. The reports will be posted online. A summary report will be provided by the Climate Witness Stewards.
- **Story-sharing** Opportunities to share experiences will be provided on a regular basis so that Friends, meetings and groups will support, inspire and compel one another by sharing their stories of success, frustration and dreaming.

PYM Clerks Group and councils are responsible for integrating this witness into all of the things they are responsible for in the YM.

Meetings are asked to hold themselves accountable by having semi-annual reports to their quarterly meeting and the Quaker Life Council of the yearly meeting to be shared across the yearly meeting, and also to provide the means to share their activities through the Climate Action Network. Meetings are also asked to provide an accountability and support structure for individuals and households in the meeting.

Individual Friends are encouraged to make good use of the resources, programs, and expertise available within PYM and in their local community. Friends are encouraged to develop goal for themselves and their households and families and to identify how they will meet those goals.

Climate Witness Stewards

Role of the Stewards: In order to allow us to hold ourselves accountable to our yearly meeting-wide witness, Climate Witness Stewards will be appointed. Their function will be to serve as a conscience by reflecting and reporting on how we are meeting our commitments.

The Climate Witness Stewards' Responsibilities:

- Reports to the yearly meeting directly and independently providing verbal and written reports on a regular basis which include assessments of our climate change ministry. Reports provide guidance about priorities, what is missing, what is awesome, what is challenging, etc. Reports include a review of the reports of the monthly and quarterly meetings.
- Recommends benchmarks and activity on our climate witness, to be approved by the body
- Provides guidance and advice to elements of the governance structure when requested or when there is a perceived need.
- Provides guidance and approval for recommended resources, statements, training, trainers, etc., suggested or drafted by others.
- Works with PYM staff and governance to establish and maintain partnerships with other organizations conducting climate change work in the wider community.

The commitments of the members include:

- Gathering on a monthly to quarterly basis, as needed, to manage the responsibilities
- Consistently staying current on the activity of the yearly, quarterly and monthly meeting activity
- Attending YM sessions and YM wide accountability gatherings
- Being available in case of time-imperative needs like statements and timely approval of suggested resources.

Members should be individuals who can articulate their lived experience of the impact of climate change (we want leadership that is impacted). They should also be people who are experienced as grounded in Spirit and can connect the work of climate change to religious and Quaker roots both verbally and experientially. They should also be people who approach work in a systematic way, considering possibilities and impacts from a variety of perspectives with attention to effectiveness. They should be comfortable with the governance structure of our yearly meeting. It is populated in an ex officio manner.

- A member of EJC,
- a member of the Clerks Group,
- a Quaker member of a Nonviolent Direct Action group (EQAT, POWER Interfaith, etc),
- A Quaker member of an advocacy group (FCNL, Interfaith Power & Light, etc.),
- A Quaker educator – maybe from Friends Environmental Education Network (FEEN),
- A Quaker involved in and/or impacted by environmental racism,
- A staff member.
- Possibly: Someone who has a deep skill set for this work who is not a Friend or part of PYM to provide an additional perspective and outside accountability.

Appendix 4: History of Response to Climate Change by PYM

Minutes

On January 18, 2020, the Eco-Justice Collaborative shared the following minute at a thread gathering. This is the most recent in a long series of minutes.

Minute to Address the Climate Crisis as One of PYM's Top Corporate Witnesses

In 2018, climate scientists told the United Nations that the effects of climate change were occurring much sooner than expected. They warned that, unless carbon emissions are cut by 50% in the next ten years, i.e., by 2030, and then to net-zero by 2050, humanity will probably experience a global climate catastrophe of incalculable severity before the end of this century.

We know that while all will suffer, the most vulnerable populations will face certain calamity. Institutional racism has already harmed communities of color, as manifested in part in environmental injustice. Continued exploitation of the earth's resources has already caused mass extinctions and put life as we know it at risk. Conflicts due to rising sea levels, food insecurity, water scarcity, and mass migrations are already causing horrific injustice and threatening world peace.

For these reasons, our historic testimonies for peace, justice, integrity, and stewardship call us to make climate justice a clear and urgent concern for corporate witness, and for all manifestations of our yearly meeting to take *immediate and resolute action*.

This is the most recent in a long line of minutes the yearly meeting has adopted expressing our concern for environmental stewardship and the environment. Since 1997, the yearly meeting as a body has approved six separate minutes which indicated our commitment to the care of the earth and environment as an expression of our faith:

- On transforming our society's relationship with the earth (approved at the January 1998 Interim Meeting Session)
- On the need to address global climate change (approved at the June 2000 Interim Meeting Session)
- On energy stewardship in Meeting facilities and households (approved at the January 2003 Interim Meeting Session)
- On incorporating the concern about climate change into the body of our yearly meeting's work in the world (approved at a June, 2005 Called Session on Climate Change)
- On incorporating the concern about climate change into the life of our yearly meeting (approved at the 2006 Annual Session)
- On the need for bold action to curb global warming (approved at the 2009 Annual Session)

We hope with this minute and report to create an actionable, accountable structure for responding to climate change in the yearly meeting.

Eco-Justice Collaborative

The PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative has been a continuous group since 1988. EJC began as the Environmental Working Group and has evolved, reorganized, and changed name over the past 33 years. The original working group struggled unsuccessfully to connect with PYM meetings for about six years and was about to lay itself down. They, instead, decided to work more intensely when at the 1996 sessions, a young person stood and

spoke of their nightmares concerning imminent environmental devastation. In response Ed Dreby and Margaret Mansfield decided to take on environmental concerns among Quakers as their primary occupation. Together, they visited half of the meetings in PYM, connected with the National Council of Churches and worked closely with Quaker Earthcare Witness. Their voices and deep knowledge of the climate crisis continue to influence and strengthen EJC's efforts.

The last EJC reorganization occurred in 2009 in the same gathering that formed EQAT. EJC organized itself as a collaborative of environmental, economic, and climate justice leaders who have their own projects but support each other.

The members of the PYM Eco-Justice Collaborative emphasize that ecological destruction, income inequality and racial injustice cannot be treated as isolated concerns. They may be called to focus on different aspects of the whole, but without awareness of that whole, our work will fall short. Traditional Quaker testimonies highlight both the connections among these concerns and the imperative to act. In pursuit of justice and a world with a future, the Eco Justice Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is engaged in projects to support Friends in their quest for a nation and economy that serves justice and the commonwealth of life. They serve as a home for Friends acting on their leading in the intersection of racial, economic, and climate justice. They organize events, prepare written materials, advocate for policy change and the adoption of responsible energy practices. They also act as an incubator for new projects focusing on creating a just transition to a stable climate and a caring and equitable economy.

Earth Quaker Action Team

In 2009, a panel hosted by the yearly meeting led to a discussion about what meaningful impact members could make on the issue of climate change. Following this discussion, some concerned Friends formed Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), a nonviolent direct-action group to target corporations playing a major role in the climate crisis. This group, now in its second campaign, has operated independently of the yearly meeting organization but continues to have active participation and leadership from area Friends.

Appendix 5: Action Matrix

Here is an example of an accountability worksheet that's meant to be illustrative.

	Responsibility					
	Individuals & Households	Climate Action Network	PYM meetings & groups	Eco-Justice Collaborative	PYM Staff	PYM Leadership
Education						
Investigate requirements						
Curriculum Plan						
Curriculum Development						
Communicate availability						
Schedule classes						
Deliver /conduct						
Advocacy						
Determine strategy						
Research issues						
Monitor legislative activity						
Develop positions						
Form/activate alliances						
Prepare talking points						
Draft position paper(s)						
Prepare press release						
Mobilize Friends						

Communicate position						
- Calls						
- Letter to Editors/Op Eds						
- Lobby visits						
- Demonstrations						
- Public speaking						
Nonviolent Direct Action						
Identify potential campaigns						
Communicate action opportunities						
Participate						
Greening Our Finances						
Analyze PYM investments						
PYM Investment decisions						
Analyze PYM spending						
Modify PYM purchasing decisions						
Develop Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) guidance for meetings						
Develop SRI guidance for Friends						

Conduct SRI workshops for meetings & Friends						
Greening Our Meetings, Schools & Homes						
Identify "greening" resources						
Develop directory of energy auditors						
Provide grants for audits and engineering analysis						
Provide training for meeting "green teams"						
Specifically train in the use of IPL's "Cool Congregations" and EPA energy Calculator programs						
Analyze meeting energy use and saving opportunities						
Provide grants or subsidized financing for building improvements						
Implement meeting energy improvements						
Measure energy and "carbon footprint" reductions						
Celebrate success!						

Mourning Loss, Combatting Fear, and Instilling Hope						
Prepare workshop material						
Train workshop facilitators						
Publicize & promote						
Conduct workshops						

Appendix 6: Individual & Household Climate Change Playbook

Individual and Household suggested responses to the call to address climate change are laid out in this document. It includes:

- The first tasks to be addressed.
- Descriptions of the work of the five Action Areas.
- The people and groups who will carry the work.
- Accountability and leadership.
- Possibilities for addressing the five areas.
- Template for reporting.

There are similar playbooks to guide the planning and action of the yearly meeting and of monthly and quarterly meetings.

The first tasks for individuals and households will be to:

- a. Identify the who or what structure will help you keep the work moving forward.
- b. Define initial benchmarks.
- c. Set first steps by each of the individuals with assigned responsibilities for benchmarks.

These tasks will set meetings up to take the next steps of beginning (and in some cases, continuing) activity in the Action Areas.

Climate Change Action Areas

Activism Action Area

Through advocacy and Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), the YM will make a vocal and public witness to the existential crises of our time, using our moral authority to advocate for a swift and just transition to promote environmental justice and climate action.

Education Action Area

Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population and among Friends on the issue is very uneven. Gaining support for action requires that people understand what is causing climate change, what the current and potential future impacts of climate change are, and what changes in our economy and society are needed to address climate change.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Action Area

By reducing our own carbon footprint, we acknowledge our responsibility for global warming, and in doing this work, we lead by example. To be faithful to the work of reducing emissions, we must also address the systems that perpetuate and drive our limited clean energy choices.

This work must be done at all levels of the YM from individuals and meetings to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff and leadership.

Finances Action Area

A component of our commitment to addressing climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments, and related financial systems. Meetings, individual Friends, and families are actively encouraged to align their

own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change and to have a greater social and environmental impact.

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope Action Area

For many, the enormity of the climate crisis and the urgency of addressing it can bring forth a sense of hopelessness. Many Friends also feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature while understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today. All of this can lead to a paralyzing feeling of despair. While we are asking ourselves to make climate change and environmental justice a priority, we must also take care of the people who are doing the work.

The People and Groups Carrying the Work

Every Friend, household, monthly and quarterly meeting, PYM group and the yearly meeting as a whole is under the weight of the call to take swift, critical action to reduce climate change (mitigation) and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change (adaptation). Each of us will act in every way we can in each of the five named areas of action. We are encouraged and expected to live up to this commitment with the support of one another.

PYM Climate Action Network: The Climate Action Network is the facilitated connections among Friends and meetings which mobilizes action both online and off. Its members are representatives from each meeting and others who want to participate.

The Climate Action Network is a concept already in development and is supported by the EJC and staff.

Resource Friends: A selected group of highly experienced Friends who can speak to the important topics for climate change education will be identified, supported and managed along with other Resource Friends. They can be available to meetings and PYM groups. (see the Governance Handbook for more details)

Resource Friends are already in use and two Climate Change Resource Friends are already in place.

Eco-Justice Collaborative: Through years of service of carrying this witness for PYM, the Eco-Justice Collaborative (EJC) and its members have shared their deep understanding of the issues, approaches to these issues, and advocacy for transformation and change. They have tools, knowledge, wisdom, programs, resources and events which are in place to support our yearly meeting to take further steps in this witness as a community. The EJC is responsible for the interface with monthly meetings and for proactively taking a leadership role in recommending actions and drawing people together.

Relationships with Other Organizations: Many Quaker, faith-based and secular organizations are formed specifically to engage in this ministry. While our yearly meeting has a unique voice in the world, we do not need to base all that we say only on our own experience and expertise. When we join with others we are able to strengthen all of our capacity and to amplify the essential message. Partnerships also are a key ingredient in managing the experience of mourning and loss as well as finding our resiliency.

Accountability and Leadership for Individuals and Households

Friends are urged to establish practices to hold themselves accountable for engaging in this yearly meeting-wide ministry. It is essential and also difficult work that can be discouraging – especially if one is doing it alone. Some recommended practices to support engagement and accompaniment include:

- Develop goals for yourself and your household and family. Establish times to check in with your goals. Identify how you will meet those goals and to whom you will report the goals, your progress and blocks to your progress.
- Pair up with a f/Friend or neighbor to share your experience.
- Report your experience to you meeting, PYM group or PYM.
- Include the following query in your daily life decisions:
How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?

Individuals & Households Action

Individuals and Households can take action in the five action areas. Suggestions are shared in the following chart. For each action, determine who has the authority for moving action forward and who is responsible for participating. The Friendly Household Project (available on the PYM website) is another good resource for guiding the work of individuals and households.

Locus	Activity	Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors
Activim	<p>Participate in public witness Often the voices of individuals, as voters, investors and consumers joined together can have a cumulative effect on policy makes and businesses. Friends can join their individual voices together to advocate for specific changes, through making their beliefs known in concerted efforts in support of campaigns for change and through participating in direct actions.</p>		
Education	<p>Programs, Events and Trainings Drawing on the Resource Library, offerings through the yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings and local offerings to the public, Friends will educate themselves</p> <p>Resource and Story Sharing Household members will share their learnings and experience on a regular basis with one another</p>		
Carbon Footprint	<p>Reduce the carbon footprint of the home Friends will assess their carbon footprint and set goals for moving toward net zero emissions</p>		

Locus	Activity	Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors
Finance	Investments Personal investment decisions can incorporate the promotion of a sustainable environment to have a greater social and environmental impact.		
	Budget Your personal budget can include attention to the financial costs of engaging in this ministry.		
	Philanthropy Your pattern of giving can include an environmental focus		
Mourning Loss & Instilling Hope	In all of the work we do, from programs to finances to relationships, and in addition to that work, we need to ensure we are creating space to experience the depths of feeling and the presence of God.		

Sample Template Report on Individual and Household Activity to address Climate Change

Note that Friends should develop the report that meets their need and this is simply a sample possibility.

Section A: Benchmarks and Accountability

1. List each benchmark with due dates in this period and comment on the progress, who was involved, what was accomplished and what blocks to the work exist.
2. List future benchmarks and comment on their current viability and any changes or adjustments that are recommended.
3. How is the guiding query working for you?
How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?

Section C: Experience of Engagement

1. What is your experience and engagement with the work?
2. How does it impact your spiritual life?

Section D: Conclusions and Recommendations

Appendix 7: Monthly & Quarterly Meeting Climate Change Playbook

Monthly and quarterly meeting suggested responses to the call to address climate change is laid out in this document. It includes:

- The first tasks to be addressed.
- Descriptions of the work of the five Action Areas.
- The people and groups who will carry the work.
- Accountability and leadership.
- Possibilities for addressing the five areas.
- Template for reporting.

There are similar playbooks to guide the planning and action of the yearly meeting and of individuals and households.

The first tasks for meetings will be to:

- a. Identify the committee or other structure that will help the meeting keep the work moving forward.
- b. Define initial benchmarks.
- c. Set first steps by each of the individuals/groups with assigned responsibilities for benchmarks.

These tasks will set meetings up to take the next steps of beginning (and in some cases, continuing) activity in the Action Areas.

Climate Change Action Areas

Activism Action Area

Through advocacy and Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), the YM will make a vocal and public witness to the existential crises of our time, using our moral authority to advocate for a swift and just transition to promote environmental justice and climate action.

Education Action Area

Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population and among Friends on the issue is very uneven. Gaining support for action requires that people understand what is causing climate change, what the current and potential future impacts of climate change are, and what changes in our economy and society are needed to address climate change.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Action Area

By reducing our own carbon footprint, we acknowledge our responsibility for global warming, and in doing this work, we lead by example. To be faithful to the work of reducing emissions, we must also address the systems that perpetuate and drive our limited clean energy choices.

This work must be done at all levels of the YM from individuals and meetings to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff and leadership.

Finances Action Area

A component of our commitment to addressing climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments, and related financial systems. Meetings, individual Friends, and families are actively encouraged to align their own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change and to have a greater social and environmental impact.

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope Action Area

For many, the enormity of the climate crisis and the urgency of addressing it can bring forth a sense of hopelessness. Many Friends also feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature while understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today. All of this can lead to a paralyzing feeling of despair. While we are asking ourselves to make climate change and environmental justice a priority, we must also take care of the people who are doing the work.

The People and Groups Carrying the Work

Every Friend, household, monthly and quarterly meeting, PYM group and the yearly meeting as a whole is under the weight of the call to take swift, critical action to reduce climate change (mitigation) and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change (adaptation). Each of us will act in every way we can in each of the five named areas of action. We are encouraged and expected to live up to this commitment with the support of one another.

PYM Climate Action Network: The Climate Action Network is the facilitated connections among Friends and meetings which mobilizes action both online and off. Its members are representatives from each meeting and others who want to participate.

The Climate Action Network is a concept already in development and is supported by the EJC and staff.

Resource Friends: A selected group of highly experienced Friends who can speak to the important topics for climate change education will be identified, supported and managed along with other Resource Friends. They can be available to meetings and PYM groups. (see the Governance Handbook for more details)

Resource Friends are already in use and two Climate Change Resource Friends are already in place.

Eco-Justice Collaborative: Through years of service of carrying this witness for PYM, the Eco-Justice Collaborative (EJC) and its members have shared their deep understanding of the issues, approaches to these issues, and advocacy for transformation and change. They have tools, knowledge, wisdom, programs, resources and events which are in place to support our yearly meeting to take further steps in this witness as a community. The EJC is responsible for the interface with monthly meetings and for proactively taking a leadership role in recommending actions and drawing people together.

Relationships with Other Organizations: Many Quaker, faith-based and secular organizations are formed specifically to engage in this ministry. While our yearly meeting has a unique voice in the world, we do not need to base all that we say only on our own experience and expertise. When we join with others we are able to strengthen all of our capacity and to amplify the essential message. Partnerships also are a key ingredient in managing the experience of mourning and loss as well as finding our resiliency.

Accountability and Leadership for Monthly & Quarterly Meetings

Meetings are urged to hold themselves accountable to our shared ministry on climate change by establishing ways in which they can keep these existential issues in the minds and hearts of their members on an ongoing basis. Recommended accountability structures include:

- Identify a consistent practice or structure to carry the concern and regularly raise it up for the meeting. This might well be entrusted to a committee responsible for liaising with the all the parts of our yearly meeting community engaged in this work and leading action of the monthly and quarterly meeting. In other smaller settings an individual could lead this work.
- Establish goals or benchmarks on an annual basis related to the five Action Areas.
- Expect each meeting committee to be under the weight of this ministry.
- Report on their goals annually to your Quarterly Meeting and the Climate Change Advisory. The reports will be posted and will be part of the annual report of the CCA.
- Include the following query in your discernment and decision-making processes: ***How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?***
- Provide an accountability structure for individuals and households in the meeting by determining a way they can report to the meeting. A summary of those reports might be shared along with the report of the meeting's activity.

MM & QM Action

Monthly and quarterly meetings can take action in the five Action Areas. Suggestions are shared in the following chart. For each action the meeting can determine who has the authority for moving action forward and who is responsible for participating.

Locus	Activity	Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors
Activism	Speak out for the meeting		
	Each meeting can share publicly the work they engage in and speak publicly to local, regional and national climate change concerns.		
Education	Participate in public witness		
	Meetings can encourage Friends to participate beyond words in demonstrations and direct action and can band together with others who are in the same Congressional District and state legislative districts to develop advocacy teams to address the crucial issues being decided at the state and Federal levels.		
Carbon Footprint	Programs, Events and Trainings		
	Drawing on the Resource Library, offerings through the yearly meeting and local offerings to the public meetings will educate their Friends and local communities		
Carbon Footprint	Resource and Story Sharing		
	Friends in the meeting can create opportunities to share with one another their own learnings, experiences and the resources that support them.		
Carbon Footprint	Reduce the carbon footprint of operations		
	Meetings can assess their carbon footprint and set goals for moving toward net zero emissions		

Locus	Activity	Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors
Finance	Investments Meeting investment decisions can incorporate the promotion of a sustainable environment to have a greater social and environmental impact.		
	Budget The preparation of the meeting’s budget can consider the financial needs of this ministry.		
	Philanthropy The meeting can add an environmental focus to the distribution of contributions and grants when possible and applicable.		
Mourning Loss & Instilling Hope	In all of the work we do, from programs to finances to relationships, and in addition to that work, we need to ensure we are creating space to experience the depths of feeling and the presence of God.		

Sample Template Report on Meeting Activity to address Climate Change

Note that meetings should develop the report that meets their need and this is simply a sample possibility.

Section A: Benchmarks

1. List each benchmark with due dates in this period and comment on the progress, who was involved, what was accomplished and what blocks to the work exist
2. List future benchmarks and comment on their current viability and any changes or adjustments that are recommended

Section B: Accountability

1. 1. How is the guiding query working for us?
How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?
2. 2. Provide a summary of the stories and reports shared by individuals and households in a monthly meeting or the monthly meetings in a quarterly meeting

Section C: Experience of Engagement

Based on reports, activity, benchmark progress and stories shared about our shared work:

3. What is the sense of Friends' experience and engagement with the work in the meeting?
4. How does the work affect the spiritual condition of the meeting?
5. What is the sense of monthly and quarterly meetings and PYM groups' experience and engagement with the work?
6. What is the sense of individuals and households' experience and engagement with the work?

Section D: Conclusions and Recommendations

Appendix 8: Yearly Meeting Climate Change Playbook

YM response to the call to address climate change is laid out in this document. It includes: Descriptions of the work of the five Action Areas.

- The first tasks to be addressed.
- The people and groups who will carry the work.
- Accountability and leadership.
- Possibilities for addressing the five areas.
- Template for reporting.

There are similar playbooks to guide the planning and action of monthly and quarterly meetings and PYM groups and of individuals and households.

The first tasks for the yearly meeting will be to:

- a. Change the status of the Eco-Justice Collaborative (by 9/17)
- b. Set up the Climate Witness Stewards (by 9/30)
- c. Distribute the playbooks to monthly and quarterly meetings, PYM groups and individuals (by 10/15)
- d. Define initial benchmarks (proposed by the Climate Witness Stewards and approved by the body) (by 11/6)
- e. Set first steps by each of the individuals/groups with assigned responsibilities in the play book (by 12/1)

These tasks will set us up to take the next steps of beginning (and in some cases, continuing) activity in the Action Areas.

Climate Change Action Areas

Activism Action Area

Through advocacy and Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), the YM will make a vocal and public witness to the existential crises of our time, using our moral authority to advocate for a swift and just transition to promote environmental justice and climate action.

Education Action Area

Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population and among Friends on the issue is very uneven. Gaining support for action requires that people understand what is causing climate change, what the current and potential future impacts of climate change are, and what changes in our economy and society are needed to address climate change.

Carbon Footprint Reduction Action Area

By reducing our own carbon footprint, we acknowledge our responsibility for global warming, and in doing this work, we lead by example. To be faithful to the work of reducing emissions, we must also address the systems that perpetuate and drive our limited clean energy choices.

This work must be done at all levels of the YM from individuals and meetings to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff and leadership.

Finances Action Area

A component of our commitment to addressing climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments, and related financial systems. Meetings, individual Friends, and families are actively encouraged to align their

own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change and to have a greater social and environmental impact.

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope Action Area

For many, the enormity of the climate crisis and the urgency of addressing it can bring forth a sense of hopelessness. Many Friends also feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature while understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today. All of this can lead to a paralyzing feeling of despair. While we are asking ourselves to make climate change and environmental justice a priority, we must also take care of the people who are doing the work.

The People and Groups Carrying the Work

Every Friend, household, monthly and quarterly meeting, PYM group and the yearly meeting as a whole is under the weight of the call to take swift, critical action to reduce climate change (mitigation) and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change (adaptation). Each of us will act in every way we can in each of the five named areas of action. We are encouraged and expected to live up to this commitment with the support of one another.

In the yearly meeting, the people and groups below have particular responsibilities for leadership in naming resources, facilitating participation, providing models and supporting accountability for this shared witness. They are assigned specific responsibilities in the appendix which describes the tasks for each action area.

PYM Climate Action Network The Climate Action Network is the facilitated connections among Friends and meetings which mobilizes action both online and off. Its members are representatives from each meeting and others who want to participate.

The Climate Action Network is a concept already in development and is supported by the EJC and staff.

Resource Friends: A selected group of highly experienced Friends who can speak to the important topics for climate change education will be identified, supported and managed along with other Resource Friends. They can be available to meetings and PYM groups. (see the Governance Handbook for more details)

Resource Friends are already in use and two Climate Change Resource Friends are already in place.

Eco-Justice Collaborative: Through years of service of carrying this witness for PYM, the Eco-Justice Collaborative (EJC) and its members have shared their deep understanding of the issues, approaches to these issues, and advocacy for transformation and change. They have tools, knowledge, wisdom, programs, resources and events which are in place to support our yearly meeting to take further steps in this witness as a community. The EJC is responsible for the interface with monthly meetings and for proactively taking a leadership role in recommending actions and drawing people together.

Staff: PYM staff provides expertise, support and continuity of relationship as foundational support for our community's work. Their steady and consistent service focuses on providing and building capacity for community engagement through a skilled and wide variety of communications, connection-building, programs and events. The staff is positioned to be able to scaffold the work of the people and groups supporting this ministry.

Relationships with Other Organizations: Many Quaker, faith-based and secular organizations are formed specifically to engage in this ministry. While our yearly meeting has a unique voice in the world, we do not need to base all that we say only on our own experience and expertise. When we join with others we are able to

strengthen all of our capacity and to amplify the essential message. Partnerships also are a key ingredient in managing the experience of mourning and loss as well as finding our resiliency.

Accountability for our Yearly Meeting

There are multiple approaches to accountability that can be managed by the yearly meeting.

- **Appoint an accountability body** called the Climate Witness Stewards. The Stewards will report directly and independently to the yearly meeting, recommend benchmarks and provide a level of approval to climate related activity.
- **Benchmarks** of what we hope to accomplish for the yearly meeting. These will be recommended annually by the Climate Witness Stewards and approved by the yearly meeting. The Stewards will report directly to the body on our progress and activity.
- **Queries** can direct us to pay attention. The following query will be included as part of decision-making processes in the yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings:
How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change?
Additional queries for specific Action Areas may be added.
- **Reports** will be shared on an identified and regular basis by the yearly meeting, by monthly and quarterly meetings and by individuals and households. The reports will be posted online. A summary report will be provided by the Climate Witness Stewards.
- **Opportunities to share experiences** will be provided on a regular basis so that Friends, meetings and groups will support, inspire and compel one another by sharing their stories of success, frustration and dreaming.

Leadership in our Yearly Meeting

Eco-Justice Collaborative: The EJC will provide continued leadership in the same manner it has been doing as it looks to PYM Friends to join with them.

- EJC will be elevated from a collaborative to a committee that is jointly under the care of Administrative and Quaker Life Councils – which is more in alignment with its actual responsibilities. It will maintain its current role with the different title.
- Eco-Justice Committee role will be to provide leadership, expertise, content and continuity for activity in all of the Action Areas of our ministry on climate justice. For context:

Climate Witness Stewards

The Stewards provide the recommendations for benchmarks and action and shares direct evaluation and reflection on our progress.

The group's membership is populated in an ex officio manner with people who can articulate their lived experience of the impact of climate change and can connect the work of climate change to religious and Quaker roots both verbally and experientially. They are people who approach work in a systematic way, considering possibilities and impacts from a variety of perspectives with attention to effectiveness and they are comfortable with the governance structure of our yearly meeting.

The members include:

- A member of EJC
- A member of the Clerks Group
- A Quaker member of a non-PYM group that is engaged in nonviolent direct action (such as EQAT, POWER, etc.)

- A Quaker member of an advocacy group (such as FCNL, IP&L, etc)
- A Quaker educator (possibly from Friends Environmental Education Network (FEEN))
- A Quaker involved in and/or impacted by environmental racism
- A staff member
- Possibly: A person who has a deep skillset for this work who is not a Friend or part of PYM to provide an additional perspective and outside accountability

The responsibilities are to:

- Report to the yearly meeting directly and independently providing verbal and written reports on a regular basis which include assessments of our climate change ministry. Reports provide guidance about priorities, what is missing, what is awesome, what is challenging, etc. Reports include a review of the reports of the monthly and quarterly meetings.
- Recommend benchmarks and activity on our climate witness, to be approved by the body
- Provide guidance and advice to elements of the governance structure when requested or when there is a perceived need.
- Provide guidance and approval for recommended resources, statements, training, trainers, etc., suggested or drafted by others.
- Work with PYM staff and governance to establish and maintain partnerships with other organizations conducting climate change work in the wider community.

The commitments of the members include:

- Gathering on a monthly to quarterly basis, as needed, to manage the responsibilities
- Consistently staying current on the activity of the yearly, quarterly and monthly meeting activity
- Attending YM sessions and YM wide accountability gatherings
- Being available in case of time-imperative needs like statements and timely approval of suggested resources.

Clerks Group and Councils

These Friends are responsible for integrating this witness into all of the things they are responsible for in the YM.

Yearly Meeting Action

The Yearly Meeting will take action in each of the five areas in the following ways:

Locus	Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors	
Activism	<p>Provide Leadership in Activism</p> <p>Provide benchmarks and expectations on an annual basis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Advisory • PYM Friends/groups • Climate Action Network • Climate Advocates • Resource Friends • EJC 	
	<p>Provide models of engaged activism to educate and encourage participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Network • Climate Advocates • Resource Friends • EJC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff can provide communications support
	<p>Facilitate participation in public witness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Network • Climate Advocates • Resource Friends • EJC • Legislative Policy Collab. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other groups who carry out organized direct-action and public advocacy campaigns • Staff can provide publicity
	<p>Participation in their campaigns, and sharing news of the organizations' work.</p> <p><i>At some point, possibly we would organize our own campaigns</i></p>		
	<p>Speak out for the PYM body</p> <p>The Presiding Clerk and the General Secretary will speak on behalf of the yearly meeting to support our witness on climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding Clerk • General Secretary • Climate Change Advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Friends • EJC • Legislative Policy Collab. • outside groups
	<p>The YM and groups within it will join other organizations in witness through sign-ons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding Clerk, General Secretary and Climate Change Advisory for PYM. • EJC, LPC for themselves 	
	<p>Appointed groups within the YM that have missions aligned with this ministry may also speak for their group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EJC • Legislative Policy Collab. 	

Locus		Authority/bottom- liners	Contributors
Education	Resource Library A web-based library of training programs, educational materials and tools for individuals and groups of all ages	website is staff-maintained	
	materials organized in modules that can be used in any group	suggested resources approved by Advisory Group	resources may be recommended by individuals, meetings, staff, or anyone
	Programs, Events and Trainings All PYM programs and events will be organized with an attention to how this witness is relevant to them.	Every person responsible for managing a program	
	Programs, events and trainings may be offered through PYM to all Friends and meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PYM Friends/groups • Climate Action Network • Climate Advocates • Resource Friends • EJC 	Staff can provide logistics and publicity support
	Programs, events and Trainings facilitated by outside orgs and trainers may be arranged for PYM Friends participation OR Programs, events and trainings offered publicly may be publicized to PYM Friends	Recommendations approved by the Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any PYM group can recommend an event be publicized. • Staff can provide publicity support
Carbon Footprint	Reduce the carbon footprint of our operations This applies to facilities, events, travel, materials used, etc.	PYM Staff	Each person responsible for managing any part of operations
	Tools for moving toward net zero emissions will be placed in the Library including info on energy audits, energy improvements, supporting "green teams, how to sponsor joint buying arrangements etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources are approved by the Climate change Advisory • the website is maintained by staff 	resources may be recommended by individuals, meetings, staff, or anyone
	Notation of the systemic factors contributing to climate change for each aspect of operations will be shared along with reports on carbon footprint reduction measures	PYM Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Friends • EJC

Locus		Authority/bottom-liners	Contributors
Finance	Investments Investment decisions will incorporate the promotion of a sustainable environment to have a greater social and environmental impact.	Administrative Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee • PYM Staff
	Budget The preparation of the annual budget will consider the financial needs of this ministry.	Administrative Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee • PYM Staff
	Philanthropy PYM is asked to add an environmental focus to the distribution of its funds through contributions and grants when possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granting Committee and Granting Groups • General Secretary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PYM Staff
Mourning Loss & Instilling	In all of the work we do, from programs to finances to relationships, and in addition to that work, we need to ensure we are creating space to experience the depths of feeling and the presence of God.		

Sample Template Report on the Yearly Meeting Activity to address Climate Change

Section A: Benchmarks

1. List each benchmark with due dates in this period and comment on the progress, who was involved, what was accomplished and what blocks to the work exist
2. List future benchmarks and comment on their current viability and any changes or adjustments that are recommended

Section B: Accountability

1. How does this decision support us in our goal to reduce climate change and counter the worst adverse impacts of climate change? How is this guiding query working for us?
2. Provide a summary of the reports shared by meetings, groups and individuals
3. Provide a summary of experiences that have been shared by meetings, groups, and individuals in news stories and events

Section C: Experience of Engagement

Based on reports, activity, benchmark progress and stories shared about our shared work:

1. What is the sense of Friends' experience and engagement with the work in the yearly meeting environment?
2. How does the work affect the spiritual condition of the yearly meeting?
3. What is the sense of monthly and quarterly meetings and PYM groups' experience and engagement with the work?
4. What is the sense of individuals and households' experience and engagement with the YM.

Section D: Conclusions and Recommendations

Appendix 9: Project Drawdown

Project Drawdown is a recognized leader in providing solutions to global warming and can be a valuable tool for Friends trying to address the climate crisis. The mission of Project Drawdown is to help reach “Drawdown,” the point when levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere stop rising and begin to decline, in order to stop climate change “as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible.” The solutions, first presented in the 2017 book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, have been ranked according to the amount of GHGs kept out of the atmosphere by avoiding emissions in the first place and/or by sequestering GHGs already in the atmosphere. Most solutions also provide additional social, health, and economic benefits.

Drawdown solutions work on all aspects of the climate equation—reducing sources (net zero emissions), supporting sinks (sequester carbon using nature’s carbon cycle), and helping society achieve broader transformation (promote equality for all). Within each area of action, solutions are organized into the following sectors:

- Electricity
- Food, Agriculture and Land Use
- Industry
- Transportation
- Buildings
- Health and Education
- Land Sinks
- Coastal and Ocean Sinks
- Engineered Sinks

[Project Drawdown](https://drawdown.org) believes that achieving drawdown depends on widespread awareness and understanding of climate solutions. The information at the website <https://drawdown.org/solutions> is continually updated to provide viewers with information they need to implement solutions in their communities.

Take their [new online course](https://drawdown.org/online-course), Climate Solutions 101 here: <https://drawdown.org/climate-solutions-101>

Download the [2020 Review](https://drawdown.org/2020-review) here: <https://drawdown.org/review>