Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Eco-Justice Collaborative
Annual Report 2026

1. **What do you want the PYM body (all 10,000 of us in PYM membership) to know about your Collaborative?**

   This is a group of resolute, and informed people who love and respect Earth, our home planet.

   Fundamental to our practice is our recognition that ecological destruction, economic inequality, and racial injustice are interdependent concerns—that working on one without recognition of the whole will make our work incomplete.

   We are informed, inspired, and sustained by authors and partner organizations. A few of the authors are Bill McKibben - Here Comes the Sun, Joanna Macy - Active Hope, Brian McLaren - Life After Doom: Robert Reich - Common Good, Sallie McFague - A New Climate for Theology Pope Francis - Laudato si', Pope Leo XIV - Magnifica humanitas', Pamela Haines - That Clear and Certain Sound, Bruce Birchard - The Burning One-ness Binding Everything, and anything by Katherine Hayhoe, Robin Wall Kimmerer, or Rebecca Solnit.There are so many more!

   EJC is a collaborative of professionals who represent different concerns and experiences, but who consider each other's work as crucial as their own and each works to advance the goals of the whole collaborative. We recognize we are not alone in this work within the yearly meeting, and we rely on Friends within PYM to either support us or to lead the way in our shared work to save our planet.

2. **How does your group meet and how frequently?**

   Eco-Justice meets on Zoom monthly with a rotating day of the week to allow more members to attend. However, small ad hoc subcommittees meet more often to address particular actions or monitor continuing projects. We have been meeting by Zoom since well before the pandemic because our members are widely distributed across PYM, and we have a strong desire to reduce our travel impact on the planet.

3. **How can interested Friends join your Collaborative?**

   Begin attending the monthly meetings and see how you are led then ask to officially join. Contact either of the two clerks, Pat Finley and Ruth Darlington

4. **How is the work of the Collaborative being shared with the PYM community?**

   Thread gatherings, workshops, reporting to the body at sessions, the PYM website, our brochure, and a great newsletter. EJC continues to publish monthly the EJC newsletter, which PYM distributes through the Peace and Justice Network to more than 2,000 subscribers (also found on the PYM website). Sections on Action, Upcoming Events, Good News, and Resources provide Friends with information and inspiration to support their work on the existential challenges of climate change, environmental injustice, agriculture, and biodiversity loss. The opportunities for involvement in climate issues are categorized according to the five action areas listed in the Climate Change Sprint Report: advocacy, education, finance, lowering carbon footprint, and mourning loss and instilling hope. All sections include links to articles, reports, workshops, and websites where Friends can find more information. We also try to highlight resources, actions and events that show what other Quakers in the Yearly Meeting and Quaker organizations beyond the YM are doing so that readers can connect to the wider community.

5. **How does your Collaborative remain spiritually grounded through its work?**

   We maintain a conscious reverence for all life imbuing everything we do and listen for the ring of truth in all we do, seeking to dig through all the clutter for "that clear and certain sound" that John Woolman speaks of.

   Each of us has a deeply spiritual connection with the planet and its beautiful forms of life. It has been important to have each of us working on varying aspects of ecological work, relaying progress and challenges and connecting with each other in supportive community. We refuse to be overwhelmed because we know our connections and our strengths. We believe our unity is possible when our community is courageous, resilient, and deeply committed to each other. In all our work, we try to find ways to articulate our reverence for creation while simultaneously using whimsy to lighten our communication and remind us of our humanity.

6. **What are the major accomplishments for the year? How do they compare to the goals?**

   In the last year we have presented Friendly Households at multiple meetings and a multifaith gathering. We collaborated with other Quaker organizations dedicated to climate work on a Thread Gathering last fall. Since the Thread Gathering, EJC has focused more on connections with other organizations that support our goals. Primary connections have been Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region (QAMAR) and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). Two thirds of the board of QAMAR are from EJC and we work

to fulfill the policy and legislative lobbying on climate issues. Although this year we have not produced any new webinars, we have a library of webinars on YouTube.

This year EJC participated in Sun Day 2026 and most members attended No Kings rallies.

We continue to collect information on the climate work of monthly and quarterly meetings.

7. **What are the things that are stopping/hindering your mission, if any?**

   Getting more Quakers to act, transitioning to renewables, and living more simply and in reciprocal relationship with the Earth. Quakers have accumulated a large moral capital because of their ability to see clearly and prophetically. We need those talents now!

8. **Would you like additional support from PYM staff, the Quaker Life Council Clerk, Support Committee liaison, or the Program Support Committee?**

   We have incredible support from Claire Kinnel and our support Committee Liaison, Wendy Kane. They have both contributed significantly to our work and we are deeply grateful.

   Submitted on behalf of the Eco-Justice Collaborative by: Bruce Birchard, Jackie Bonomo, William Cozzens, Ruth Darlington, Patricia Finley: Pamela Haines, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Stephen Loughin, David Nuttal, Liz Robinson, Jonathan Sprout, and Rita Varley,

   For more information, contact Ruth Darlington (rdarlington49@gmail.com) or Pat Finley (finleyp2932@gmail.com)