

Quaker Earthcare Witness Mini-Grants

Quaker Earthcare Witness offers matching grants (Mini-Grants) of up to \$500 each to support projects consistent with QEW values. The QEW Mini-Grant Program was started in 2008 by Ruth Hamilton and some other QEW Friends as an incentive for Friends to involve their meeting in earth-friendly projects. Mini-Grants are a great way to turn our spiritual inclination to protect Earth into on-the-ground action.

While QEW is a North American organization, we have funded Mini-Grants as far south as Bolivia and as far east as Kenya. Any Quaker organization, school, or meeting is eligible for grants. The projects have been as equally wide ranging: bicycle racks, low water toilets, water catchment, water filtration, water storage, gardens, land and springs restoration, solar installations, birth control information, tree planting, species survey, carbon calculator, educational materials and more. We encourage Friends to open their creativity and imagination to ways to help Earth and apply for a Mini-grant.

We are now accepting applications for Friends projects that:

- Improve your immediate environment
- Involve, inform, and educate members young, old and in between
- May reduce carbon footprints
- Create opportunities to improve and learn about your own local ecosystems
- Enrich your local community
- Set examples and inspiration for others
- Provide spirit-led, meaningful work and create fun for all participants

Criteria for QEW Mini-Grants

- 1) QEW Mini-Grants support Quaker projects having a primary purpose of benefiting the environment and/or promoting environmental awareness and education among Friends and the larger spirit-led world. Friends'



In 2008, a QEW-sponsored minigrant to Albuquerque (NM) Monthly Meeting Cibola Canyon Project brought together Bureau of Land Management, Trout Unlimited, and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance volunteers to build up Cibola Canyon, and restore the spring for elk and other wildlife.

organizations in any country—whether a school, meeting or other group—are eligible to apply for these annual awards, up to a maximum of \$500. Partnerships with non-Quaker groups in the community are encouraged.

- 2) Applicants submit an application including: activities, budget, timeline, and benefits. Applicants are expected to match the mini-grant with an equal amount from their own funds. However, groups with limited financial means can also apply, adding an explanation of their financial limitations.
- 3) Most applicants apply for one-year, one-time projects. Applications for multi-year projects with renewal applications anticipated, should include a clear timeline.
- 4) Projects that substantially involve the participants in the planning and execution will be favorably considered. Generally, services and labor are not funded by Mini-Grants.
- 5) A Mini-Grant check can be sent only to a Friends' organization, not to an individual. Please give the name and address of your financial officer/treasurer.

- 6) Mini-Grant recipients agree to document their project, sending a progress report no later than six months after receiving the funds, attaching digital photos where possible.

- 7) Submit your application any time of the year.

How to Apply for a QEW Mini-grant

You can apply throughout the year. To apply for a QEW Mini-Grant, follow these steps:

- 1) Download and complete the Project Information Form on the QEW website <quakerearthcare.org/minigrants>.
- 2) Submit a project description, which must include: an itemized budget, a description of activities, and a timeline for completion. Please limit this to no more than two pages.
- 3) Include a signed statement from your treasurer, stating the total cost of your project and that your meeting/church/organization will match the amount of the requested Mini-grant.
- 4) Email all the materials (the completed form, the description, and the treasurer's letter) as attachments to the email address included on the Project Information Form.



Monteverde Friends School, Costa Rica, was damaged by an unusually large tropical storm. Since they ran short of potable water and needed to create a water catchment and storage system, and their teachers' dormitories lost their septic system, the school and the meeting applied for grants in 2018.

Some Recently Funded Mini-Grants

It's amazing how much good you can do for Earth if you have the vision, desire, and support to do it. QEW offers Mini-Grants in the hopes that Friends' groups will nurture their relationship with Earth on both physical and spiritual levels and engage their Meeting members in positive group projects that lift up the Earthcare message. Our \$500 matching grants have helped meetings complete many creative projects, ranging from edible gardens to bike lending programs to solar projects and more.

The following are some recently funded Mini-Grants.

- Friends Theological College (through the Grinnell Friends Church in Iowa): The college in Kenya where Quaker pastors study has made the transition to solar power. We were very pleased to help the Grinnell Friends Church with this project.
- Childrens' Pachamama Program, La Paz, Bolivia: We funded the start-up of a program by Bolivian Quakers for city children in La Paz. The program involved learning by doing, and field trips, connecting with the powerful Bolivian tradition of Pachamama (Earth Mother).
- ProNica: The Acahualt Women's Center in Nicaragua lost funding. We (through ProNica) were able to help them reprint some excellent pamphlets on birth control.
- Rwanda Yearly Meeting: The YM undertook a major tree planting project in all four of its areas. We gave them important funding.
- Grinnell Friends Church IA: We helped the church create a pollinator garden at a cross-roads in front of the church.
- Westtown Monthly Meeting PA: Through the MM we provided funding for a student at Westtown School to go with classmates to Mexico to participate in a Quaker eco-leadership program.

- Quaker Oaks Farm Visalia CA: We helped sponsor a workshop at the farm, taught by members of the Wukchumni Nation in the use of native plants.
- ProNica FL: A canal was proposed to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific in Nicaragua, putting native plants and animals at risk. We supported a flora/fauna survey, noting imperiled species along the canal routes.

Supporting QEW Mini-Grants

To keep funding the wonderful projects that are proposed by Friends around the world, QEW needs contributions. Here are some ways Friends can help:

- Friends can go to the QEW website to read more about Mini-Grants and Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Friends can speak with their meeting, school, or organization about applying for a minigrant.
- Friends can donate to Mini-Grants, so we can fund other projects.
- Friends can calculate their carbon footprints <carbonfootprint.com> and offset them through donations to Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Friends can spread the word about climate change, Mini-Grants, and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Quaker Earthcare Witness works to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring Earth's ecological integrity.

Quaker Earthcare Witness

P. O. Box 6787
Albany, CA 94706
info@quakerearthcare.org
QuakerEarthcare.org

Contributions to QEW are welcome.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Mini-Grants



Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

***Mini-Grants Working Group of
Quaker Earthcare Witness, 2019***