

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, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

A Life-Giving Future for All

We are a Quaker-led organization, bringing together Friends who strive to live in ecological integrity with the living world and in right relationship with each other. We do this through mutual support for the actions each of us takes in our own community and in our own lives; through educational and outreach programs; through direct action that QEW encourages and supports; through our publications and website, and as a public Quaker voice on Earthcare and Environmental Justice. Our efforts stem from our sense of spirit, and our understanding that we are all related, all united and part of this world, and feeling called to act accordingly.

For 34 years, QEW has been alerting the Society of Friends to the multiple ecological crises we are facing. **This year we have been able to reach increasing numbers of Friends to alert and engage them with these concerns.**

This year marks the second year that we have had to rethink and restructure our outreach due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, we have focused on creating a dynamic virtual community with regular online workshops, worship sharing, and meeting and church visits.



Photo by Kathy Barnhart

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

In response to renewed calls for racial justice, we have firmly established environmental justice as one of our key goals, and have emphasized the interconnections between racial justice, peace, and Earthcare in our communications and educational material.

We have seen painful evidence that climate change is happening sooner and more extremely than predicted, with severe weather, firestorms, and drought. We are seeing greater awareness of Earthcare, including environmental grief for the fate of humanity, all living beings, and future generations. This report highlights how our Quaker Earthcare Witness network has responded to these challenges. **In 2021, we focused on being a supportive community for Friends, inspiring and empowering action while also providing a place for reflection and solace.**

If the catchword for 2020 was “unprecedented,” then 2021 followed as “unequivocal.” That is how the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported the scientific evidence that **human activities are the cause of climate change, that the climate will be getting worse for several decades, and that no new fossil fuel sources or infrastructure should be constructed.** The news haunted us in 2021, but it also described a clear path forward. The IPCC told us that global warming can be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius if we get close to 100% renewables by 2040-50, and that the technology exists to get there.

We are sorely in need of a different way to live on this planet, and a different way to relate to each other. Spiritually we are called to do this work. Ecologically, we have no other choice, if we are to survive with a healthy ecosystem that equitably supports all beings.

- Shelley Tanenbaum,
General Secretary

Contact us: Info@QuakerEarthcare.org
Follow us on social media: [@QuakerEarthcare](https://twitter.com/QuakerEarthcare)
Make a donation at [QuakerEarthcare.org/donate](https://www.QuakerEarthcare.org/donate)



Publications & Communications

We produced four print and electronic issues of *Befriending Creation*, our 12-page newsletter designed to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness by stimulating discussions and actions; sharing insights, practical ideas, and news of our network's work across the US and Canada; and encouraging a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation among Friends.

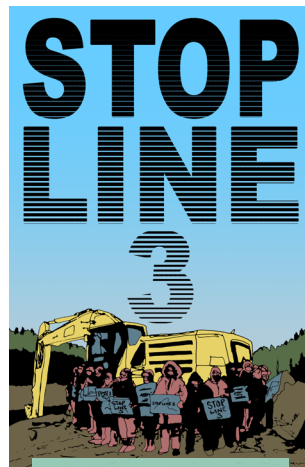
Our new website launched this summer, after a significant amount of time and effort. It has proven to be immensely useful in communicating our message, publicizing events, and serving as a hub for up-to-date information for Friends action and contemplation.

The new site also makes it easy to find our many [Resources](#) and outlines easy ways for individuals and meetings to [Get Involved](#).

Visit QuakerEarthcare.org

Quaker Activism & Education

- » We sponsored **monthly worship sharing sessions** online with the goal of building online community during these difficult times.
- » We encouraged Friends to **resist the Line 3 pipeline in Minnesota** by offering workshops about the proposed pipeline and Indigenous rights, connecting Friends with practical information on how to travel to the resistance camps, and sharing information and action alerts to a wider audience. Several Steering Committee members and our General Secretary spent time at the Line 3 camps.
- » We joined the **Build Back Fossil Free coalition** to end the era of fossil fuel production and declare a climate emergency.
- » Through our **QEW Presents! program**, we connected speakers to **monthly and yearly meetings** to offer talks on a wide variety of Earthcare concerns. Our General Secretary, Communications Coordinator and members of our Steering Committee presented workshops and talks at yearly and monthly meetings across North America.
- » We hosted presentations on **Eco-spirituality, Activism and Indigenous rights, and Environmental Justice** during the virtual Friends General Conference annual gathering
- » Our **Direct Action Working Group** hosted a discussion about non-violent direct action training and strategy.
- » Our **Population Working Group** held monthly meetings, often featuring speakers, and prepared articles for publication.
- » We sent three observers to **COP26** in Glasgow and published articles about successes and failures of the climate conference.
- » A **2021 priority was to consider racial and environmental justice in all of our actions**. Our publications showcased environmental justice concerns, and have included both authors and activists who are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Several sessions of our online worship-sharing included queries that address racial and environmental justice. Much of our coalition-building has included these concerns and were BIPOC-led. This work is ongoing.



Art by Aaron Hughes, Just Seeds Collective.



Local Earthcare Projects

Each year, QEW offers **mini-grants** to Quaker meetings, churches, and other Quaker organizations to support **hands-on projects that foster Earthcare**. In this fiscal year, we were honored to support:

- » Project Abundance at Ithaca Monthly Meeting (New York): Building raised beds for community food sharing.
- » State College Monthly Meeting (Pennsylvania): Expanding the Keller St. Community Garden.
- » West Chester Friends School (Pennsylvania): Acquiring the "Exploring Organisms with Literacy" set for 1st graders.
- » New London Friends Meeting (Connecticut): Partially funding Chu Memorial & Meditation Garden using native landscaping.

How We Work: Steering Committee & Staff

We are a volunteer-led organization guided by a 50-person Steering Committee that uses Quaker process and decision-making to guide our work. Our Steering Committee is comprised of 20 at-large members and 30 nominated representatives from Quaker yearly meetings in North America. Steering Committee members serve on QEW committees, visit their own monthly and yearly meetings on behalf of QEW, distribute our resources, and/or provide workshops and interest groups.

We held two virtual Steering Committee meetings on April 15-18 and October 21-24. The theme for our spring meeting was *Imagining an Earth for All: Spirit into Action*. Some highlights included worship sharing and a presentation by Hilary Burgin on Quaker Voluntary Service, a workshop on "Imagining the World We Want," and a briefing from Clarence Edwards on the Friends National Committee on

Legislation's Energy and Environment Program.

Our October Steering Committee theme was *Seeking Integrity, Honoring Community*. Highlights included the workshop "Towards a Framework for Repair," on our work to become an anti-racist community, a panel on the Line 3 Pipeline Movement, and lessons from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's exciting new Climate Commitment. Our plenary speaker, Niambi Jaha-Echols, captivated the group with her talk "Pollinating People and the Planet: From Soul-to-Seed-to-Soil."

We thanked Mary Jo Klingel for four years of service as our clerk, and welcomed Brad Stocker and Beverly Ward of Southeastern Yearly Meeting into their role as co-clerks.



Our Steering Committee met virtually this year.

QEW's day-to-day work is done by staff. **We expanded our team this year to enhance our outreach and programming.** In addition to our General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum, and our Communications Coordinator, Hayley Hathaway, (plus a part-time bookkeeper consultant, Holly Wilder), we hired a Technical Administrator/Program Assistant in August, Emily Carroll. Right from the start, this extra staff assistance proved to be immensely valuable, and we are already seeing increases in our outreach as a result.

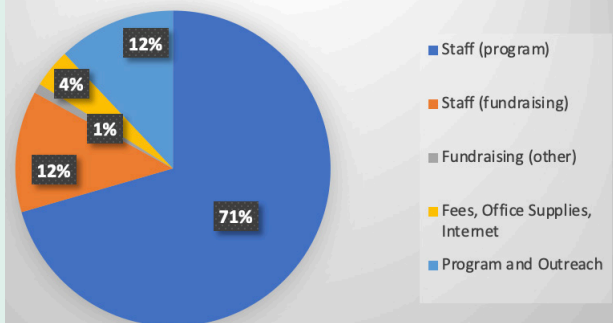
Finance & Development

QEW has a small annual budget—\$125,000—with a big mission. This fiscal year (November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021) we responsibly increased our budget to better pay our staff and to hire a part-time assistant. We were delighted to have been successful in our fundraising efforts.

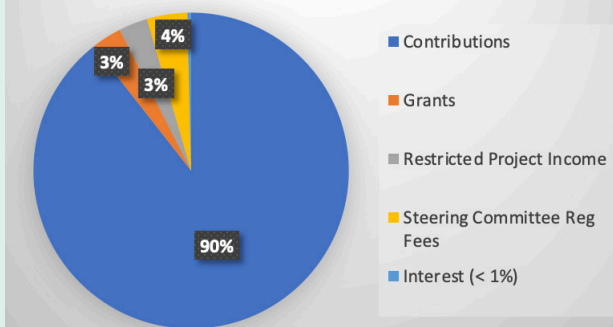
In addition to staff time, most of our expenditures go to publication costs (printing, postage, editing), outreach (visits to monthly and yearly meetings, and events), and maintaining our network (Steering Committee meetings, conference calls, database maintenance). We spend about 10% of our budget on fundraising (15 percent of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal). Nearly all of our income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and individual donations.

Due to the pandemic, most of our travel was converted to video conferences, including our two Steering Committee meetings, significantly lowering these expenses.

2020-2021 Expenses (\$125,119)



2020-21 Income (\$135,382)





What's Next? Looking Forward in 2022

We envision a new way of relating to our environment and to each other based in mutuality, care, and reverence. This vision is being shared more and more in the Society of Friends and the world. Grounded spiritually in our care for the Earth, we can face unprecedented planetary threats, an ongoing global pandemic, and environmental injustice together.

In 2022, we are working to:

- » Serve as a hub for Friends working on environmental concerns through our new website,
- » Offer more support and resources to monthly and yearly meetings,
- » Host monthly online workshops, worship-sharing, and other forums that encourage Friends' faithful action,
- » Produce a quarterly publication, *BeFriending Creation*, and highlight stories of Friends' engagement and environmental justice,
- » Support the Build Back Fossil Free Coalition and collaborate with Philadelphia-based Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) to confront the investment firm Vanguard about their support for fossil fuel companies,
- » Speak out publicly to support Friends actions on Earthcare,
- » Offer mini-grants for hands-on local Earthcare projects.

Thank you to all our supporters!

QEW relies on our network members, volunteers, and donors. You have helped to make these projects come to fruition—thank you!

This report describes our activities for the fiscal year, November 2020 - October 2021.

We will continue to expand our outreach and build community with your support.

Faithfully submitted by:

Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary,
and Hayley Hathaway, Communications Coordinator

Join Us

Sign up for an online event at QuakerEarthcare.org.

Invite QEW to offer a workshop for your community.

Share *BeFriending Creation*.

Apply for a Mini-Grant for an Earthcare project.

Volunteer as a contact for your monthly meeting or church.

Make sure your yearly meeting has a representative to QEW.

Start an Earthcare group.

Use Quaker Earthcare Witness materials in your First Day school.

Support QEW by making a tax-deductible contribution. Give at: Quakerearthcare.org/donate or send a check to the address below.



**QUAKER
EARTH CARE
WITNESS**

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