



BeFriending Creation

A Publication of

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Affirming our essential unity with nature

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Quakers Resist the Mountain Valley Pipeline

By Barb Adams and Hayley Hathaway

"I DON'T REALLY think about hope," says Jenny Chapman, a member of Roanoke Friends Meeting in Virginia. "I suppose I'm just pragmatic and think about what needs to happen next, evaluate that, consider next steps." Hope can be a difficult concept when fighting against the construction of a 42-inch pipeline that would carry 2 billion cubic feet of fracked natural gas through your backyard *every day*.

Jenny and her community form part of the campaign against the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), which, if allowed, will extend for 303 miles starting from well sites in northwestern West Virginia and traveling through southern Virginia with an extension line into North Carolina. The pipe itself is the largest ever used in the industry. The pipeline will be built and owned by a coalition of companies called the Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC, which includes EQT Midstream Partners, who will operate it.

The MVP is expected to pump at high pressure and move gas mixed with highly toxic chemicals, silica dust, and diesel sludge. Besides the destruction to land and forests in the installation process, and

air pollution from compressor stations, pipelines are well-documented to leak and explode.

Construction and destruction have begun, but with stops and starts due to the company's own negligence and to pressure from activists. At the end of June, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily halted some of the construction in western Virginia due to concerns with the developers' inability to comply with their federal permit.

Jenny lives on Bent Mountain in rural southwest Virginia where she and her husband raised their children. Her neighbors are Red Terry and her daughter, Minor, who sat for 34 days in the trees on their property that were scheduled to be cut down due to eminent domain. In a bold and faithful act of resistance, they endured freezing weather, snow, and wind storms, while local police prevented supporters from providing food, water or supplies. Faced with court orders and \$1000-day fines, the tree sitters decided to come down.

Read more on page 4



Dominion Energy Protest Rally in Richmond, VA. Dominion is Virginia's largest utility and leads the coalition building the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Photo: Will Solis

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters from Friends and Earthcare Outreach.....	2
QEW at Friends General Conference Gathering.....	3
Stewardship is a Likely Place to Start by Jenny Chapman.....	4
An Interview with Jenny Chapman by Barb Adams.....	5
A New Politics for an Age of Crisis by Shelley Tanenbaum.....	6
Love and Political Power by Bruce Birchard.....	7
Divestment for Social Change by Kent Walton.....	8
Changing Corporations for the Better by Kate Monahan.....	9
To Address Climate Disruption, Start Here. Concrete Steps.....	10
Mini-Grants at Work.....	11
Meeting for Mourning by Hayley Hathaway.....	12

BeFriending Creation

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We publish *BeFriending Creation* to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, and news of our actions, and encourage among Friends a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation. Opinions expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of Quaker Earthcare Witness, or of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The editor is responsible for unsigned items.

Please share our work widely and broadly, always attributing it to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Interested in being a member of QEW? Membership is open to all who demonstrate a commitment to support the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness and who support its work at the Monthly or Yearly Meeting levels, or through other Friends organizations. Quaker Earthcare Witness is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation; contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

VISION AND WITNESS

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

WE WORK 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 the earth's ecological integrity.

WE PROMOTE these truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

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Earthcare Calendar

September 15, 2018 Deadline for
articles for Oct-Nov-Dec issue

Earthcare Outreach



Quaker Earthcare Witness' display at Friends General Conference gathering in Toledo, OH, July 2018

Would you like a Quaker Earthcare Witness display for your Meetinghouse or to use at events like Quarterly and Yearly Meeting gatherings? Write to hayley@quakerearthcare.org.

Letters from Friends

Dear Friends,

Recently divestment has been on the news. Consider donating individual stocks directly to Quaker Earthcare Witness as stock. You don't deal with the sale at all and thus, have no capital gains calculations. You may take the gift transfer amount as a donation to a 501(c)(3) on your taxes, if that's the way you choose to go. You may donate just a few shares at a time, as part of your general support of QEW, and it is still deductible.

This gift of oil stocks can be your way of feeding two birds with one scone. Get rid of the bad and help the good. It's really an easy process and QEW has already received some this way and is set to receive more. It feels really good!

Deal directly with a broker and just do it. It's a simple form the holding company has and the form only needs a few numbers, signature, and submission. Shelley Tanenbaum has the Quaker Earthcare Witness numbers you would need and the holding companies are familiar with the process and would be glad to talk you through it from that side.

Brad Stocker
Miami Friends Meeting

Your Support Counts

"If you have a matching gift or challenge grant, let me match with pounds of gratitude for the good work of all you social heroes and heroines. You doubtless feel underpaid and overworked. It is true, but your presence and energy are such a valuable resource in our nation. I just hope you do not quit."

- A QEW supporter in a thank-you note to Quaker Earthcare Witness

To make a donation, visit <www.quakerearthcare.org/donate> or send a check to Quaker Earthcare Witness, P.O. Box 6787, Albany, CA, 94706.

You're Invited: Fall Steering Committee Meeting

Join Quaker Earthcare Witness for our 2018 Fall Steering Committee Meeting near Tacoma, Washington in October.

All are welcome!

Visit <www.quakerearthcare.org/upcoming> for more information.

Thursday, October 11
to Sunday, October 14, 2018
at the Dumas Bay Centre in
Federal Way, Washington

QEW at Friends General Conference Gathering



Quaker Earthcare Witness hosted the Earthcare Center at Friends General Conference's annual gathering in Toledo, Ohio this July. Each afternoon, dozens of Friends visited the Center to learn, listen, and create community in response to climate disruption. Highlights included Lynn Fitz-Hugh's talk on engaging in political climate action (first photo), the screening of *Two Rivers*, a documentary on right relationship with Native Peoples, followed by a discussion with Paula Palmer (second photo), and Beverly Ward and John Heimbürg's powerful one-act play imagining a more evolved future. Our sessions also connected to local issues; we heard from Mike Ferner with Clean Lake Erie and Pamela Taylor on the hazards of factory farms for the Great Lakes.

Continued from page 1

To support the tree sitters and protest the pipeline, Roanoke Friends Meeting and Quaker Earthcare Witness approved Minutes of Concern this spring.

At the end of July, numerous frontline campaigns hosted a week of resistance targeting the banks that finance these pipelines, the permitting entities, and contractors. Jenny reminds us that “anti-terrorism agencies have been working to coordinate with police, monitoring pipeline protestors’ response and organizational affiliations.”

On these pages, Jenny reflects on the power of her faith to guide her to act, offering us insights to bring home to our communities. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is one of dozens being planned and built around the US. What’s happening in your backyard?

Visit our website to learn more, read the Minutes of Concern, and read the full interview with Jenny. 🌱



Sharing comfort as tree-cutting begins on the Coffey Farm. Photo: Will Solis. Will has documented the effects of the pipelines on the communities along the proposed routes. willsolisphotography.com

Mary Beth Coffey and Jenny Chapman observe tree-cutting on the Coffey farm, flanked by MVP security guards. Photo: Will Solis



Stewardship is a Likely Place to Start

By Jenny Chapman

MY FAITH AS A QUAKER has had tremendous influence on my life as a pipeline resister. As a Quaker, I always thought our testimonies seemed straightforward and self-explanatory. In my work with pipeline resistance, I have come to recognize nuances that I never noticed before.

As Quakers, we want to live in harmony with the earth. We use resources wisely, we recycle, we are sensitive to the finite resources of our planet. But that doesn’t quite go far enough. Stewardship calls me further—into service to the earth. Stewardship cannot only be something we do in our spare time. I knew that I needed to respond, to apply my life to work in service and dedicate my time and talents to protect the earth and the inhabitants.

In our work as pipeline resisters, we are working for peace, working for harmony with one another. It is no coincidence that pipelines are most often routed through areas where people are poor, marginalized,

and powerless. Working to defeat pipelines is helping people who did not know they had a voice to find their voice and work in solidarity together. We aspire to protect our region from the pipeline, but also to promote greater harmony, to work for a more just process.

Many concerned folks have come together across affected county and state lines to form a community. I was fortunate to assist in creating a multi-county, interstate coalition of persons from each county in West Virginia and Virginia dedicated to working together. Community became more than my immediate village—it is over 300 miles long.

But what about my immediate village? Bent Mountain is small and somewhat insular, but people generally know one another. A 42-inch pipeline threatening our mountain certainly brought our small mountain community together. Landowners along the route in my area almost unanimously rejected the attempts of survey crews to come onto their property through

non-violent resistance. When the company sued the landowners, we supported the landowners in court. The small community of Bent Mountain has exerted some of the greatest resistance the company has encountered

Seeking authentic service has taken me to places and situations I could never have foreseen. One day, while waiting for the police to arrive during a protest, I felt led to speak with them and stood in the middle of the road until they came. They told me I was obstructing, that they were on a call, and I was gonna be in big trouble if I didn't step aside. From somewhere deep within me, a strong calm voice said "I am your call. We need to talk," and we did. Calmly and deliberately, I shared about the inequity that we were experiencing from the police. Ultimately the police drove on to meet with the pipeline crew and advised them to leave and come back another day with a court order.

There are so many stories like these, of seeking and silently waiting for guidance and testing what guidance comes. I give thanks for the testimonies that continue to reveal new truths, for the words that inspire me to action. And I look forward to those times when words become faith in action. We have been David to the company's Goliath.

Along the way, we have been disappointed and let down by almost every politician, every agency that should support and protect us. But instead of discouragement, we have become even more resolved. We have delayed and thwarted the pipeline for four years and counting. 🌱

Jenny Chapman is a birthright Quaker whose ancestors made the pilgrimage to America with William Penn. Barb Adams (Richmond Friends Meeting) is the QEW Representative for Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Hayley Hathaway is QEW's Publications Coordinator.

An Interview with Jenny Chapman

By Barb Adams

This has been such an emotional and spiritual odyssey. What are some ways that have helped you cope, from your experience as a Quaker and otherwise?

Thich Nhat Hanh says, "Breathe, smile and go slowly." Can't always manage the smile, but I am learning to breathe and go slowly. It's so easy for me to outrun the Guide! I often think of Fox's instruction to seek that of God in everyone, too. Not always easy to find but you know it's in there somewhere, just gotta keep looking.

What would you like Quakers who have not experienced anything like this pipeline to know or understand, and, importantly, do?

First, obviously, is to become educated on the subject beginning with hydraulic fracturing, but also the problems associated with transport of fracked gas. It's a complicated process associated with so much risk, damage and destruction. How are Friends investing their money? Divest from companies that invest in fossil fuel industries and invest in green energy and examine one's own carbon footprint. Reflect, examine and act as led by our Inner Guide. Write legislators and agencies that are involved in decision-making, request meetings, write letters to the editor. Ask Friends Meetings



Jenny under a 100-year old apple tree, scheduled for cutting. Photo: Will Solis

and faith communities to take a stand. Join an organization. There is no shortage of direct actions that we can take.

What gives you hope in the face of such a formidable situation?

I don't really think about hope. I suppose I'm just pragmatic and think about what needs to happen next, evaluate that, consider next steps, that sort of thing. I am reminded of Pandora's box, which is a fitting analogy in many ways. After all the evils spilled out, the one thing remaining in the box was hope. So maybe there is hope remaining. I don't know. There is no guarantee of our end result. Whatever happens, what matters most to me is that I have followed my leading and done all that I could do, and all that my conscience requires of me. 🌱

A New Politics for an Age of Crisis

By Shelley Tanenbaum

GREAT MINDS AND SAVVY organizers repeatedly stress that we need to articulate a vision if we hope to build a successful movement for political and cultural change, yet rarely do those great minds articulate a vision themselves. I am happy to lift up George Monbiot's latest book, *Out of the Wreckage*, containing a powerful and succinct vision and a roadmap for getting there.

Monbiot describes two world views that dominate our political and cultural worlds. Most of us prioritize community, friendship, and equality, and seek to make the world a better place for all. Some of us are more interested in individual reward, and value competition over cooperation. Our economic system favors the latter, and makes the assumption that competition is our natural human state. Monbiot argues that instead, our natural state is one of altruism and community.

Based on our mutual respect for each other and the planet, "by reviving community, built around the places in which we live and by anchoring ourselves, our politics and parts of our economy in the life of this community, we can recover the best aspects of our humanity."

Part of rebuilding our communities is to understand that neither Keynesian nor neo-liberal versions of economic theory will work for this new vision. Economics is embedded in our society, which in turn is embedded in the planetary ecosystem. Economics must be beholden first to the needs of society and ultimately to the limits of our natural world.

I was inspired and energized by his clear description of why we are in such a mess, what we would prefer, and how to get there, all in 186 pages. May it help you build community and reinforce the value you place in friendship and equality. 🌱

Shelley Tanenbaum is QEW's General Secretary.

An Excerpt from *Out of the Wreckage* by George Monbiot

COMMUNITY PROJECTS PROLIFERATE into a vibrant, participatory culture that transforms the character of our neighborhoods. New social and commercial enterprises strengthen our sense of attachment and ownership.

A flourishing community stimulates our innate urge to cooperate. It helps immunize us against extremism and demagoguery, and it turns democracy into a daily habit. Community is the place from which a new politics begins to grow.

Communities come to own and manage local resources, ensuring that wealth is widely shared and that the sense of belonging to place and people is strengthened. Using common riches to fund universal benefits provides everyone with security and resilience. A kinder world stimulates and normalizes our kinder values.

By gaining control of public investment, we take ownership of both our localities and our lives. We come to see ourselves as political agents, rather than as supplicants. These shifts help to embed a new economics, whose purpose is to allow us to thrive without destroying the Earth's living systems.

By reclaiming democratic power, we build a politics that belongs to all of us. A real democracy is one that allows the people to design the system. New methods and rules for elections ensure that every vote counts and that financial power can never vanquish political power.

Representative democracy is reinforced by a participatory democracy that allows us to refine our political choices. The tussle for sovereignty between parliament and people is resolved in favor of the people.

Global bodies that have seized power without a democratic mandate are either disbanded or democratized. Decision-making is returned to the smallest political units that can discharge it. Wherever power resides, it is accountable to the people, through elections and participation. Power becomes a function of community. 🌱



Love & Political Power

By Bruce Birchard

I WANT TO LIFT UP two sentences from Martin Luther King's 1967 address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference about the relationship between love and power: "What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

I urge Friends to get serious about building real political power to support clean energy and an end to the fossil fuel economy. We are in the early stages of a worldwide political movement for such change. My life partner, Demie, and I have committed to two efforts.

We've gotten involved in electoral politics. We are doing "meet and greets" with candidates for the U.S. Congress and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. We also joined with 60 other activists to create a new political action committee which is supporting candidates for the Pennsylvania legislature who will work for:

- Moratoria on fracking, pipelines, and other fossil fuel infrastructure,
- Legislation to move Pennsylvania toward 100% renewable energy,
- An economic development plan that brings jobs, community wealth, and economic self-reliance to our state.

Did I mention that the Pennsylvania legislature is totally controlled by Republicans—and some Democrats—who resist most efforts to rein in the fracking and fossil fuel industry and oppose steps to build a serious clean energy infrastructure? It's time to vote them out! So far, our PAC has endorsed eleven candidates—nine of them women—who fully support these goals and have pledged to refuse any financial support from the fossil fuel industry. Thousands of us are already canvassing and calling

"What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

people to support these candidates.

We also support the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) in their campaign to pressure the Philadelphia electric utility (PECO) to initiate a major program of purchasing solar energy for their grid from locally installed solar panels. This campaign links clean energy with the creation of living-wage jobs for hundreds of Philadelphians. In 2016, Philadelphia had the highest poverty rate (25.7%) among the 10 largest U.S. cities. We also have thousands of flat rooftops that could easily accommodate solar cells.

EQAT has worked with grassroots community groups to bring public attention to its demand that PECO

get 20% of its electrical power from local rooftop solar installations by 2020 by:

- Holding a three-week walk through the five counties that PECO serves and holding rallies with local supporters in each one,
- Doing laps (on scooters, stilts, and legs) around PECO headquarters,
- Blockading the entrances to PECO headquarters with the bodies of 18 activists who were subsequently arrested.

In the fall midterms, let's show that we can vote dirty energy supporters out of office and bring in new political leaders who will support effective programs to slow, then reverse, the slide into climate catastrophe. We can also support direct actions which can prevent governments, corporations, and powerful individuals from forging ahead with their plans for more fracking, more oil drilling, and more destruction of our earth.

And that will be "love implementing the demands of justice" with effective nonviolent and electoral power. ✿

Bruce Birchard has spent 44 years in Quaker service and currently serves on the boards of Quaker Voluntary Service and Right Sharing of World Resources.



EQAT joins the Power Toward a Just Future Parade and Rally. Photo: Tim Nafziger/Carnival de Resistance



Photo: Flickr/Doubichlou14

Divestment for Social Change

By Kent Walton

HONORING THE ANCIENT adage to “put your money where your mouth is,” Roanoke Friends in Virginia organized a meeting after worship to inform members about divesting from fossil fuel companies.

Presented by the Meeting’s Peace and Social Justice Committee, Roanoke Friend and financial advisor Tom Nasta joined me in delivering a slide presentation which featured “Moral and Political Reasons to Divest from Fossil Fuel Companies.”

Points included:

1. **“Stop aligning yourself and your institutions with the industry that has driven climate change.”**
2. **“Start aligning yourself with the companies that share your values and promote energy efficiency and sustainable agriculture.”**
3. **“Build a climate change movement that supports sensible policies to curb climate change.”**

“Divestment,” asserted Nasta, “also reduces power of industry trade associations, front groups, lobbyists and paid experts to influence legislation, regulation, and public discourse.”

Positive financial results are becoming increasingly associated with fossil fuel-free investments as portfolio managers seek out companies “taking advantage of demand for greener industries and a low-carbon future.”

“Investment companies have taken notice of the growing popularity of fossil fuel divestment,” stated Nasta. “Today, there is a wide selection of funds that allow investors to adequately diversify while remaining true to their personal values.”

“The first step is knowledge. The next step is action,” said Nasta. “You may need to talk to your financial planner, asset manager, or your workplace HR representative to move your money or to increase your low carbon and fossil-free investment options.” †

Kent Walton is member of Roanoke Friends Meeting in Virginia.

Roanoke Friends shared excerpts from QEW’s pamphlet *Divestment as Lived Faith*:

“The origins of responsible investing can be dated back to the Quaker Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1758, prohibiting members from participating in the slave trade—buying or selling humans.”

“Fossil fuel companies are polluting the public discourse by their dishonesty about the effects of climate change and their funding of climate change deniers.”

“Fossil fuel companies’ very significant financial contributions to elected officials undermine our democracy and thus the equality of all citizens. Friends (should) hold deep concern for the disproportionate impact climate change is having on children, the elderly and those living in poverty.”

Changing Corporations for the Better

By Kate Monahan

CORPORATIONS ARE PART of our daily lives. When it comes to halting climate change, we need the meaningful participation of corporations. As Shareholder Engagement Associate at Friends Fiduciary, I've seen significant, concrete change come from a company modifying a practice or policy as a result of engagement by company shareholders. As Quaker shareholders, we can leverage our privilege and seat at the table to help make it happen.

Friends Fiduciary is a non-profit, socially responsible investment firm serving Quaker meetings, churches, schools, and other organizations by integrating Quaker values in our investment process. We don't invest in companies that produce weapons or weapons components, alcohol, tobacco, firearms, or coal, nor in companies that run for-profit prisons or gambling operations. We then select companies who are better actors within a given sector, based on their environmental, social, and governance record.

Once a company has passed our rigorous screening process, we take an active role as shareholders. Too often the only shareholder voices a company hears are the ones that want to maximize short-term profit to the exclusion of all else. As long-term, values-based investors, we believe that it is in a company's financial interest to operate sustainably, with respect for all stakeholders.

We reach out directly to companies when we have concerns about their policies or practices and make a case for change based on good business practices and grounded in Quaker values. When a company is unreceptive, we have the right to file a shareholder resolution. Shareholder resolutions are voted on by all shareholders at the company's annual meeting—and companies dislike having them appear on their proxy. Sometimes a shareholder resolution is enough to bring a company back to the dialogue table, and if the company is willing to move forward, we'll withdraw the resolution, which we see as a win.

Too often the only shareholder voices a company hears are the ones that want to maximize short-term profit to the exclusion of all else.



Flare from BP oil platform in the North Sea. Friends Fiduciary also has a “green” fund that excludes investments in fossil fuels. Photo: Flickr/Varodrig

Shareholder engagement is just one avenue for change and it is often imperfect. It is the definition of an inside strategy and involves relationship-building with company management over the long-term. But we've seen positive results from our engagement work. This year, we joined another socially responsible investment manager to engage the nation's largest natural gas producer on their methane management practices. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas which is 84 times more harmful to the environment than carbon dioxide. From a business perspective, wasted methane is literally wasted product, so if a company is better at managing emissions, they can increase their profit. We made that

case to the company and they ultimately agreed to publicly disclose their methane emissions, details of their mitigation program, and to set a methane emissions reduction target by the end of 2018. These are critical initial steps towards reducing harm to the environment. This change on the part of the industry leader results in greater attention and action by other natural gas companies.

Shareholder engagement can be a powerful tool. I think it's important to ensure that as Quakers, we engage directly with our tradition of dialogue and our long history of organizational wealth in order to maximize the potential for impact. Inside and outside strategies can work together in service of the world we seek as Friends. 🌱

Kate Monahan is an alumna of Quaker Voluntary Service and Haverford College. You can reach her at kmonahan@friendsfiduciary.org.

To Address Climate Disruption, Start Here.

Concrete Steps from Quaker Earthcare Witness' Sustainability, Faith & Action Working Group

Many of these suggestions are based on the work of Paul Hawken and his team of scientists in their book *DRAWDOWN* and their website, <www.drawdown.org>.

ENERGY

Individual/Meeting: Install solar panels; buy 100% clean and renewable electricity wherever possible or create your own local energy aggregate; use LED bulbs.

Policy: Support state and local legislation and initiatives enabling cities and counties to form green electricity aggregates.

FAMILY PLANNING, EDUCATING WOMEN & GIRLS

Household: Consider your family size carefully. The most effective way a person can reduce their carbon footprint is by having one fewer child.

Policy: Support and protect Planned Parenthood and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund or similar reproductive health agencies; donate to the QEW population offsets fund.

FOOD

Household/

Community: Buy only as much food as you need; give away (ie to a food bank) excess food or compost any waste. Eliminate or reduce your meat consumption as much as possible. Provide information on home composting and local food banks; demand weekly home and business green-waste pick-up with your garbage service or a location for drop-off; make it easy for restaurants to give away excess food; patronize caterers and other businesses which have plans for responsible recycling of excess food and offer “ugly” produce.

Policy: Advocate for laws which require food selling markets to give away food waste to charities, as animal feed or to composting companies. Support humane treatment of domestic animals.

BUILDINGS

Household/Community: When building or remodeling, use the highest standards of green energy efficiency, non-toxic design and materials.

Policy: Support energy efficient building codes; support infill of cities.

LAND USE, LANDSCAPING & GARDENING

Household/Community: Plant native plants to support complex ecosystems including pollinators; plant edible gardens; in arid areas use drought-tolerant plants and

xeriscape practices; use gray and rain water.

Policy: Plant and protect forests and wildlands; support educational planting projects at schools.

TRANSPORTATION

Household/Community: Do ride sharing, public transportation, walking, and riding bikes; switch to hybrid vehicles or electric vehicles when economically feasible.

Policy: Support electric vehicles, mass transit, telepresence, high speed rail, electric bikes, trains and ridesharing.

MATERIALS

Coolants continue to be identified as significant greenhouse gases, much more damaging than CO₂. A recent international agreement calls for phasing out these materials starting with developed countries in 2019. Be aware that coolants in refrigerators or air conditioners are an important concern and that appliances with new coolants are becoming available.

Household/Community: While new agreements and the markets are sorting themselves out, we suggest postponing buying new refrigerators and other appliances using harmful refrigerants if possible. Dispose of existing appliances carefully to avoid unnecessary emissions or leaks at a site that will drain and store the refrigerant.

Policy: Encourage your county or state to provide facilities to contain, store, and purify refrigerants of their harmfulness. Encourage your city and/or county to provide convenient community disposal sites for toxic materials such as paint, batteries, and fluorescent, and LED lights.

Mini-Grants at Work

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS offers grants to Friends' organizations who want to enhance their physical/spiritual relationship with the Earth. We offer matching grants of up to \$500 and you can apply anytime.

We support projects which:

- Improve your immediate environment
- Involve, inform, and educate
- 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.

Visit <www.quakerearthcare.org/minigrants> for more. Here Friends share on how mini-grants were used in their communities. Take a look:

Whittier Friends Meeting

Whittier Friends Meeting in Springville, Iowa installed a rain barrel system and built a pollinator garden. Kathleen Hall, Whittier Clerk of Peace and Social Justice, writes:

The garden preparation and planting are going well, thanks to the work of many members and attendees, who have planned, plowed, purchased, planted, and watered. We have also purchased a long hose and several stores donated materials to build a barrel stand. Several people have also shared their plants with us. The bed is between two old tree stumps, and we have driven holes in them for possible bee homes.

We are pleased with the participation of Whittier members and attendees, the community response, and the location near a busy road. We hope others will see it and be inspired to build their own pollinator gardens. 🌱

Whittier Friends Meeting's pollinator garden and meetinghouse.

Monteverde Friends School

Rick Juliusson, co-director of Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica, shared earlier this year:

In the wake of Tropical Storm Nate, we are so grateful for the support we received from Quaker Earthcare Witness. One grant enabled us to build a new septic system for our teacher house, after the old one literally sank into oblivion during the storm. That work was, understandably, done with great urgency as teachers from the three apartments were forced to use neighbor's facilities (including my house) or chamber pots for a while. The teachers (and neighbors) are much relieved (pun intended) to have a fully functioning system once again. Thank you!

The second grant has enabled us to improve our water storage and rainwater catchment systems. Not only is this a valuable environmental step, but we learned during the storm that it is important for survival. For a week after the storm we were collecting water from roadside ditches and mysterious springs that found their way to the surface. With support from QEW and also a local community foundation, we now have water tanks at the teacher house and at the school that collect and store water to be used in emergencies; and in the case of the teacher house, to be used regularly instead of taxing the local water system. There is still a bit of work to be completed on this project—we are about to purchase the submersible pump to create enough pressure for the second floor of the teacher house to use the rainwater, and we are still addressing the school's piping system to ensure we can easily switch to tank water when the main water is shut off.

Again, thank you so much for your timely and compassionate support. We are now better prepared for future storms, and providing valuable education to the community about sustainable water practices. 🌿



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Meeting for Mourning

New England Friends
Worship at Power Plant
By Hayley Hathaway

ON SATURDAY, JULY 28, I joined about 30 Friends from five New England states at the gates of the recently opened Salem Harbor Station, a natural gas (methane) power plant on the coast of Massachusetts. We gathered for a Meeting for Worship for the purpose of mourning, invited by New England Yearly Meeting's Prophetic Climate Action Working Group. The spirit of their invitation rose up as we worshipped:

"We have heard the Spirit's crying out against the addictions and idolatries that keep us chained to methane and other fossil fuels. Our lifestyles and work ethic have succumbed to the unending growth and exploitation of resources. God takes delight in the whole, in all Creation, and teaches us to take our proper place as team players with each other. We meet for worship at the Salem Power Plant as we grieve our complicity in allowing fracked gas into our pipelines. We meet knowing the powers of this world continue excavating the Earth of its flesh and bones. We meet with tears and heavy tongues. We meet to ask forgiveness...We are learning as we go. We believe Friends can play an important part in witnessing to the spiritual roots of our testimony for climate action. Let us make our witness clearer, in truth and love." ♯



Friends gathered to lament the new \$1 billion natural gas-burning (methane) power plant in Salem, MA.
Photos: Hayley Hathaway