



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

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.

Molly McGinty

Pathways to Peace: Linking Disarmament and Climate Action

The ongoing climate crisis and escalating threat of nuclear war pose the most acute threats to human and planetary survival. These twin existential threats to life are closely linked and mutually reinforcing, each requiring urgent action.

In 2023, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) once again warned us that we need to make immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to avoid reaching or surpassing the 1.5°C rise in global temperatures. From fires, to floods, to extreme heat, human-caused climate change is already having increasingly adverse impacts on communities and the environment in every region of our shared world. If our government's policies and actions do not soon shift course, we will likely reach a 3°C rise in global temperature by the end of the century, dramatically increasing the lasting damage to the planet and its people.

As a "threat multiplier," the climate crisis is intrinsically linked to global peace and security by exacerbating existing inequalities and intensifying competition over scarce resources. While instability and conflicts increase, so does the risk



BEFRIENDING CREATION

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In This Issue:

Pathways to Peace: Linking Disarmament and Climate Action by Molly McGinty 1 & 3

From the Editor's Desk 2

QEW Events 4

Informed Voting by Cesanne Berry, Suellen Lowry, & The Quaker Call to Action 5

QEW on the Road by Nora Lisette Cooke 6 & 7

QUNO: What We Can Do by Lindsey Fielder Cook & Anna Aguto 8 & 9

Deepening Community: Eco-Book Group Returns This Fall! by Keith Runyan 10

Victory for the Youth-Led Constitutional Climate Case Navahine F. v. Hawaii Department of Transportation! 11

A Movement Worthy of Our Times by Keith Runyan 11 & 12



From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

QEW had a busy spring! In April, the QEW steering committee and many others gathered online for our Spring Gathering. We held meetings for worship and conversations about democracy

and Earthcare, and we gathered for our keynote speaker Daniel Schmachtenberger, in his talk, A Civilizational Rite of Passage.

In May, we started holding a weekly fellowship hour. This initiative, inspired by the fellowship hours in many monthly meetings and churches, is designed to foster dialogue, incubate ideas, and most importantly, welcome both new and longtime members of our community. Your participation in these discussions is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

In June, for a pre-World Plenary FWCC Consultation, Keith gave a talk titled Navigating the Storms—Prophetic Witness for an Earth Restored. He addressed the question of whether humanity will soon develop wisdom and global solidarity. He argued that if humanity does not soon develop wisdom and global solidarity, we will unravel the thread of life through technological hubris, vain ambition, and age-old rivalries. In these trying times, how might we become students of the Living World?

This summer, QEW hit the road! Here are some fun numbers to capture what we've done in the past two months;

- » 17 Talks
- » 200+ Cloth Diaper Changes
- » ~70 Electric Charges
- » 5 Protests

Our conversations with monthly meetings and others have highlighted the incredible work Friends are doing to address the ecological crisis. They're re-wilding their meetinghouses, organizing nonviolent actions, influencing local legislatures, and building resilient communities. Your contributions, whether through actions or support, are integral to continuing QEW's work, this summer, and beyond.

Thanks to several generous donors, we have received \$8,000 in matching funds for our summer fundraiser. Your gift will double the impact we can make on laying the foundation for the Quaker Environmental Movement and an Earth Restored.

Support our work by sending a check to
Quaker Earthcare Witness
1968 S Coast Hwy #1040
Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or at
QuakerEarthcare.org/Donate.

With Abundant Hope,

Miche McCall

Stay in Touch

Editor: Miche McCall,
 miche@quakerearthcare.org

General Secretary:
 Keith Runyan,
 keith@quakerearthcare.org

Clerks:
 Suellen, suellenquaker@gmail.com
 Elaine, eemmi@mac.com
 Beverly, phdant@gmail.com

Our Vision & 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.

BeFriending Creation

We publish *BeFriending Creation* to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, news of our actions, and encourage 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. The editor is responsible for unsigned items. Please share our work widely and broadly, always attributing it to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Donate at QuakerEarthcare.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of nuclear war. With the escalating climate crisis, faltering international norms, and multiple wars involving nuclear armed states, experts warn that the risk of nuclear war is higher now than it was at the height of the Cold War. While we are already facing the consequences of the climate crisis, a nuclear war is an abrupt climate crisis in waiting.

A single nuclear detonation anywhere would be a humanitarian catastrophe, resulting in the immediate deaths of tens of thousands of people, with tens of thousands of additional people left with crumbling infrastructure, complex injuries, and no way to receive necessary healthcare. A nuclear war would end life as we know it. An International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) study finds that even a regional nuclear war between India and Pakistan, two nuclear armed states often in conflict, would loft so much soot and debris into the atmosphere that it would block the sun for decades to follow, leading to abrupt global cooling of 1.3°C. In the years and decades to follow, this so-called “limited” nuclear war involving just 3% of the world’s arsenals would alter the world’s climate in such a way as to reduce harvest times for the staple grains and put 2 billion people around the world at risk of starvation.

A large-scale nuclear war would be even more devastating. A conflict between the US and Russia would destroy all the major cities of the two countries, killing millions of innocent people, and plunge the world into a nuclear winter, dropping temperatures an average of 6.5°C. The collapse of the global ecosystem and modern society would wipe out the majority of the human race.

Even when nuclear weapons are not used, their continued existence not only threatens human survival, it also diverts massive amounts of resources that could be spent on reversing the climate crisis and addressing other pressing issues. In 2023 alone, the nine nuclear armed states spent \$91.4 on maintaining, modernizing, and increasing their nuclear arsenals, a 13.4% increase from 2022. While nuclear armed states invest in and threaten an armageddon of their own creation, annually 309 million people face chronic hunger, half the world’s population does not have access to essential healthcare, and millions are displaced from their homes due to armed conflict. We have the resources to rid the world of these human-made ills.

These twin threats to life — global warming due to burning of fossil fuels and abrupt global cooling following a nuclear war — require urgent, bold action. On a local, national, and

international level, we must continue to call on leaders to immediately shift to renewable energy, protecting the planet from further extraction and providing careers fit for 21st Century needs. Countries must adhere to their existing climate promises, including the Paris Climate Agreement, and join the growing bloc of States seeking a mandate for a Fossil Fuel Treaty.

With the support of the majority of the world’s nations, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) provides a clear path toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. We must call on all countries, especially the nine nuclear armed states, to adhere to their obligations to disarm and engage with the TPNW at the earliest possible date. In the United States, Americans can build growing support for a nuclear weapons free world by calling on their Congressperson to support H. Res. 77, Embracing the goals and provisions of the TPNW. Internationally, individuals can encourage their city to join the ICAN Cities Appeal, taking action to push their national governments to join the TPNW.

As stewards of this world, it is up to each of us to take action whenever, and wherever, we can to create a sustainable, just planet for generations to come. IPPNW is one of many organizations working to abolish nuclear weapons.

Molly joined IPPNW in 2019 as a Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow and has remained on staff since the completion of the program. She was raised in suburb of Baltimore, Maryland where she first gained a passion for justice-centered work. As IPPNW’s Associate Program Director, Molly assists in coordinating their work on the medical and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. She also works alongside the International Student Representatives, medical student groups, and youth partners to raise the voices of young people in nuclear abolition. She currently serves as one of IPPNW’s representatives on ICAN’s International Steering Group.



Go to [IPPNW.org](https://www.ippnw.org) or follow [@IPPNW](https://twitter.com/IPPNW) to stay up to date

QEW Events

How can peace activists and environmentalists work together on strategies that will address both of these crises?

Wednesday
August 21
7PM ET
4PM PT

**WARHEADS TO
WINDMILLS**

Learn how at
[Quakerearthcare.org/event/
from-warheads-to-windmills](https://Quakerearthcare.org/event/from-warheads-to-windmills)

explore the profound spiritual and ecological significance of water. This gathering will provide a space for deep listening, spiritual reflection, and practical action. The gathering aims to harness the energy within the Quaker tradition to address urgent environmental and social challenges. Together, we will reflect on our relationship with water, share stories of stewardship, and commit to actions that protect this vital resource. Join us in New Mexico this October!

Climate catastrophe and nuclear war are two existential threats we face as a species. They are human-engineered problems that reinforce each other, and there are already solutions for us to implement if we can overcome the misinformation, propaganda, and politicians corrupted by profiteering corporations. Learn more about these connected issues with Timmon Wallis, Executive Director of NuclearBan.US

Water is the essence of life, a sacred gift that sustains all living beings. This year, at our QEW Fall Gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we will

Water is Life: Quaker Earthcare
Witness' Fall Gathering



Join us from Thursday, October 3 -
Sunday, October 6 Albuquerque, New
Mexico
Register at [QuakerEarthcare.org/
Event/Fall2024/](https://QuakerEarthcare.org/Event/Fall2024/)



**SUMMER OF HEAT
ON WALL ST.**



June marked the beginning of the Summer of Heat on Wall Street, a series of bold, direct actions targeting the banks, investors, and insurers driving climate change and environmental injustice. We invite you to join our partners in New York City for an impactful week of faith-driven activism.

From July 29th to August 3rd, Summer of Heat's Faith Week will provide numerous opportunities for people of faith to unite under the shared values of stewardship, justice, and compassion. Together, we aim to urge corporate leaders to divest from fossil fuels and invest in a sustainable and equitable future for all. During this week, we will lead peaceful demonstrations that compel economic leaders to make responsible choices.

Join faith leaders in NYC from across the United States as we call on Citibank to stop financing the destruction of creation. Let us lift our voices through food, song, art, and spiritual practice at Citi Plaza. The clock is ticking, and our relentless, joyful action is crucial to ending fossil fuel financing. Get in touch with QEW to learn more!

Cesanne Berry, Suellen Lowry, and The Quaker Call to Action

Upholding Truth, Democracy, and Environmental Justice

"Loving your enemy is manifest in putting your arms not around the person but around the social situation, to take power from those who misuse it— at which point they can become human, too." - Bayard Rustin

Quaker Call to Action

We see that truth, democracy, equality, and civility continue to be under unprecedented attack by authoritarian movements in our society. These extremist movements, many anchored in the tenets of white supremacy, are aggressively pursuing an agenda that counters equality, integrity, community, peace and justice. Their actions include racist attacks on people and communities of color, restricting voter access to the ballot, denying health care choices for women and LGBTQI+ people, and refusing to address the scourge of gun violence. Meanwhile, the existential threats of the climate crisis are growing dramatically, requiring urgent action to transition rapidly from an economy based almost entirely on fossil fuels to one based totally on clean energy.

We believe Friends are called to persevere in seeking and speaking truth, followed by right action.

Suellen Lowry

2024 is a key year for choosing the people who are going to help us decide the rules we live by. To have the power to help the world to be a better place, we need 3 things:

- » We need to be informed
- » We need ethics
- » We need effective strategy

We live in a world of misinformation and, as Quakers, we must tap into Truth. Trust, along with quick decisions, have helped us survive through the millennium. However, our brains interpret fluency as a signal for something being true. Our trust and recognition means that as things are repeated over and over and over again, our brain starts to tell us, "that's true." However, we can counter this. In this election cycle, we need to seek out relationships, understanding, and credible news sources.

Some of the Fact-Checking Sites Most Recommended as Reputable:

- » Allsides.com
- » Factcheck.org
- » Snopes.com



These websites are exciting to read! Knowing the facts and how our media is covering them can help increase our understanding, leading to stronger connections. News sources help us become better informed, but we also need ethics & strategy: voting.

Gathering Information About Your Ballot's Candidates and Issues:

Sample ballot lookup tools allow you to put in your address and you are able to find out your local, state, and national candidates, as well as ballot measures.

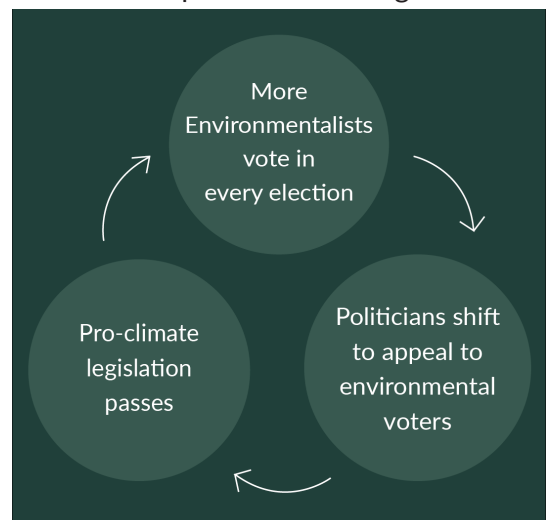
- » Votesmart.org
- » Ballotpedia.org
- » State-specific voter drafted by trusted groups, like the League of Women Voters or the Sierra Club

You can find these resources, and more at [Quakerearthcare.org/sharing-tips](https://quakerearthcare.org/sharing-tips).

Cesanne Berry

As we approach an election wherein so much for people and planet is at stake, we at QEW would like to take a moment to uplift folks doing great work in this arena - such as the Environmental Voter Project.

The Environmental Voter Project identifies millions of non-voting environmentalists and turns them into consistent voters. There are opportunities for phone banking, postcard writing, and canvassing. The goal is to turn these seldom-voters into reliable "super voters." Doing so builds a huge block of voters that politicians cannot ignore. We build political power when the people who recognize the Climate and Environment as their #1 priority go to the polls and vote!





Nora Lisette Cooke

QEW On The Road

In June 2022, I was in a house in Calvisson, France, house sitting for local Friends who lived just down the road from the Maison Quaker, where my parents were the amis-résidents (Friends in Residence). I had been on the Zoom call for close to two hours with an old friend, Keith Runyan.

This was not unusual – we had started weekly phone calls that spring and those weekly calls were now almost daily.

For hours, we talked about Earthcare, activism, the Callings we were sensing in our lives, and, recently, whether we were Called to be in a romantic relationship with each other. Keith was clear that he had a Leading to put his work and energy towards actions that would move the world towards Right Relationship. At the same time, I was seeking clarity about my life direction. I had completed a degree in psychology, and I knew that the work of supporting individual and community healing was profoundly alive for me. I knew that exploring the gifts and challenges of conflict was central to that work. I felt pulled into exploring how humans could seek radical reconciliation with the Earth, with ourselves, in our families, our communities, and in the world.

Earthcare has always been so foundational to me that it has often felt strange to name it, as if naming it would then make it separate in a way that does not match my experience. The separation of Self from plants, rocks, animals, and vistas is something that feels learned to me – not our natural state of being. The Pull toward seeking radical reconciliation with Earth comes from a place that longs for the radical reconciliation with ourSelves.

The feeling of disconnection from Self is deeply personal to me. I have experienced that breaking apart. I shattered in my twenties as I sought acceptance and love outside of mySelf. A slow cracking led me into a sea of broken shards. Coming back to Self was a wholly (and holy) joyful experience, a reunification with what was deeply felt and True.

Activism, however, had become a word that brought me discomfort. Growing up in Quaker circles, I learned early on about injustices in the world. As a pre-teen, I was comfortable with activism, sometimes to the point of self-righteousness. It slowly started to dawn on me that there was a separateness that felt wrong in the world. As I grew into myself, I felt pulled toward examining relationships and how they shape our realities. When I was thirteen I wrote a short story from the perspective of a child laborer in a sweatshop. I wanted to center that reality for others the way I felt it when I walked into our local J.C. Penny. Yet, as I became a Quaker teen, I kept being asked to be more of an “activist.” This meant serving on the Peace and Social Justice Committee, attending marches, and the like. This was not where I felt Called. I wanted to be on committees concerned with the health of the Meeting. Outside of Quakerism, activist circles seemed to demand inherent knowledge I didn’t always have. And if I might disagree with someone, the options seemed to be to figuratively shout the other down with facts as arrows or capitulate to those with the stronger arguments.

As I entered the last years of my twenties, having joyfully reunited with Self, I knew I had ministry leaping in my heart, asking to be outed. As Keith and I talked at length that June day in 2022, I was clear that I needed to step into a new space. I needed to live into my Leadings in order to stay in Right Relationship in mySelf. I needed to start living my ministry—a ministry of wholeness, reconciliation, and integrating the Holy and the Whole.

I also had a clear Leading to become a mother.

“I want to travel the country,” Keith said to me that day.

“How about the world?” I responded. I wasn’t joking.

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We both felt the pull toward travel. We yearned to bring our whole Selves to different places, to be grown by them, expanded and contracted, to thresh us towards what we were – and are – meant to be.

Was this possible with a baby? Keith wanted to know.

"I have a deep trust," I told him, "if I am following that of God in my life all that is given to me is not only possible, but needed."

We began to weave a dream of bringing our ministry around the country and the world, a dream that included a child or children. And we knew that this was something we needed to deeply test. Was this our Leading?

We spent the next year testing this dream we had been given, the sense of Leading strong in both of our hearts. Everything sped up when I broke my ankle in the Autumn of 2022, and we unexpectedly found ourselves sharing a house in Oakland, California. After three months we decided to officially move in together. We met with our Quaker Elders, both officially and unofficially, as well as our F/ friends. Together and individually, we grappled with the truths of our lives in order to find the greater Truth we were being called to live into. We called a clearness committee about having a child together.

Then, in July 2023 we found out we were pregnant. Had God gotten impatient with our deliberating? We had planned to plan! We had been grappling with our individual and combined Leadings, seeking clarity that at times seemed elusive. We were both deeply committed to seeking the steps forward to being true to the Leadings we felt. We knew we had work in the world as a couple while also holding very distinct gifts and asks from the Spirit.

And then we were a family, the circumstances of our lives weaving themselves into a direction that began to gain momentum.

In August of 2023 I decided to defer starting my clinical psychology doctoral program in collective trauma and social healing. In October Keith was hired as the General



Secretary of QEW - a job he had felt so Called toward he had been terrified by the prospect that he could very well not be hired. November we started planning QEW on the Road - this was what God had been preparing us for. We would launch in the summer after our baby was born that coming spring.

Juniper James was born on March 16th next to the land that had nurtured both of us, the land known as Woolman, now being returned to the local Nisenan tribe as the ancient village of Yulića. We sank into our parenting journey with immediate lessons in listening to ourselves and to Juniper. We marveled at this incredible new being while planning for the new path calling us forward.

And now here we are, living into this Leading. It has been only two years since we heard the Call on that day when we were six thousand miles apart but linked in a shared future we were just discerning. We now live in a solar tear-drop camper towed by an electric truck. The three of us are visiting Quaker Meetings, Yearly Meetings, and Friends, talking about Earthcare and how we might bring about a hopeful future for us all, how we can move into Right Relationship with ourSelves. We will continue to work in this nomadic way until we feel Released and Called into the next container for our work.

Together, we trust the Call.





The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva published 'Climate Change: What We Can Do'. It aims to connect people with the most recent climate science and suggests personal actions and questions for politicians. To the right is a selected poster of findings.

'What We Can Do' has been updated with the most recent climate scientific findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report (AR6). This report was compiled over seven years and involved hundreds of scientists worldwide.

'What We Can Do' is written for a wide audience, whether already active or new to climate concerns. It includes categories such as "What we eat", "How we grow and sell food", and "How we use and source energy." This publication is meant to aid in our collective empowerment to transform the root causes driving planetary crisis.

QUNO's advocacy will continue as climate negotiations looks towards the 29th Conference of Parties in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Find the full report
and other resources at
[QUNO.org/resources](https://quno.org/resources)**



WHAT WE EAT

The population is growing, and people are consuming more meat and dairy.

This means we are cutting down more forests and using more water, land and chemicals to grow crops to feed livestock, rather than to grow food for us to eat. This also destroys wildlife.

What scientists tell our governments:

"Livestock are responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than all other food sources."

"Dietary shifts could contribute one-fifth of the mitigation needed to hold warming below 2°C, with one-quarter of low-cost options."

"In addition to climate mitigation gains, a transition towards more plant-based consumption and reduced consumption of animal-based foods, particularly from ruminant animals, could reduce pressure on forests and land used for feed, support the preservation of biodiversity and planetary health."

"Around one-third of the food produced on the planet is not consumed, affecting food security and livelihoods."

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Eat a mostly plant-based diet.
- ✓ Reduce, or stop, eating meat and dairy.
- ✓ Compost and reduce food waste.
- ✓ Buy locally grown, seasonal food.

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

Which government policies ensure nutritious, fresh food is available, affordable and not undercut by producers with lower environmental standards?

Which education campaigns focus on healthy diets, including the benefit of plant-based diets to heal climate change, species extinction, deforestation, chemical pollution and freshwater scarcity?

Which government policies help reduce plastic packaging and ban single use plastic?

What policies help ensure the poorest in our society have food before we export our crops to wealthier countries?



HOW WE USE AND SOURCE ENERGY

Extracting and burning fossil fuels is a main driver of rising global temperatures.

Renewable energies can be cleaner, healthier, cheaper, locally owned, and contribute to peacebuilding and community resilience.

What scientists tell our governments:

"Rapid and deep reductions in GHG emissions require major energy system transitions (high confidence)."

"Changes in energy demand are associated with improvements in energy efficiency and behaviour change."

"Electricity from PV and wind is now cheaper than electricity from fossil sources in many regions..."

"Implementation of carbon capture storage (CCS) currently faces technological, economic, institutional, ecological environmental and socio-cultural barriers."

"Policies reflecting a high price on emissions are necessary in models to achieve cost-effective 1.5°C pathways."

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Reduce our energy use and insulate our homes.
- ✓ Invest in low-carbon heating and/or cooling systems.
- ✓ Buy 100% clean and renewable energy where possible.
- ✓ Avoid investments in fossil fuel companies.

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

Does your political party accept donations from fossil fuel companies? If so, will you reduce this influence?

Does our government fund renewable energy to the best of its ability?

Does our country actively reduce dependence on coal, oil, and gas extraction, to ensure a safer climate for our children?

Does our government work to end subsidies for fossil fuels?

Does our government support poorer communities to afford clean cooking stoves and low carbon heating/cooling systems?

Do we avoid large scale bioenergy use that destroys forests?



TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY AND BUILDING SECTORS

The industry, buildings and transport sectors make up 44% of global GHG emissions, or 66% when the emissions from electricity and heat production are reallocated as indirect.

Transformations are needed for a safe climate.

What scientists tell our governments:

"By 2019, the largest growth in absolute emissions occurred in CO2 from fossil fuels and industry followed CH4, whereas the highest relative growth occurred in fluorinated gases, starting from low levels in 1990."

"Reducing emissions in industry will involve using materials more efficiently, reusing and recycling products and minimising waste."

"Reductions of black carbon and methane would have substantial co-benefits, including improved health due to reduced air pollution."

"Feasible adaptation options include green infrastructure, resilient water and urban ecosystem services, urban and peri-urban agriculture, and adapting buildings and land use through regulation and planning."

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Insulate our home effectively, reduce our energy use.
- ✓ Use low carbon, sustainable materials in our home or any building work.
- ✓ Learn which industries in our region produce high levels of pollution/emissions and who pays for their cleanup.

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

How do we support people with grants and loans to make their homes more energy efficient?

How do we ensure new housing projects have low-income housing for the poorest?

How do our policies require new buildings and industries to be low-carbon in all ways?

Are you concerned that carbon capture storage (CCS) is energy intensive, risks leakage and fails to capture upstream methane emissions?

Are industries held responsible for their pollution, and do they pay an effective carbon tax on their emissions?



HOW WE

Rising temperatures and harder for farmers to grow.

Industrial farming does more harm than good to soil and insect populations that farm, particularly that.

What scientists tell our governments:

"Sustainable land management, agroecology (including agroforestry, crop rotation, diversity, appropriate crop selection, integrated pest management, rainwater harvesting, and precision agriculture) can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil health, and increase resilience to climate change."

"If emissions associated with land use change, particularly from deforestation and land-use change, are not reduced, global warming will be significantly higher by 2100."

"Packaging contributed to greenhouse gas emissions."

WHY WE Empowering



HOW WE

"In 2019, atmospheric CO2 concentrations were high 2 million years, and concentrations of methane (CH4) and N2O (nitrous oxide) in at least 800,000 years."

"Globally, households with low income contribute about 36–45% of emissions."

What scientists tell our governments:

"The spread of fossil-fuel intensive lifestyles is a major driver of emissions, and the main contributor to climate change."

"Individuals with high socioeconomic status disproportionately to emissions reduction potential for emissions reduction, consumers, and investors."

"Emissions from shipping and aviation are growing rapidly."

"Electrification combined with public transport can contribute to energy efficiency."

E GROW AND SELL FOOD

disrupted weather make it
w food.

more harm to soil, water supplies
an sustainable and multi-crop
practised by small-scale farmers.

governments:

ment [...] options include
proforestry), conservation
practices, crop and forest species
to and forest rotations, organic
management, the conservation of
vesting, range and pasture
on agriculture systems."

with pre- and post-production
and system are included, the
to be 21-37% of total net
emitted GHG emissions."

about 6% of total food system

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Grow some of our own food and bee-friendly flowers.
- ✓ Avoid pesticides and chemical fertilizers.
- ✓ Where possible, buy from local and community farms.
- ✓ Seek to buy food labelled as sustainably sourced and fairly traded.

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

How can we improve the quantity and quality of plant-based food grown in our country?

How can we reduce the concentration of food power in a small number of multinational companies?

How can we better protect farmers from unfair supermarket buying practices and help farmers switch from intensive animal production to plant-based crops?

How can we better help protect the rights of poorer citizens to secure land tenure?

How can agriculture in our country support sustainable land management to protect biodiversity and soil, and avoid dangerous pesticides?



HOW WE CHERISH AND PROTECT NATURE

Our human existence is dependent on the health of the planet. Yet we exploit nature and human beings for profit over wellbeing, resulting in environmental crises that threaten the survival of our and other species.

In healing these relationships, we help protect future generations.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Support efforts to protect, conserve and restore nature.
- ✓ Avoid pesticides and toxic cleaning materials.
- ✓ Reconnect with nature and seek to protect wildlife.
- ✓ Reduce or stop eating fish and animals.

What scientists tell our governments:

"Risks of local species losses and, consequently, risks of extinction are much less in a 1.5°C versus a 2°C warmer world..."

"Overshooting 1.5°C ... increases the risks of severe impacts, such as increased wildfires, mass mortality of trees, drying of peatlands, thawing of permafrost and weakening natural land carbon sinks; such impacts could increase releases of GHGs making temperature reversal more challenging."

"The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the anthropogenic carbon dioxide, resulting in ocean acidification and changes to carbonate chemistry that are unprecedented for at least the last 65 million years."

"Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) deployed at scale is unproven, and reliance on such technology is a major risk in the ability to limit warming to 1.5°C."

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

What are we doing to restore biodiversity of animals and plants that have been so tragically lost in the last 50 years?

How can we better protect marine life from overfishing and dredging of the seabed?

Do we ban pesticides that harm humans and wildlife?

Do we prioritize restoring land and forests to protect wildlife and store carbon?

How can we better protect environmental defenders and Indigenous Peoples' rights?

How can we better support land reform for fairer tenant rights and limit excessive land ownership?

WHAT WE CAN DO

g actions with the latest IPCC science.

WITH URGENT ACTION WE CAN HEAL 1.5°C



WHERE WE ARE HEADED +3°C



E CONSUME AND TRAVEL (INCLUDING TRANSPORT)

CO₂ (carbon dioxide)
er than at any time in at least
centrations of CH₄ (methane)
were higher than at any time

th income in the top 10%
of global GHG emissions."

governments:

based material consumption and
major driver of global resource use,
to rising greenhouse gas (GHG)

io-economic status contribute
missions, and have the highest
ductions, e.g., as citizens,
e models, and professionals."

and aviation continue to grow

with low-GHG energy, and shifts
hance health, employment, and
security and deliver equity."

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Buy what we need, not what we want.
- ✓ Invest in energy efficient appliances.
- ✓ Walk or cycle rather than drive short distances.
- ✓ Where possible, use public transport and avoid flying.

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

Is our public transport publicly owned? As a public service, can we make it free for all and reduce traffic and air pollution?

How are we investing in electric buses and the electrification of railways, powered by renewable energy?

How much waste are we burning rather than recycling? How can we burn less and recycle more?

What more can we do to build bike lanes and reduce cars in city centres, and car dependency overall?

What government policies do we have to reduce emissions and pollution from shipping and from aviation, including limiting airport expansion and taxing frequent flying?



HOW WE RUN OUR ECONOMIES

The earth is our spaceship; its natural resources are limited. Yet most current economic systems promote unlimited use of natural resources, resulting in ecological collapse.

These unsustainable and unjust economic approaches are driving environmental crises, including climate change.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- ✓ Seek a sustainable lifestyle and reuse, recycle, thrift, and share out.
- ✓ Explore and learn about 'sufficiency', 'circular', 'doughnut' and 'ecological economics.'
- ✓ Support businesses with good environmental standards and conditions for workers.
- ✓ Change to an environmentally minded, socially responsible bank.

What scientists tell our governments:

"Globally, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and population growth remained the strongest drivers of CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the last decade."

"Eradicating extreme poverty, energy poverty, and providing decent living standards to all, consistent with near-term sustainable development objectives, can be achieved without significant global emissions growth."

"Actions that prioritise equity, climate justice, social justice and inclusion lead to more sustainable outcomes, co-benefits, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development."

"[Sufficiency is] a set of measures and daily practices that avoid demand for energy, materials, land and water while delivering human well-being for all within planetary boundaries."

What our politicians can do – climate action questions

How can our tax system promote an equitable society, which prioritizes people and the planet?

Do we have carbon, aviation and financial transaction taxes to help fund climate action?

Do we support climate grants and loss and damage funds to poorer countries?

How can we support just transitions for people leaving polluting jobs?

To best protect our children, can we shift money from bombs to climate action?



QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office



**AVAILABLE IN:
ENGLISH,
SPANISH,
ARABIC,
AND FRENCH.**

IPCC stands for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. All science quotes on this poster are from the 6th Assessment Cycle. Full citations are available in the corresponding booklet.

Keith Runyan



Deepening Community: Eco-Book Group Returns This Fall!

This past spring, Quaker Earthcare Witness hosted a vibrant and deeply engaging book group focused on Jennie Ratcliffe's transformative book, *Nothing Lowly in the Universe*. From February through May 2024, participants gathered every other Monday to delve into the intricate weave of ecological, spiritual, and moral issues Ratcliffe explores in her work. Led by the dedicated and passionate facilitators Ethan Smith and Nathan Kleban, the group offered a space for rich reflection and meaningful conversation about our relationship with the environment and the crises we face.

The book group not only read and discussed the book but also had the honor of Jennie Ratcliffe joining for the opening and closing sessions, enriching the discussions with her insights.

Building on the success of the spring series, the QEW book group will reconvene this fall with a new book selection. We are inviting suggestions for our next read and encourage everyone to contribute their ideas. Some of the books suggested so far include:

- Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Hospicing Modernity by Vanessa Machado de Oliveira
- All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis
- Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake
- Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming
- The Ministry for the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson
- The Dawn of Everything by David Graeber and David Wengrow
- Floating Coast by Bathsheba Demuth
- The Great Derangement by Amitav Ghosh

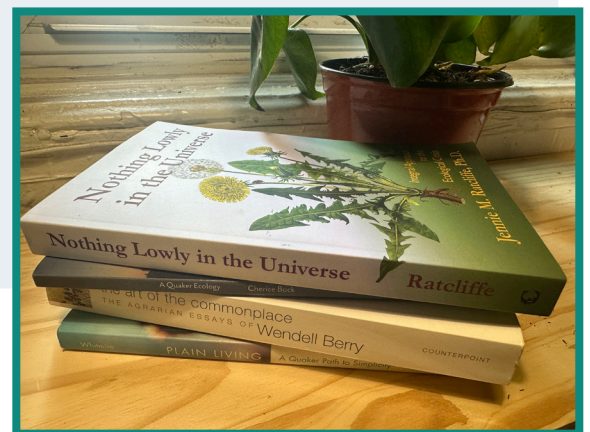
We invite everyone to join us this fall for another series of in-depth discussions. Whether you are a returning participant or new to the group, we look forward to your presence and contributions. Together, we can continue to explore the crucial intersections of ecology, spirituality, and morality, and seek paths toward a sustainable and just future. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis

Jennie Ratcliffe's *Nothing Lowly in the Universe* is a compelling exploration of the interconnected scientific, technological, economic, religious, and psychological causes of our ecological predicament. Ratcliffe, a Quaker herself, presents the ecological crisis as fundamentally a spiritual and moral crisis, proposing transformative paths to the long-term sustainability of a more just and peaceable world through a Interfaith/Quaker lens for the commonwealth of life and the emergence of a new Ecozoic era.

Order online at Pendle Hill or at [BookShop.org](https://www.bookshop.org).

We cannot so easily destroy that which we come to love, to see as kin, as an integral part of us and the commonwealth of life. - Jennie M. Ratcliffe



Victory for the Youth-Led Constitutional Climate Case *Navahine F. v. Hawaii Department of Transportation!*

Last month, Hawai'i officials announced a groundbreaking legal settlement to fully decarbonize Hawai'i's transportation system by 2045. Thirteen youth from across Hawai'i brought the case in June 2022, arguing that their state's transportation policies and practices contribute significantly to climate change, thus violating their constitutional rights to a clean and healthy environment.

In the agreement, HDOT announced a plan to "achieve zero emissions no later than 2045 for ground transportation, sea and inter-island air transportation." Many of the plaintiffs are Native Hawaiians, who already experience the effects of climate change, like droughts, sea level rise, and the 2023 Lahaina fire.



Photo by Yuki Iwamura/AFP/Getty Images

Navahine is part of a broader series of cases represented by Our Children's Trust, a non-profit law firm based in Oregon. In 2015, 21 young people from across the country filed the constitutional climate lawsuit *Juliana v. United States*. A young Quaker from Fairbanks, Alaska, Nathan Baring joined the case when he was fifteen years old. He is now 24, and the Department of Justice has attempted to delay or stay the case repeatedly for nine years. Quaker Earthcare Witness signed on to an amicus brief, supporting the youth plaintiffs in the *Juliana* case. QEW was one of 15 faith-based groups that contributed to the brief, citing "the moral foundations of government stewardship and action on climate."

Our Children's Trust has pending litigation in Alaska, Florida, Utah, Virginia, and at the federal level. *Navahine* was inspired by *Juliana*, and this triumph paves the way for local and national governments to recognize and protect the climate rights of young people.

You can learn more about these cases at OurChildrensTrust.org

You can also watch a film about *Juliana v. United States* on Netflix called *Youth v Gov!*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

To achieve a genuine world beyond war we will need to address the root causes of war – eliciting campaigns for global healing, reconciliation, and transformative justice that redress our deepest wounds and the systems that perpetuate them. Only through this profound change within and amongst ourselves can we become a regenerative species within the Web of Life.

With new vision and new voices, QEW is hoping to become a bolder ally to activist and advocacy efforts with our strategic partners, deepen into our spiritual foundations, and evolve into an organization that is as bold as our times are urgent – a prophetic organization for prophetic times.

This is an excerpt from our 2022-2023 Annual Report. Read more at QuakerEarthcare.org/About-Us

Support our work by sending a check to

**Quaker Earthcare Witness
1968 S Coast Hwy #1040
Laguna Beach, CA 92651 or at
QuakerEarthcare.org/Donate.**



1968 S Coast Hwy #1040
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Address service requested

Info@QuakerEarthcare.org
Follow us on Social Media: @QuakerEarthcare

Name
Address 1
Address 2
City, State 00000-0000

Keith Runyan

A Movement Worthy of Our Times

The Quaker Earthcare Witness network is dedicated to bringing about a spiritual shift in Quakerism and beyond that can tip the scales towards a life-giving future for our species and all others as we stand at the crossroads of facilitating a mass extinction or regeneration of Life in the 21st century.

As we witness the escalation of warfare the world over, QEW has been called to deepen its engagement and ministry regarding the intersections of Earthcare and Global Peacemaking.

We strongly believe there can be no Peace on Earth without Peace with Earth. And conversely, that there can be no Peace with Earth without Peace on Earth. The two are inseparable. We must tame and transmute



the flame of human conflict and ecocide if we are to bring about a life-giving future for our species and the Web of Life. Such a transformation will require unprecedented global cooperation and solidarity – warfare is the antithesis of such unity. As a species, we are now too powerful to remain in rivalry with ourselves.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11