

Modeling our Earthcare Actions

Designed to support your Meeting & local action

<https://quakerearthcare.org/day-of-action/>

Intro to Activity

Creating physical models of what our meetings or communities could look like if we remade them to be climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable is an important and highly engaging step in making them so. This sample activity involves building a scale model of our meeting houses or other places as they now are, investigating and suggesting how they could be changed to make them more resilient and sustainable, and then changing the model to reflect these changes.

This activity is derived from a project, **Pathways 2050**, which is a traveling exhibit featuring a hypothetical Portland, Oregon neighborhood. This project has, in turn, given rise to other projects where students have proposed changes to schools or other neighborhoods.



A close-up of a model created by Frank D. Granshaw, loosely based on several neighborhoods of northeast Portland

How to Prepare

- Identify a “design” group to take a model of your meeting house or other place of interest and upgrade it with resilience and sustainability in mind. This could be a church or meeting earthcare team, property committee, young adult group, etc.
- Prepare a model before you meet with your design group. Important - **You are not limited to building a scale model of your meeting house or other place of interest.** This same activity has been done with school groups using either printed or online maps of schools and neighborhoods.
- Identify a person or group of people in your meeting or church to build a model of your chosen place as it now looks. Suggestion - Architects or model railroaders are particularly good to have when it comes to building scale models. Computer geeks and graphic artists are good folks to have around when you need posters.
- If you aren’t already familiar with Google Earth, you are encouraged to do so. In addition to being able to create satellite views of places of interest, some of the tools in GE enable you to gather measurements for building scale models.



Sample Run of Show (EDIT)

Time	Segment	Description
First Hour	Gathering & Assessment	- Icebreaker followed by presentation of the the model and a description of the task.. - Group discussion of the questions - What it means to be resilient and sustainable in our context? - What are we already doing in this regard?
Second Hour	Suggesting upgrades	- Group discussion of the questions: - What else could we be doing? - What are the obstacles to doing this? - What resources do we have available to accomplish these items? - Small group formulation of suggestions - Groups of three or four work up a list of upgrades and add them to the model or poster in as much detail as they are able to muster.
Third Hour	Detailing the upgrades	- As a whole group participants sift through the small group suggestions to come up with a list of approximately five consensus suggestions. - Small working groups flesh out individual suggestions adding to the model or doing some kind of art illustrating how the building would be changed. - Final discussion of next steps.

Tips & Resources

- Look over the project site for Pathways 2050: sites.google.com/view/pathways2050 paying particular attention to the “Tour guide” linked to that page.
- The last two pages of the guide provide ideas about why to build a model (motivations), ways to approach building your model (alternative building strategies), and how the model can be used for community envisioning and advocacy work (Going beyond the model)



Photos of models on the Pathways 2050 website

- Again, don't be frightened off from this activity by the construction of a scale model. Variations of this activity have been done with posters derived from Google Earth and suggestions for upgrades added to the poster during design group sessions..