

SECTION 7: FURTHER RESOURCES

This section includes information on:

- * Where to get funding
- * Additional support and resources
- * 'Gathering up the threads', Minute 36, Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011

7. FURTHER RESOURCES

Funding

Many of the steps you take towards sustainability needn't incur great financial cost. In fact, plenty of the actions suggested in this toolkit will cost you nothing to implement. Nonetheless, here are some suggestions for where you could go for financial support should you need to.

Your local and area meeting

Before applying for outside support think about what resources the meeting already has. Make sure that your meeting's annual budget includes a 'sustainability' category. The meeting might decide to commit a certain amount each year to this budget. Alternatively, the meeting might want to put forward specific proposals each year. You might also want to think about fundraising within your meeting.

Directory of Quaker and Quaker-related grant-making trusts

The Directory of Quaker and Quaker-related grant-making trusts is available (free of charge) on request from Blake Humphries (020 7663 1063 or blakeh@quaker.org.uk). It is only available to Friends/attenders within Britain Yearly Meeting, and only available in printed form.

Energy Saving Trust, Green Communities

The Green Communities project aimed to support, facilitate and promote community-based energy projects. Their helpline, training and expert support were ended due to funding constraints; however, they still have a very helpful website, which includes a searchable funding database. See www.energysavingtrust.org

Environmental Funders Network

The Environmental Funders Network (EFN) is an informal network of trusts, foundations and individuals making grants on environmental and conservation issues. It does not itself distribute grants; however, on their 'Who's Involved' page you will find a list of funders to which you may want to apply. See www.greenfunders.org

Feed-In Tariff

If you install a renewable electricity generation system (like photovoltaics) on your meeting house premises, then you will probably be eligible for the Feed-In Tariff. This is a payment per kWh of renewable energy generated, which is paid via your electricity company. See www.fitariffs.co.uk/FITs. The Feed-In Tariff raises some complicated ethical issues; contact Living Witness to discuss these.

A similar scheme for heat is also under development. See www.rhinentive.co.uk/RHI

Green Grants Machine

This website provides information on environmental funding schemes. See www.greengrantsmachine.co.uk

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Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

If your meeting house lies within range of a qualifying landfill site you may be eligible for funds from this scheme. Funding is dependent on the applicant already having secured the promise of funding from a third party. The Meeting Houses Fund is prepared to play the role of the third party funder. Details of the scheme are available at www.entrust.org.uk and details of how the Meeting Houses Fund can support applications to the scheme are available from Kevin Ellis, Property Manager, on 020 7663 1085 or kevine@quaker.org.uk.

Local government grants

It may be worth enquiring whether your local authority has any relevant schemes.

Meeting Houses Fund

The purpose of the Meeting Houses Fund is to provide financial assistance to meetings carrying out improvements to their premises including warden's accommodation, for acquiring and developing new premises and supporting substantial repairs to historic meeting houses. See www.quaker.org.uk/property-matters or contact Kevin Ellis (020 7663 1085 or kevine@quaker.org.uk) for further information.

QPSW Sustainability Grants

QPSW Sustainability Grants are intended to provide support to Quaker (or Quaker-supported) projects focussing on sustainability.

Applications are invited to support projects that address sustainability concerns through practical action or educational or exploratory work. They must be initiated or supported by a local or area meeting and applicants should be able to provide a minute of support from the meeting. A maximum of £2,000 and minimum of £100 may be requested.

Contact Sunniva Taylor, QPSW Sustainability and Peace Programme manager, for more details: 020 7663 1047 or sunnivat@quaker.org.uk

Additional support and resources

UK Quaker bodies

- * **Advisory Committee on Property (ACP):** acts as the central advisory body to area meetings and other owning bodies within Britain Yearly Meeting relating to meeting houses and other property used for the purposes of the Society (including burial grounds and trust property). The ACP will advise on property matters relating to redundancy, demolition, sale, lease, purchase, alteration, extension, historic buildings, repair, maintenance of existing buildings and new building. See www.quaker.org.uk/advisory-committee-property
- * **Children and Young People's work team, Quaker Life:** provides resources, support and training to work with children and young people. See www.quaker.org.uk/cyp or contact Bevelie Shember, Administrator, on 020 7663 1013 or bevelies@quaker.org.uk.
- * **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC):** brings together Quakers from all traditions around the world for fellowship and discernment. See www.fwccworld.org
- * **Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB):** a group of Quakers, most of whom are appointed as representatives by area meetings in the north of Britain. Their purpose is 'to advise and encourage Friends, and through them their fellow citizens, in the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth'. See www.nfpb.gn.apc.org
- * **Quaker Community at Bamford:** runs a programme of retreats which range from silence to seasonal celebrations, from gardening to discussing Quaker responses in Palestine and Israel. Their short courses focus on Quaker spirituality and Quaker approaches to sustainability and community. The community also welcomes enquiries from attenders and Quakers interested in joining. See www.quakercommunity.org.uk
- * **Quaker Housing Trust:** a channel through which social housing projects can get advice, support, loans or grants that would be difficult to find elsewhere. See www.qht.org.uk
- * **Quaker Life:** works to strengthen and sustain the fabric of Quaker life within our Yearly Meeting (www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-life). Michael Booth, Quaker Life's Supporting Meetings Officer, is available to discuss any difficulties you may have with decision-making. Contact him on 020 7663 1107 or michaelsb@quaker.org.uk.
- * **Quaker Stewardship Committee:** set up by Yearly Meeting to support meetings in their stewardship of finance and property; encourage accountability, transparency and integrity in all our affairs; and enable Friends to work with statutory bodies, such as those administering charity law, on issues that affect all meetings and their associated bodies. See www.quaker.org.uk/qsc
- * **Quaker Voluntary Action:** provides practical opportunities to put faith into action and to develop new ways of volunteering that meet the challenges of our time. See www.qva.org.uk
- * **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre:** runs courses exploring Quakerism and themes of interest to Quakers, such as Peace and Reconciliation, Quaker History and Spiritual Journeys. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk

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Study packs and group work

- * *Be the Change: Resources for Study Groups* comprises five session plans for study groups by Living Witness. For more information go to www.livingwitness.org.uk
- * *Engaging with the Quaker Testimonies: a Toolkit*, Quaker Books, 2007: a resource produced by the Testimonies Committee to help Quakers engage with the implications of the testimonies in our own lives and work. Available from the Quaker Centre bookshop at Friends House or online at www.quaker.org.uk/shop
- * *Friends World Committee for Consultation, Global Change Consultation*. A programme to discern the merits of a more coordinated Friends' response and a deeper understanding of the spiritual underpinnings of Friends' witness in relation to global change and its myriad facets. An invitation to explore six queries. Details at www.fwccglobalchange.org
- * *Good Lives* study packs. The Good Lives programme helps Friends and others bring head, heart, hands and spirit together to equip ourselves for the challenges facing humanity and the Earth. The study packs are based on the programme. Available at www.woodbrooke.org.uk
- * *Good Lives* courses and other courses at Woodbrooke with the Good Lives logo are designed to help Friends and others bring head, heart, hands and spirit together to equip ourselves for the challenges facing humanity and the Earth. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/good-lives.html. Good Lives also goes 'on the road' to meetings.
- * *Seeds of Violence, Seeds of Hope*. A resource by the Friends Testimonies and Economics Project of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Available to download at www.fgcquaker.org/library/economics

See www.livingwitness.org.uk for details on asking for a talk or workshop to support your meeting in developing a Quaker sustainability witness.

Resources for all-age activities and children and young people

- * 'Living sustainably', *Journeys in the Spirit*, Youth work edition, February 2011: the aim of this edition is to help the group think about the relationship between the way they live and the world; to make the link between living sustainably and being a Quaker; to explore their ideas of a sustainable world; and to inspire and provide some ideas for action. Aimed at 12–18 year olds but equally suitable for adults.
- * 'Sustainability', *Journeys in the Spirit*, Children's work edition, August 2007: offers a variety of activities on the theme of sustainability suitable for children's meeting (ages 4–12).
- * 'The Simple Life: Advices & queries 41 & 42', *Journeys in the Spirit*, Children's work edition, February 2011: reflects on how we relate to and treat the world around us (ages 4–12).

All of these resources are available at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability

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Quaker resources

- * *350 Years On: The Peace Testimony Today*: a statement by the Peace Campaigning & Networking group, July 2011. Available to read at www.quaker.org.uk/350
- * *A Quaker response to the crisis of climate change*: a statement by Meeting for Sufferings, endorsed by Britain Yearly Meeting in 2009. Available at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * *A Quaker testimony to the Earth*, Suzanne Finch, published by Bridport Preparative Meeting. Available to borrow from the Quaker Centre bookshop at Friends House (www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-centre).
- * *Better World Economics*: newsletter of QPSW's Economic Issues programme. See www.quaker.org.uk/better-world-economics
- * 'Building Sustainability, Building Peace': a QPSW think piece reflecting on what it means to have a commitment to peace in a world faced with climate change, environmental degradation and resource depletion. Available to download at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * *Costing not less than everything: Sustainability and spirituality in challenging times*, Swarthmore Lecture 2011, Pam Lunn, Quaker Books, 2011. Available from the Quaker Centre bookshop at Friends House or online at www.quaker.org.uk/shop
- * *earthQuaker*: the quarterly newsletter of Living Witness. Contains thoughtful articles, news and notices of forthcoming events. Available to download at www.livingwitness.org.uk/earthquaker.html
- * Economic resources from Quaker Peace & Social Witness: QPSW is developing resources to support Friends in learning about the economic system and its alternatives. See www.quaker.org.uk/justice-and-equality
- * *Faith in Action: Quaker social testimony*, Jonathan Dale et al, Quaker Books, 2000. Available from the Quaker Centre bookshop at Friends House or online at www.quaker.org.uk/shop
- * *Green Advices & Queries*: produced by Earth: Our Creative Responsibility Group, a sub-group of Quaker Peace & Social Witness, 2002. Available at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * *Holding faith: creating peace in a violent world*, David Gee, Quaker Books, 2011: asks what committing to peace means in a violent world and how the commitment shapes our relationship with one another, ourselves and the Earth. Available from the Quaker Centre bookshop at Friends House or online at www.quaker.org.uk/shop
- * Quaker Earthcare Witness: a North American network of Friends and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasising Quaker process and testimonies. See www.quakerearthcare.org
- * Quaker Institute for the Future: QIF's mission is to advance a global future of inclusion, social and economic justice, and ecological well-being through participatory research and discernment. See www.quakerinstitute.org
- * Quakernomics: a discussion forum for Friends interested in economics. Go to www.quaker.org.uk/quakernomics-blog

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- * *Responding to climate change*: prepared by QPSW, this study pack comprises six briefing sheets that look at different aspects of climate change. It includes reflection points and suggestions for action and is suitable for group study. Available to download at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy*, Peter G. Brown and Geoffrey Garver, Berrett-Koehler, San Francisco, 2008.
- * *Sustainability ... for Peace*: newsletter of QPSW's Sustainability and Peace programme. See www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * 'Sustainable security: a briefing for Friends': a briefing outlining the concept of sustainable security, with reflection points for Friends. It is co-produced by QPSW, Northern Friends Peace Board and Oxford Research Group. Available to download at www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability
- * 'Sustainable Security statement of concern': produced by the sustainable security group of Northern Friends Peace Board, with questions for consideration. See www.nfpb.gn.apc.org
- * *The Creation was Open to Me*: an anthology of Friends' writings on that of God in all Creation. Compiled by Anne Adams and published by Quaker Green Concern (now Living Witness). Available from info@livingwitness.org
- * *Walk Cheerfully, Step Lightly*, Living Witness Project, 2008. Available online at www.livingwitness.org.uk

Films

Films that explain the problem:

- * *An Inconvenient Truth*. Dir. Davis Guggenheim. United International Pictures, 2006. A documentary film about former US Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate citizens about global warming via a slide show.
- * *The Age of Stupid*. Dir./writer Franny Armstrong. Spanner Films/Passion Pictures, 2009. A drama-documentary-animation hybrid which stars the late Pete Postlethwaite as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, watching archive footage from the mid-to-late 2000s and asking "Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?". See www.spannerfilms.net/films/ageofstupid
- * *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*. Dir./writer Gregory Greene. Electric Wallpaper Co., 2005. This film discusses the dwindling supply of cheap energy in the form of fossil fuels and its effects on society. See www.endofsuburbia.com
- * WALL-E. Dir. Andrew Stanton. Disney/Pixar, 2008. This animation film takes place after mass consumerism on earth, led by a mega-corporation, Buy n Large, has left the planet covered in rubbish.

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Films that create inspiration for solutions:

- * *Beyond the Tipping Point?* Dir./prod. Dr Stefan Skrimshire, 2010. A documentary film about climate, action and the future. See www.beyondthetippingpoint.com
- * *Costing not less than everything: Sustainability and spirituality in challenging times.* Swarthmore Lecture 2011, Pam Lunn. A recording of the 2011 Swarthmore Lecture plus accompanying slides. Available from the Quaker Centre, Friends House.
- * *In Transition 1.0.* A film about the Transition movement, created using footage contributed by Transition Initiatives from around the world. Work on the follow-up, *In Transition 2.0*, is now under way. See www.transitionnetwork.org/transition-movie
- * *Just Do It: A Tale of Modern-day Outlaws.* Dir. Emily James. Left Field Films, 2011. This film claims to lift the lid on climate activism and the daring troublemakers who have crossed the line to become modern-day outlaws. See www.justdoitfilm.com
- * *The Economics of Happiness.* Dir./writer Helena Norberg-Hodge, Steven Gorelick, John Page. International Society for Ecology & Culture (ISEC), 2011. This documentary is about the worldwide movement for economic localisation. See www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org
- * *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil.* Dir. Faith Morgan. The Community Solution, 2006. The film seeks to educate audiences about peak oil and the impact it will have on transportation, agriculture, medicine and other industries. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanised, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens. See www.powerofcommunity.org/cm/index.php

Films that reawaken our connections to the earth:

- * *Animate Earth: Science, Intuition & Gaia.* A documentary film written and presented by Dr Stephan Harding. It is an emotional and scientific journey that explores the complexities of our relationship with the Earth, and contains interviews with leading thinkers in the field of ecological awareness. See www.animateearth.com
- * *Home.* Dir. Yann Arthus-Bertrand. Prod. Denis Carot & Luc Besson, 2009. This documentary film uses striking aerial footage from around the world to highlight the diversity and fragile balance of life on Earth. See www.homethemovie.org

Posters and displays

- * Sustainable Security display: the display is made up of 8 A3 panels and is available in large A1 (borrow for free) and smaller A3 (buy for £25, borrow for free) formats. It explains the concept of sustainable security in a clear, visual format. See www.quaker.org.uk/sustainable-security-display
- * Quakers and Sustainability display: this display is made up of 8 A3 panels, exploring why Quakers are active on sustainability and what actions meetings are taking. Good for outreach or inreach. Available to borrow or buy. See www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability

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Support for becoming a low-carbon, sustainable building

- * Climate Impact Calculators: for Meetings and Individuals. Available at www.quaker.org.uk/climate-impact-calculators or hard copies on request from QPSW or Living Witness using the contact details at the front of the toolkit.
- * The Advisory Committee on Property: this Quaker committee can provide technical advice on the bricks and mortar of your building. See www.quaker.org.uk/property-matters
- * The Energy Saving Trust is a government-funded, free and impartial service. They offer advice and support for finding sources of funding (they are a referral agent for local authority and national grants). Their website contains lots of helpful information on many of the areas covered on pages 35–44, including appliances, how to generate your own energy, details of the Feed-In Tariff scheme, plus guidance on accepting free PVs. You can also ring them for advice. Visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- * Northfield Ecocentre is a Birmingham-based charity inspiring people to live greener lives. It is a project owned by the Central England Quaker Area Meeting. Their website contains factsheets on many of the areas covered on pages 35–44. See www.northfieldecocentre.org, particularly under 'Advice'.
- * 'Witness of Our Buildings' information sheets, produced by Living Witness. Available to download at www.livingwitness.org.uk/buildings.html

Using your land

- * Caring for God's Acre: aims to inspire and support local communities to care for churchyards and burial grounds in a way that benefits both people and wildlife. www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
- * EarthAbbey: a movement of people helping one another to live more in tune with the earth. See www.earthabbey.com
- * Eco-congregation Module 9: Planting and Conserving Eden. See www.ecocongregation.org
- * Grow Zones: 'a community project bringing help and inspiration to your garden, wonderful food to your table and adding friendship and purpose to your life'. See www.growzones.com
- * Landshare: connects growers with people with land to share. See www.landshare.net
- * Quaker Garden Project: a Norwich-based movement encouraging Quaker Meetings around the country to make the best possible use of the land on which their meeting house is built. See www.norfolk-quakers.org.uk
- * Transition Initiatives. Transition Network helps communities deal with climate change and shrinking supplies of cheap energy (peak oil). This process, which is called transition, aims to create stronger, happier communities. See www.transitionnetwork.org

Using your money

- * *Ethical Considerations for Quaker Investors: Profits and Principles*. These notes on investment were prepared by Quaker Finance and Property Central Committee in April 2001. Available from Sunniva Taylor on 020 7663 1047 or sunnivat@quaker.org.uk

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- * *Investment and Engaging with Companies: A Guide for Faith Communities*. The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR), 2008. Includes sections on the relationship between faith, values and finance; the 'business case' for corporate responsibility; why faith groups need to invest responsibly; how churches hold their funds; and the practical dos and don'ts of dialogue and engagement. Available to download at www.eccr.org.uk
- * *Is your money working for the world?:* A study pack for individuals and groups to help bridge the gap between faith and practice. Jennie Levin. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, 2000. Contains lots of exercises helpful to groups exploring these issues. Available at www.quaker.org.uk/files/Is-your-money-working-for-the-world.pdf
- * *The Treasurers Handbook* includes a section on ethical investment. Available to download at www.quaker.org.uk/treasurers-handbook. Britain Yearly Meeting supports treasurers in other ways too: see www.quaker.org.uk/treasurers
- * ECCR can provide a speaker to help your meeting explore the issues around ethical investment and money. Go to www.eccr.org.uk or contact Helen Boothroyd on 020 8965 9682 or helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk.

Other organisations

- * 10:10: a movement of people, schools, businesses and organisations cutting their carbon emissions 10% at a time. See www.1010uk.org
- * *Carbon Conversations*: six meetings about low-carbon living outlined in a book and led by trained facilitators. See www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org
- * Carbon Trust: provides specialist support to help business and the public sector boost business returns by cutting carbon emissions, saving energy and commercialising low-carbon technologies. See www.carbontrust.org.uk
- * *Ecocell*: a toolkit established by Christian Ecology Link, designed to help you live a simpler, more Christian lifestyle. See www.christian-ecology.org.uk/ecocell.htm
- * *Eco-congregation*: an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community. See www.ecocongregation.org
- * *EcoTeams*: you can join an existing team or start a new one. Information at www.ecoteams.org.uk
- * Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR): a church-based investor coalition and membership organisation working for economic justice, environmental sustainability and corporate and investor responsibility. See www.eccr.org.uk
- * Energy Saving Trust: helps people to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. Visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- * Operation Noah: a Christian organisation providing leadership, focus and inspiration in response to the growing threat of climate change endangering God's creation. See www.operationnoah.org
- * Transition Initiatives: a community-led response to the pressures of climate change, fossil fuel depletion and economic contraction. Go to www.transitionnetwork.org

Other books

There are numerous books about sustainability and sustainable living. The following are just some that we have found particularly useful or inspiring:

- * Goodall, C. (2007) *How to live a low-carbon life: the individual's guide to stopping climate change*, Oxford: Earthscan (Taylor & Francis Group). A detailed examination of the steps we as individuals can take to reduce our carbon footprint.
- * Hopkins, R. (2008) *The Transition Handbook: From oil dependency to local resilience*, Totnes: Green Books. The founder of the Transition Network explains the Transition movement, why it's important and how to get involved.
- * Jackson, T. (2011) *Prosperity without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*, London: Routledge. An easy-to-understand demolition of the infinite growth foundation of conventional economics and a sound exposition of what we could substitute for it.
- * Mackay, D. (2008) *Sustainable Energy – Without the Hot Air*, Cambridge: UIT Cambridge. Stuffed with the numbers related to energy, this book aims to cut through the 'twaddle' surrounding green energy and give people the information to talk truth to inconsistent hyperbole.
- * Macy, J. and Young Brown, M. (1998) *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World*, Canada: New Society Publishers (D&M Publishers). This book offers an analysis of the situation we are in, followed by a host of group activities for those who wish to explore their approach to inspiration.
- * McIntosh, A. (2008) *Hell and High Water: Climate Change, Hope and the Human Condition*, Edinburgh: Birlinn. Summarises the science of what is happening to the planet, both globally and using Scotland as a local case study. The author goes on to suggest that politics alone is not enough to tackle the scale and depth of the problem, arguing that at root is our addictive consumer mentality.
- * Stibbe, A. (ed.) (2009) *The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: Skills for a changing world*, Totnes: Green Books. This book is made up of 33 chapters, written by experts from the field of sustainability. Available at www.sustainability-literacy.org
- * Tudge, C. (2007) *Feeding People is Easy*, Pari (Italy): Pari Publishing. This book argues that we have all the necessary techniques, wisdom and good will to feed people and to create what the author calls 'Enlightened Agriculture'.
- * Wilkinson, R. and Pickett, K. (2010) *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*, London: Penguin Books. Provides hard evidence to show how almost everything – from life expectancy to depression levels, violence to illiteracy – is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is.

Yearly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) In Britain at the Yearly Meeting held in Canterbury at the University of Kent

30 July – 6 August 2011

Minute 36: As led ('Gathering up the threads')

'Sustainability is an urgent matter for our Quaker witness. It is rooted in Quaker testimony and must be integral to all we do corporately and individually.'

(*A framework for action 2009–2014*)

A concern for the Earth and the well-being of all who dwell in it is not new, and we have not now received new information which calls us to act. Rather we are renewing our commitment to a sense of the unity of creation which has always been part of Friends' testimonies. Our actions have as yet been insufficient.

John Woolman's words in 1772 sound as clearly to us now:

'The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.'

(*Quaker faith & practice 25.01*)

So we have long been aware that our behaviour impoverishes the earth and that it is our responsibility both to conserve the earth's resources and to share them more equitably. Our long-standing commitment to peace and justice arises in part from our understanding of the detrimental effect of war and conflicts, in damaging communities and squandering the earth's resources. As a yearly meeting we have considered this before, and in 1989 we adopted The World Council of Churches' concern for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, minuting that this concern 'grows from our faith, and cannot be separated from it. It challenges us to look again at our lifestyles and reassess our priorities, and makes us realise the truth of Gandhi's words: "Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is"'.

In 2009 the Yearly Meeting endorsed the statement made by Meeting for Sufferings on 'A Quaker response to the crisis of climate change'. This statement was addressed to the Copenhagen Conference and all Friends and meetings were urged to take up its challenges.

In preparation for this yearly meeting gathering, in the background reading, in many of the events and activities, in the Swarthmore lecture and in yesterday's introduction and threshing groups, prophetic voices have prompted us to wrestle once again with the immensity of the challenge we face.

We are grateful to those Friends who have responded in their own lives and who have encouraged and informed us. We know that some Friends and meetings have made changes to reduce their impact on the environment, and that there is much more which may yet be done.

continued overleaf



7. FURTHER RESOURCES

We need to arrive at a place in which we all take personal responsibility to make whatever changes we are called to. At the same time, we need to pledge ourselves to corporate action. The environmental crisis is enmeshed with global economic injustice and we must face our responsibility as one of the nations which has unfairly benefited at others' expense, to redress inequalities which, in William Penn's words, are 'wretched and blasphemous' (*Quaker faith & practice* 25.13).

The action we are ready to take at this time is to make a strong corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. This will require a process to establish a baseline of current witness and a framework in which individual Friends and local meetings can share their successes.

We need to allocate adequate resources to this process. This process needs to be joyful and spirited, with room for corporate discernment at local, area and national level. We believe this corporate action will enable us to speak truth to power more confidently. Growing in the spirit is a consequence of taking action, and action flows from our spiritual growth; here is the connectedness we seek. Only a demanding common task builds community.

'Whom shall I send?' We hear the call to this demanding common task. How will we answer it?

We have been reminded of the current work of Quaker Peace & Social Witness. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to work with area meetings and our staff to make better known our current witness and to give thought to appropriate aims for our corporate commitment and the framework which will allow our successes to be shared. We ask them to look at the priorities in A Framework for Action and ask Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to see where there are resources that can be allocated to these priorities to support our corporate commitment and to take our action forward. In addition we ask Meeting for Sufferings to look at the issues of public policy that we might be led to adopt and advocate in the political arena.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to report back to Yearly Meeting each year on the progress of this concern.

We ask area meetings to consider how truth prospers with regard to sustainability, taking care to relate this to all our testimonies – peace, truth, simplicity, equality and care for the environment.

We encourage local and area meetings to practise speaking truth to power at local level by establishing relationships with all sections of local communities, including politicians, businesses and schools, to encourage positive attitudes to sustainability.

To individual Friends we issue a clear call to action to consider the effect of their lives on the world's limited resources and in particular on their carbon usage. We ask Friends to keep informed about the work being done locally, centrally and throughout the Quaker world and to educate themselves.

But above all that, Friends keep in their hearts that this action must flow from nowhere but love.

If we are successful in what we set out to do, we will need to be accountable to one another, but we will also need to be tender with one another, and to support one another through the grief and fear that radical change will provoke.

'I may have faith enough to move mountains; but if I have not love, I am nothing... Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance. Love will never come to an end.'

(1 Corinthians ch. 13: verses 2–8 (parts), *New English Bible*)

Lis Burch, Clerk