

CQEW Annual Report: November 2014

Every year Earth's climate related devastation caused by human activity becomes more severe. We in CQEW share both our pain and an urgent calling as we witness the distress of our biosphere while destruction and extinctions amass. Fossil fuels burned for our electricity, heating, and for running our vehicles are the cause. We find solace through our work together, though we are humbled by our limited reach.

Our efforts to do our part to elevate our greater community's environmental awareness and to reverse the pattern of climate change has taken many forms:

- We supported our members' work to bring attention to the history of The Doctrine of Discovery. This included a movingly experiential program by a visiting Friend from Boulder, CO;
- We assisted the City of Cambridge with a luncheon program to promote awareness in houses of worship that we all have vulnerability to extreme weather, and that we need to alert our congregations of this;
- We hosted a talk with State Senator Barrett to learn about the status of a carbon tax bill for Massachusetts. We continue to search for ways to his work with this issue;
- We initiated a request to our trustees that FMC ask Friends Fiduciary to divest of fossil fuel stocks. With additional support from other Quaker entities, Friends Fiduciary now has a fossil fuel free fund in which FMC has placed its investments.
- We support the New Story/Cosmology Group in its advocacy for a more integrated understanding of science and religion and the implications for human self-understanding in the light of our changing worldview;
- We participated in demonstrations/marches regarding the Salem Plant's conversion;
- We gave a forum regarding non-violent direct action, which led to an ad hoc group forming, called the Bolder, Deeper action group;
- We promoted participation in the great Climate March on Sept 21.
- We sponsored two workshops called the "The Work that Reconnects" that provided environmental consciousness raising in the Joanna Macy tradition. A sizeable group of non-FMC attendees (many local college students students) were exceedingly enthusiastic and made the sessions virtual 'Beneficial Cycle' events. A third session is being scheduled.

We appreciate the care and support we receive from our beloved FMC community as we continue to seek ways to effect positive change.

In closing, we have a question to pose at this annual report time - one that we believe is important both from and spiritual and global survival standpoint. Knowing that it's a complex idea, we would be willing to craft the practicalities of implementing such an idea for FMC:

"Would the FMC and its members be willing to take on some form of voluntary Carbon Tax as a symbol of our determination to be part of the solution to global climate change, as opposed to being part of the problem?"

Submitted with gratitude by committee members: Mary Coelho, Midori Evans, Marion Foster, Lissa Gifford, Mary Gilbert (recording clerk), Diana Lopez, Gwen Noyes (clerk), Bob Noyes, Jeremy Russo, and Ben Warner