

Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness Committee Annual Report, January 2015

Our activities this year show our branching out in collaboration with Quakers and other faith groups on behalf of the Meeting and the Earth. We are committed to continue working in an interfaith way, as it is clear that the possibilities for success in our environmental work are much greater with such cooperation. We are particularly committed to developing and sustaining an outreach program on behalf of the MA Carbon Pricing Bill, S. 1747, and hope to engage FMC, the wider Massachusetts Quaker community, and statewide faith communities --- as well --- in this effort.

Summary of programs and activities CQEW has sponsored or co---sponsored over the last year:

- In December 2014, CQEW co---sponsored with FMC's Deeper Bolder Action Group a demonstration at the Brayton Point coal---powered electric plant, Although some Friends were prepared, there were no arrests.
- In February, we sponsored a day---long deep ecology workshop "The Work that Reconnects." This seminar, created by Joanna Macy, was repeated in November, in partnership with Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting, with good attendance both times.
- In March, we and the New Story Group co---sponsored a dinner for the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, a group of congregations of many faiths that work to establish the beloved community among us.
- In April, as an Earth Day program, we screened for FMC the new movie called "Planetary", a deep ecology exploration of our relationship to all matter on earth.
- Over several months we collaborated with the Trustees of FMC on their consideration of buying green electricity from a local solar farm (ongoing);
- In the spring of 2015, CQEW brought a Climate Change minute drafted by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to FMC for consideration. The meeting approved, allowing our name to be listed with those of meetings from many states and countries.
- Several members of CQEW joined others from FMC in the Harvard Divest week demonstration.
- In November, several members participated in a demonstration in West Roxbury, against the installation of a pipeline to bring more natural gas to and through Boston. Six persons were arrested.
- CQEW gave a workshop in November with MA State Senator Michael Barrett in which we learned more about the legislative

process that the bill he sponsored – S.1747 – must go through, and how we might assist and accelerate that process by reaching out to other faith communities across the state, and encouraging them to lobby their state representatives.

- In very late November, we encouraged members to join a march from Harvard Square to the State House in Boston in solidarity with the UN climate negotiations that were about to begin in Paris. This march was one of well over 2000 such marches and rallies around the world.

Mary Coelho, Mary Gilbert (Recording Clerk), Diana Lopez, Gwen Noyes (Clerk), Robert Noyes, Jim Serdy, Ben Warner

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Gwen Noyes, Clerk of CQEW, listed the members of the Committee. Friends thanked these individuals for their work and held the Committee in the Light.

Gwen reminded Friends that the CQEW Annual Report was published in the January 2016 *Minutes & Reports*.

Gwen reminded Friends of the discussion of Senator Barrett's bill S1747 in September 2015 and the endorsement by Meeting for Business in Worship of the bill in October 2015. She noted that CQEW is now trying to make passage of the bill more likely by encouraging other religious organizations and individuals to sign on.

Gwen requested that the Meeting approve a Minute that endorses a letter and a cover letter created by both CQEW and the Clerk's Table (to be found in the March edition of *Minutes & Reports*). These will be sent to the four individuals listed at the top of the letter as well as other religious communities to encourage support of the bill.

Friends approved this letter with a request to add that we are a widespread and numerous community and to say that climate change is "threatening," rather than being the greatest challenge to the health and well---being of the citizens of Massachusetts, since there are many challenges competing with climate change.