

June 2025 Climate Action Report

In 2008, Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness proposed a minute on Carbon Emissions Reduction, committing our Meeting to at least 20% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020. Trustees faithfully tracked progress over the years. We met that goal and have continued in that Spirit. This past winter, our Meetinghouse was kept warm with new all-electric heat pumps, which replaced the old oil burner.

Our broader climate commitment since 2008 has included prioritized improvements recommended by a 2010 energy assessment, along with other initiatives:

- renovating or replacing windows to be more energy efficient,
- storm windows on the Meetinghouse,
- conversion to LED lighting,
- energy- and water-saving improvements (2012 HEET Volunteer Day), and
- 100% renewable electricity.

Our shared meals are vegan, we don't purchase single-use plastics, and we compost any food waste. FMC has divested from fossil fuel companies, and requested that Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) seek to invest in companies active in alternative sources of energy.

In 2025, the climate crisis has become even more grave, and we are committed to a stronger goal - at least "net zero", and ideally completely eliminating fossil fuel use on the property. The [City of Cambridge](#) and the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#) have targeted 2050 to achieve net zero, or carbon neutrality. The Climate Action Group was inspired by Brookline's more urgent goal of 2040, and we feel that is achievable for FMC.

The following was approved by Friends Meeting at Cambridge Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on June 22, 2025:

In keeping with our testimonies of integrity, sustainability and peace that call us to move toward right relationship with the natural world, Friends Meeting at Cambridge commits to a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions from our facilities by 2040. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, we will seek to transform the property under our care to have zero use of fossil fuels and also consider other sustainable choices.

We acknowledge the effort that will be required by the Trustees Committee for both the facilities and the finances to make it happen. As the committee works to create a new multi-year plan, climate-supportive choices will need to be incorporated wherever possible. Appliances, heat, and hot water in the Friends Center burn natural gas. Fully electrifying the building will take considerable planning. To augment the increased load on the property's electrical service, FMC should also consider the possibility of solar panels on the Meetinghouse and the Friends Center. Solar generation may also be needed to offset any remaining gas usage to achieve "net zero".

FMC's 2008 Minute began "Faced with firm scientific evidence of climate change and knowledge of the devastating consequences for all life on earth if it is unchecked, Friends Meeting at Cambridge feels called to strong, faithful action." These words are even truer now, and the Meeting's approval of this new Minute represents a new commitment to the stewardship of the earth and all of us who depend on it.