



# Climate justice a Quaker view

“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...”

Minute 36, Yearly Meeting 2011



# Take action

Quaker Peace & Social Witness is here to support you in your witness on climate justice. Action can take many forms:

## 1. Speak out

Whether or not your elected representatives are worried about the climate crisis, they need to feel pressure to take action. We can provide briefings, support and training to help you talk to your MP or local councillors.



## 2. Build the alternative

We can support you with a local project or help share your story. We can direct you to practical advice for building the new economy, from food co-operatives to community-led housing, and support meetings to explore your strengths and opportunities and link up with others.



Photo: Huddersfield Quakers



Photo: BYM

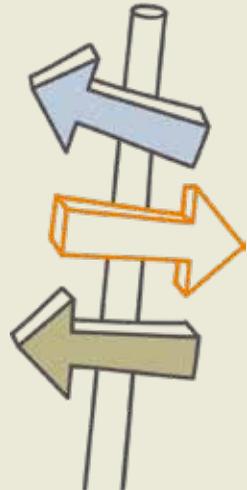
### 3. **Tell a new story**

Spread the word: climate action is about collective action to change our economy and our politics. Individual change is not enough. Don't let yourself be paralysed by guilt – find your voice, share your story, work with others. Seek out voices you don't usually hear, and let them inspire you.



### 4. **Change your ways**

From diet to transport, your everyday choices can help let your life speak. Support for Friends and meetings exploring the Quaker commitment to sustainability is available from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Email [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk).



### 5. **Move your money**

Encourage your meeting to join the many who have pulled their money out of fossil fuels. Ask your employer for a fossil-free pension. Consider switching to a more ethical bank. ECCR's 'Money Makes Change' programme offers useful resources: [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk)



Photo: BYM

# 6.

## Disrupt directly

There is a long Quaker tradition of taking nonviolent direct action (NVDA) in support of concerns that have been tested within a meeting. NVDA involves targeted peaceful protest or intervention to disrupt harmful activities and challenge unjust power dynamics. If you're considering NVDA and would like information or support, QPSW can help. But you don't have to be 'on the front line'. For every person putting their body in the way of injustice, many more are needed to organise, research, facilitate, do media work, and care for everyone's well-being. What could you offer?



Photo: Ben Robinson for BYM

# What is climate justice?



The climate crisis affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally. Wealthy people and countries are cushioned from the worst impacts of climate breakdown, at least for now; the poorest, who have done the least to cause the crisis, are hardest hit.

## **Climate justice means:**

- we must acknowledge that climate breakdown is a result of our unjust global economic system. The wealth of the UK and other industrialised countries is built on the violent and racist exploitation of people and the earth. Today, our economy's dependence on fossil fuels and their extraction still hits poor people hardest.
- rich nations must do the most to tackle the crisis.
- we must not only cut greenhouse gas emissions, but build more just economies – locally, nationally and globally.
- the rights and voices of poor and marginalised people must come first in the transition to zero carbon.

## **Why take action?**

Quakers seek God in everyone and have a long tradition of social action for equality, peace and care for the earth. The climate crisis now calls us to use our skills, time and resources in support of the growing climate justice movement.

The Arctic ice is melting. Droughts are forcing farmers to abandon their land and their homes. Almost every year brings record-breaking heatwaves. We urgently need to build a new economy that puts equality, peace and our living planet before profit.

Now more than ever, we must stand with those in the Global South who have been working for decades to protect their communities from fossil-fuel and mineral extraction.

**“We are journeying from guilt, shame and grief, to speaking of accountability and responsibility, and then to the desire for action [...]**

**“We need to address our fear to begin to do something positive. We have seen signs of hope, but we have work to do, to transform ourselves, our communities and our world.”**

Minute 33, Yearly Meeting 2019



Did you find this resource useful? To let us know your thoughts, to share a story of witness or to request support from QPSW, please call 020 7663 1046 or email [climatejustice@quaker.org.uk](mailto:climatejustice@quaker.org.uk).

A large-print version is available: please email [publications@quaker.org.uk](mailto:publications@quaker.org.uk) or call 020 7663 1162.

Published in 2020 by Britain Yearly Meeting, registered charity number 1127633  
Cover photo: Ben Robinson for BYM. Photo above: Suki Ferguson for BYM.

[www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)