



## FACING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS FRIENDS

### LUUDWIG BON QUIROG BOHOL WORSHIP GROUP, PHILIPPINES

*"We don't have to wait years for great rivers and lakes to ferry used Coca Cola bottles and caps into the ocean"*



Ludwig weighing 834 kg of plastic rubbish collected by volunteers in just two hours. Some of the plastic rubbish contained dead sea creatures which had been trapped inside.

While it's true for any place on our planet that the ocean is often the final resting place for our plastic waste, the process is hastened in my part of the world. The Philippines has over 7,000 islands and very poor solid waste management - the consequences of which are very real and immediate.

I volunteer with a local environmental group that started in November 2015 to protest against the prospect of a coal power plant being built on our island. Since then, our focus has expanded to include other concerns like plastic consciousness. We collect non-biodegradable rubbish from different coastal areas around the Island province and afterwards give brief talks on plastic pollution and introduce sustainable alternatives. Some of the group also lobby for legislation banning single-use disposable plastics, while others run campaigns with business owners.

The group is made up of people from different faith backgrounds, but I consider my participation as Quaker ministry. I see it as an expression of basic testimonies. In striving to live an ecologically sound Earthly existence, one learns to live with *simplicity*; one is compelled to always express one's *truth* so that others may follow suit; one empathises with other creatures and recognises the inherent *equality* between all beings; and one also endeavours to make *peace* with the Earth.

Quakers all around the world are taking climate action, striving to live faithfully in a sustainable way on the earth. Read more stories online at [www.fwcc.world/sustainability](http://www.fwcc.world/sustainability)