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“We don’t have to wait years for great rivers and lakes to ferry used Coca Cola bottles and caps into the ocean”

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