



FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Sustainability Toolkit

fwcc.world/sustainability

A Toolkit for Friends, Meetings, Churches, and Worship groups to ask

How does God call us to act to build a more sustainable future?

This toolkit includes:

- Friends speak about what sustainability means to them
- Ideas for gathering people together
- Questions to explore
- Worship Sharing Guidelines
- Share your thoughts with the FWCC sustainability communications officer

Introduction

Following FWCC's decision in 2016 to meet less frequently as a world body, the FWCC World Office wanted to bring Friends together using technology, creating the first Online Sustainability Conference in February 2020.

The Conference consisted of pre-recorded video speeches from Friends in each of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Office - Geneva, followed by worship sharing. Gathering the Quaker voice, elders listened and created the statement *How does God call us to act: An Online Conference with Friends Worldwide*.

Online Sustainability Conference statement concludes:

"So how does FWCC build on this experience? Although this was not a formal consultation, but an open invitation that Friends responded to, it is clear that the concern regarding sustainability and climate change is shared by Friends of all traditions and throughout the world. FWCC provides a channel through which Friends can share experience. This Conference provides a model for how this might be done, engaging in a sustainable way with many more members of the Quaker community. We can build on this by continuing to make a space available for more regular exchange and for sharing experiences, tools, skills and resources."

Read the full statement on the FWCC World Office website at: fwcc.world/sustainability/statements

Friends speak about what sustainability means to them

Engage with the speakers from the Sustainability Conference in one of two ways:

1. Find the videos on our youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtP28ZV5tL-irfUs6LzHrIA>
2. Download the speaker transcripts on our website:
<http://fwcc.world/sustainability/resources>

Speaker One

Lindsey Fielder Cook

Speaker Two

Cherice Bock

Speaker Three

Cris De La Cruz

Speaker Four

Esther Mombo

Speaker Five

Anya Nanning Murphy

Ideas for gathering people together

In order to move sustainability work forward and include more voices, we want to hear from you! *How do you believe we, as Quakers around the world, are being called to act and to build a more sustainable future?*

- Organise regular meeting of interested Friends using Zoom
- Watch a video together – this can easily be done online
- Consider questions below together – probably one or two at a time
- Be creative in how you express yourselves – using pictures, video, etc.
- When thinking of structural or behavioural change, consider what you have not yet imagined
- Discuss your lived experiences of climate change, and how you can move beyond what you know
- Ask yourselves ‘What ideas are coalescing and how might we act on them?’
- Consider how your group wants to feedback ideas to FWCC

Questions to explore

- What are the radical edges of sustainability work?
- What do we have to learn from thoughtful and active young people?
- How do we change the narrative and the way we live?
- How do we engage others to build a movement and build energy?
- What inventive ideas do you have to reduce and reuse waste?
- How do we protect people from the impacts of climate change?
- How do we as Friends move forward on this?
- What do Quakers have to offer the climate change debate?

Worship Sharing Guidelines

If you choose to explore the questions in a group, worship sharing is one way to do that and here are some guidelines.

As we know, the term ‘worship sharing’ differs among Friends and across the branches.

- Determine a way to acknowledge when someone will speak, such as appointing an Elder or watching for a person to unmute themselves on Zoom.
- Reach as deeply as you can into the center of your being, asking God to speak to you.
- In worship sharing, you might speak more readily, responding to the slightest prompt to speak. Ask yourself, ‘is this likely to be useful to others gathered?’
- Speak from your own experience about your experience. Concentrate on feelings and changes rather than on thoughts and theories.
- Out of the silence, if you want to speak, ‘stand’ (or raise your hand on Zoom) and wait for the Elder to call on you or someone else.
- Listen to the ministry offered.
- Expect to speak only once.
- Respect the confidentiality of what has been shared.
- Be grateful.

What does sustainability mean?

When we refer to sustainability, we define it in the broadest sense. This includes concerns around climate change, care for creation, peace, depletion of natural resources, human rights, and economic justice. Sustainability means building a world that sustains all forms of life. As God's creation gives us life, so must we be good stewards and protect what we have been given.

Share your thoughts with the FWCC sustainability communications officer

- Email sustainability@fwcc.world
- Tag us on facebook [@fwccworldoffice](https://www.facebook.com/fwccworldoffice)
- Tag us on Twitter [@fwccworldoffice](https://twitter.com/fwccworldoffice)
- Tag us on Instagram [@fwcc_worldoffice](https://www.instagram.com/fwcc_worldoffice)
- Use the hashtags [#RadicalQuakers](https://twitter.com/hashtag/RadicalQuakers) and [#FWCC](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FWCC) [#Sustainability](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Sustainability)
- If you make a video, send it to us via [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com)



Your sharing of ideas helps move us forward in our discussion at the next World Plenary Meeting. Just as we decided to divest from fossil fuels at our last World Plenary Meeting, we look forward to discovering how God will move us toward our preferred future – together.

Get involved with FWCC's Sustainability work:

- Visit our website <http://fwcc.world/sustainability/get-involved>
- Share your sustainability case study to sustainability@fwcc.world
- Partner with another church, meeting, or worship group to understand how Friends are differently affected by climate change and how we talk about the shared concern.
- Join a support group such as **Quaker Earthcare Witness** in the US or find a group near you via <https://quakersandclimatechange.com/>
- Keep learning and searching for solutions.
- Raise the climate agenda and make your community aware.
- Campaign for change and lobby your leaders and politicians.
- Support Quaker organisations working in this area such as your yearly meeting, **Quaker United Nations Office — Geneva**, **Quaker Earthcare Witness**, and **Friends Committee on National Legislation**.
- Contribute financially to **Friends World Committee for Consultation**.
- Pray for the world developing a daily ritual like lighting a candle.