

**Earthcare Minute**

Human activity is causing a range of catastrophic effects including habitat destruction, pollution of air, soil and water, resource depletion, species extinction, global warming, and new forms of disease, including some that cross the human – nonhuman barrier. With reverence and respect for all Creation, Friends must bring the full weight of our history and engagement with the world, to help stop and where possible, reverse these effects, in order to leave a habitable planet to future generations of all species, plant and animal as well as human.

This calls us to live up to our Quaker principle of simplicity, regarding what we choose to buy, to eat, and to invest in. We must also seek additional ways to reduce our negative impact upon the health and well-being of our planet. But as important as these changes are to our individual and household habits, they are not enough to assure a better future for future generations.

Therefore, Friends are urged to support collective as well as personal responses to the climate crisis. These could include group tree planting, stream and river cleanups, establishing community gardening and/or composting centers, to name a few actions. Friends are urged to stay informed of pending government legislation promoted by Quaker earth care groups and other environmental organizations and to contact their elected representatives regularly to express their opinions.\*

Wide-spread civic action, virtually or in real space, as appropriate to conditions, may be appropriate.

In contemplating collective actions, care should be taken to include the input of marginalized and frontline communities that suffer first and worst from global warming and environmental degradation. We must also support a just transition for workers who may lose their livelihoods in the transformation to a more earth-friendly economy.

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~~~~~ \*A comprehensive digest of potential state and federal legislation may be found at ClimateCrisisPolicy.org. A respected source of scientifically and financially validated climate solutions is “The Drawdown Review,” available at [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org)

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Approved by Shrewsbury-Plainfield Half-Yearly Meeting, September 26, 2020.

Norma Heller  
Half-Yearly Clerk pro tem