

QUAKER ECO-BULLETIN

Information and Action Addressing Public Policy for an Ecologically Sustainable World

Volume 1, Number 5

January/February 2002

Quaker Eco-Witness News

Dear Friends,

This is the QEW coordinators' annual report to its network. In a few months we will ask you to renew your financial support and to contribute to an Eco-Intern project described below. If you normally make your contributions at this time of year and wish to renew your financial support of QEW now, please consider making an added contribution to the Eco-Intern project.

PROJECTS

Toward a Friends Eco-Witness in Washington

QEW has been instrumental in generating support for adding ecological concerns to Friends' national legislative priorities. We participated in revising Part IV of FCNL's legislative policy statement, "We seek an earth restored..." which was approved at the annual meeting in November. Among the notable revisions to Part IV are new sections on "Population and Consumption" and "Global Climate Change and Energy Policy." FCNL's bi-annual review of its legislative priorities helps to determine how staff time will be used. QEW encourages meetings and individuals to participate in this important process, particularly in Phase 2, which takes place between May and September. You can review the entire revised Part IV statement at <http://www.fcnl.org/legpolcy/sek_restrd.htm>.

QEW Eco-Intern in Washington

In collaboration with the National Environmental Trust (NET) and in consultation with FCNL, QEW is developing a plan to sponsor a young adult Friend who will work as an intern at NET and provide both QEW and FCNL with a link to the Washington Interfaith Energy and Ecology Working Group. We see this as an important step toward making it possible for FCNL to expand its scope to more fully include "seeking an earth restored" in the foreseeable future.

We will announce the details of this plan early in 2002 and ask for your financial contributions and active support. We anticipate that our fundraising target will be about \$10,000 by the end of July. As requested above, please consider making an added contribution to the Eco-Intern project when renewing your support of QEW.

Contributions to cover the costs of Friendly Eco-Action Alerts, Quaker Eco-Bulletin, and to enable QEW's work are welcome at: QEW c/o Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, 173-B N Prospect St, Burlington VT 05401

A Friends' Consultation on Economics and Ecology

One of our underlying concerns is the conflict between our society's ecological realities and the functioning of its economic institutions. We believe that sooner or later the Society of Friends will be compelled to address this conflict and to find unity in lifting it up as the fundamental task of our time, what Thomas Berry refers to as "the great work" to which we are called.

We have begun to develop plans for a Friends' Consultation on Economics and Ecology during the spring of 2003. This consultation will bring together a group of Friends distinguished by their work in ecology, economics, and public policy as related directly or indirectly to Friends' testimonies to consider

- 1) how concerned Friends can speak in unity and with conviction grounded in our faith on the need for an appropriate reform of our economic institutions, and
- 2) how Friends might participate in planting the seeds of appropriate policies and legislation by working with FCNL and/or with other faith-based groups.

We recently learned that AFSC is planning to organize a study group to focus specifically during the coming year on how issues of economic globalization relate to their community development projects. We believe this QEW consultation will be able to build on and broaden the work of the AFSC study group. We plan to seek special funding for the Consultation on Economics and Ecology once our plans have seasoned.

If you know of individuals who would be particularly well suited to participate, please contact Keith Helmuth at <QEW@fcun.org>.

ACTIVITIES

QEW developed a format and process for Friendly Eco-Action Alerts, an online vehicle for Friends to circulate action alerts on national policy. Five alerts were circulated to our email list of about 350 Friends.

QEW published four Quaker Eco-Bulletins that have been circulated both by email and as inserts in *BeFriending Creation*. We acknowledge and thank Judy Lumb and Sandra Lewis who are serving on an editorial board, and Joe Lopez and Suellen Lowry who wrote two of the bulletins.

QEW sponsored a young adult Friend at the National Council of Churches environmental justice conference in May, and the FCNL Annual Meeting in November, both in Washington DC.

QEW published "Peace on Earth, Peace with Earth," a pamphlet based on Kim Carlyle's presentation at the Quaker Peace Roundtable.

QEW network coordinators and members provided articles, presentations and leadership for workshops:

- William Penn House Youth Seminar (Kim and Susan Carlyle),
- Quaker Peace Roundtable at State College PA (Kim Carlyle),
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Earth Day Conference at Sandy Spring MD (Ed Dreby, Keith Helmuth, Stan Becker of BYM and FCUN, Tracey McCowan of PhilaYM),
- Friends Environmental Education Network Conference at Westtown PA (Kim and Susan Carlyle, Ed Dreby, and Hollister Knowlton, PhilaYM and FCUN),
- Friends General Conference (Kim and Susan Carlyle),
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Ed Dreby, Keith Helmuth, Hollister Knowlton, Tracey McCowan),
- "The Ecology of Peace and Justice" - Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting (Kim Carlyle),
- "Ecological Integrity and Religious Faith" - August 2001 issue of *Friends Journal* (Keith Helmuth),
- "John Woolman and the Work Ethic: The Seeds of Great Calamity Revisited" - Annual John Woolman Memorial Lecture on October 28 at Mount Holly Friends Meeting House (Keith Helmuth).

For copies of "Peace on Earth, Peace with Earth," "The Ecology of Peace and Justice," "Ecological Integrity and Religious Faith," or "John Woolman and the Work Ethic: The Seeds of Great Calamity Revisited" contact QEW by phone 828/626-2572 or email QEW@fcun.org

QEW Coordinators:

Kim Carlyle, Barnardsville, NC (828-626-2572)
Elaine Caldwell Emmi, Salt Lake City, UT (801-582-0719)
Ed Dreby, Mt. Holly, NJ (609-261-8190)
Keith Helmuth, Philadelphia, PA (215-545-3417)

Quaker Eco-Bulletin (QEB) is published bi-monthly as an insert in *BeFriending Creation* by **Quaker Eco-Witness**, a project of **Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN)**.

Quaker Eco-Witness (QEW) promotes US government and corporate policies to help restore and protect Earth's biological integrity. It works within and through the Religious Society of Friends for policies that enable human communities to relate in mutually enhancing ways to the ecosystems of which they are a part. This witness seeks to be guided by the Spirit and grounded in reverence for Earth's communities of life as God's creation.

QEB's purpose is to inform the **QEW** network to advance Friends' witness on government and corporate policy as it relates to the ecosystems that sustains us. Each issue is an article about timely legislative or corporate policy issues affecting our society's relationship to the earth.

Friends are invited to contact us about writing an article for *QEB*. Submissions are subject to editing and should:

- Provide background information that reflects the complexity of the issue and is respectful toward other points of view.
- Explain why the issue is a Friends' concern.
- Describe the positions of other faith-based and secular environmental groups on the issue.
- Relate the issue to legislation or corporate policy.
- Provide sources for additional information.

QEB Editorial Committee:
Judy Lumb, Sandra Lewis

To receive *QEB*:
via email, write QEW@FCUN.org.
via the Internet, visit www.FCUN.org.
via mail, write to QEW c/o FCUN

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Quaker Eco-Witness
c/o FCUN,
173-B N Prospect Street
Burlington VT 05401