

QUAKER ECO-BULLETIN

*Information and Action Addressing Public Policy
for an Ecologically Sustainable World*

Volume 3, Number 1

January/February 2003

Dear Friends and other friends,

As we begin the new year, we want to describe our activities of the past year, present our plans for the future, provide information on how we used our funds, and ask for your financial support in the coming year.

We hope you will be pleased with what QEW has accomplished, and that you will continue to support our core budget. Without a number of large donations for the Intern Project or for FCNL, last year's contributions would have just about met our projected core budget for 2003. Any surplus will be used to advance the on-going Consultation on Economics and Ecology that is described below.

Thank you for being part of the QEW Network, and for your continued interest and support.

In faith,

Ed Dreby, Clerk

Quaker Eco-Witness Annual Report - 2002

EVENTS OF 2002

QEW and FCNL

Unexpected Turn of Events: Early in the year we were excited by the prospect of a QEW-sponsored intern working at the National Environmental Trust. This project ended before it began because our prospective intern was led to a different path. We did not seek a replacement for her because, in the meantime, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) moved toward including energy policy as a legislative priority.

Silver Lining: QEW was able to use funds raised for the Intern Project to make a \$5,000 contribution to seed FCNL's work on energy policy, which is now a significant part of Legislative Secretary Ned Stowe's portfolio. FCNL's decision to make energy policy a priority involves expanding the scope and scale of its advocacy and includes adding a senior lobbyist to staff. We are truly grateful that the QEW Network helped make this essential work possible.

Quaker Eco-Bulletin

QEB continues to provide an ecological perspective on a variety of topics concerned with national environmental policy. We published four issues in our usual two-page format and two issues with four-page versions for our web site and printed inserts in *Be-Friending Creation*. These longer issues included graphics, sidebars and expanded text. The email version of all issues continues to be two pages long. Four new authors contributed this year: Bill Bliss, Anne Mitchell, and two members of our editorial group, Sandra Lewis and Judy Lumb.

QEW Consultation on Economics and Ecology

The First Step: A Gathering on Economics and Ecology at Pendle Hill: QEW and the Environmental Working Group (EWG) of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are sponsoring a gathering at Pendle Hill June 13-15, 2003, to initiate an ongoing Consultation on Economics and Ecology within the Society of Friends. The planning

group for this gathering includes Angela Berryman (AFSC Staff), Peter G. Brown (McGill School of Environment), David Damm-Luhr (Organizational Consultant), Tom Head (George Fox University), and QEW coordinators Ed Dreby and Keith Helmuth. **For more information about the Gathering on Economics and Ecology at Pendle Hill, please email <qew@fcun.org>, or call Ed Dreby 609/261-8190.**

QEW Network Developments

In October, Kim Carlyle, QEW clerk for the past two years, became the new clerk of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, and Ed Dreby became QEW clerk. Kim will continue to lead *QEB* editorial group. The QEW network now includes nearly 500 supporters, more than 450 of whom are on our email distribution list.

This is QEW's annual appeal for funds. By eliminating the major expense of a direct mail appeal, we will be able to direct your contributions where they will be most effective. We are hopeful that you will continue to help to sustain our core budget.

**Please make your tax-deductible contribution payable to QEW and mail it to:
QEW c/o FCUN, 173-B N. Prospect St,
Burlington, VT 05401**

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 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:

Kim Carlyle, 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

Projects of Quaker Eco-Witness, such as *QEB*, are funded by contributions to QEW.

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c/o FCUN,

173-B N Prospect Street

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LOOKING AHEAD

QEW Consultation on Economics and Ecology

Tilting at windmills? If organizing Quakers is like herding cats, then how would you describe asking the Society of Friends—through QEW's proposed Consultation on Economics and Ecology—to come to unity on issues as complex as those related to the link between economic policies and ecological disintegration? However, it is increasingly apparent that unchecked economic growth is incompatible with the need to restore the earth's ecological integrity and this realization challenges us to take on this daunting task. We can also ask as others have asked about similar challenges: If not us, who? And if not now, when?

An Epistle on Economics and Ecology: The Gathering on Economics and Ecology will prepare an Epistle to be sent to Meetings throughout the U.S. describing its recommendations for increasing Friends' corporate understanding and discernment about economics, Friends testimonies, and restoring the earth's ecological integrity. Meetings will be asked to consider the questions and queries raised in the Epistle, and to order a resource guide to be prepared for this purpose.

A Resource Guide: Following the Pendle Hill gathering, QEW and EWG, with the assistance of gathering participants, will prepare a resource guide for monthly meetings. It will consist of a number of short articles addressing questions raised in the Epistle about the relationship between economics and restoring the earth's ecological integrity, and queries for individual and corporate discernment. For this effort to succeed, we will need many Friends to invest time, energy, and patience to help others understand and thresh the issues relating to economics and ecology. **If you want to help with this challenge and become involved with the Eco-Consultation, please email <qew@fcun.org>, or call Ed Dreby 609/261-8190.**

QEW and FCNL

A significant increase in annual FCNL donations will be needed to sustain the expansion of FCNL's work on energy policy issues. As we support this effort, we recognize a dilemma: the conceptual context in which FCNL must work remains one that ignores the underlying capital-driven economy's assault on the earth's ecological integrity; meanwhile QEW's Consultation on Economics will challenge that context as a realistic basis for seeking an earth restored.

Quaker Eco-Bulletin

As we begin our third year of *QEB*, we would appreciate your comments and suggestions. What subjects would you like to see in *QEB*? We are always looking for authors and timely topics. **If you are you interested in writing an issue or have other authors to suggest, please contact Kim Carlyle at kcarlyle@juno.com.**

FINANCES

This Past Year

Through November, 2002, QEW received \$8,515 in contributions, and had \$8,210 in expenses which included \$1,204 for the Eco-Bulletin, \$120 for FCUN administration, \$1,175 for mailing the Annual Report and Solicitation, \$420 for conference and travel expenses, and \$291 as seed money for the Gathering. In December we anticipate \$925 in contributions and \$1,250 in expenses. We should note that the Environmental Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting covered our phone expenses in 2002, which it will be unable to do in 2003.

This Coming Year

We have set a core budget for this year of \$4,000: \$1,400 for QEB, \$250 for FCUN administrative expense, \$1,250 for conference and travel expenses, \$500 for telecommunications, and \$500 as additional seed money for the Eco-Consultation. The additional allocations for conferences, travel and telecommunications are because some of these expenses will no longer be covered as in-kind donations by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We are applying for grants and separate contributions to fund both the Eco-Consultation Gathering and the resource guide on economics and ecology as specific joint projects with PYM's Environmental Working Group, with a combined budget of \$15,000 to \$18,000. We expect the Eco-Consultation Gathering will lead to a plan for on-going Eco-Consultation activities in addition to the Pamphlet project involving further expenses. We have no way of anticipating these expenses at this time, and we will have to raise additional funds for this purpose as the way opens and the needs are known.