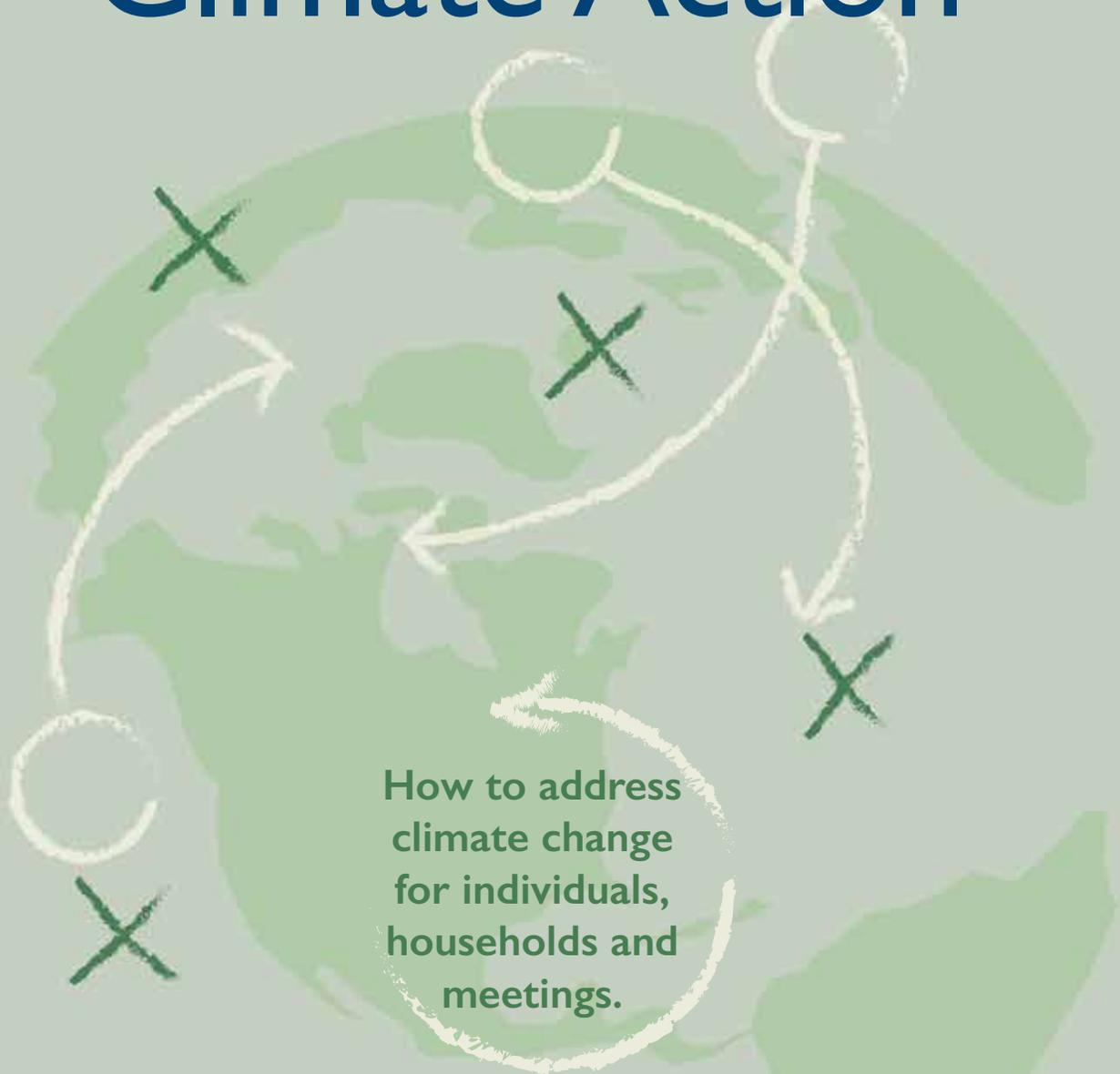


Creating a
PLAYBOOK
for
Climate Action



The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

John Woolman, 1772

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INTRODUCTION

Playbook

noun: **playbook**; plural noun: **playbooks**

1) a notebook containing diagrams or a stock of usual tactics or methods.

2) a book containing a sports team's strategies and plays.

Individuals, households, meetings and groups in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are invited to use this tool filled with a stock of ideas, tactics and plans to create their own game plan for addressing climate change.

The material for this playbook is drawn from the work of the sprint appointed by the yearly meeting to develop a statement on Moving Forward Together in the Face of Climate Change, approved July 2021:

William Cozzens, Germantown

Ruth Darlington, Medford

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Chestnut Hill

Patricia Finley, Old Haverford Friends Meeting

Robert L. Greene, Clerk, Princeton Monthly Meeting

.O, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting

Kathryn Metzker, Willistown Monthly Meeting

Christy Tavernelli, Earth Quaker Action Team Board member

Shelly (Liyiran) Xia, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

The queries and suggestions for this playbook were provided by our Climate Witness Stewards:

Andrew Anderson, Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia

Jackie Bonomo, Clerk, State College Meeting

Ruth Darlington, Medford Meeting

Patricia Finley, Old Haverford Meeting

Robert L. Greene, Princeton Meeting

Witnessing as a Body in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Corporate Witness



Facilitate PYM-wide corporate witness and social action

As seekers of Truth, we expect to be called to action. Together, as a PYM community, we will witness to the Light, contributing to transformational work in the world. We will encourage and support one another in taking risks together, as we make an impact on our society. We will enhance our effectiveness by focusing our corporate action on fewer, clearer goals.

Strategic Directions 2014

In 2014, after years of discernment across the yearly meeting. Friends approved seven strategic directions that serve as a compass to guide us toward God’s invitation to our yearly meeting. One of the directions is to “Facilitate PYM-wide corporate witness and social action.”

A yearly meeting wide witness, or corporate witness (corporate meaning “of the body”), of the yearly meeting is distinct from the witnesses that individuals in the yearly meeting might engage in together. It is more than a social justice issue minuted as a concern by the yearly meeting. It goes beyond saying that the ministry is important to us.

A yearly meeting-wide witness is unique in that:

- There is an expectation that *every* friend, *every* household, *every* meeting, and the yearly meeting as a whole will each discern for themselves how they can respond to this call.
- It is the experience that our entire community and each of its members is asked to respond God’s call, whether or not we experience the call as individuals.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Approved Corporate Witnesses

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has twice approved a ministry as a yearly meeting-wide witness. In January 2015 we approved Addressing Racism as a ministry that belongs to every Friend, meeting and PYM. In March 2021 we approved Addressing Climate Change as a second ministry that all of us are asked to be under the weight of.

Addressing Climate Change

PYM's Commitment

On March 27, 2021, after a year of discernment in yearly meeting sessions and in monthly meetings, PYM committed the entire yearly meeting to strengthen and expand our response to climate change as a corporate witness.

The yearly meeting appointed a sprint (a very short-term committee) to discern our next steps. At Annual Sessions in July 2021, with appreciation for their work, we approved their report including a statement on our commitment to addressing climate change and their recommendation to focus our work in five specific areas.

PYM Statement on Our Commitment to Addressing Climate Change

As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we witness to the truth of our times. In this moment, we recognize that we are facing an existential crisis that requires more than individual actions.

We already face catastrophic fires, storms, droughts, crop failures, and floods. Scientists tell us that what we do in the next decade will determine the fate of humanity. Racial injustice, social injustice, and the climate crisis are inextricably linked; marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities suffer greater effects of this crisis. Many people already suffer and call us to act. Future generations depend on us to act. Knowing the consequences of inaction, integrity demands that we act.

On a fundamental level the Climate Crisis and our response to it is deeply linked to our testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship.

As people of faith, seekers of the truth, and stewards of Creation, we must act with urgency to prevent further suffering and destruction of our planet. We seek to energize everyone involved with PYM to actively undertake this leading and help halt the destruction of life on this sacred earth.

This statement stretches us beyond our past positions and actions. We will maintain a vision of the long term in our decision making and address the interdependent economic, environmental, social and political systems that drive the climate crisis and climate injustice. Specifically, we are called upon to expand our work in five areas: Activism, Education, Carbon Footprint Reduction, Finance, and Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope.

Specifically, we are called upon to focus our work in five areas which are more deeply described in the following pages:

- ⇒ **Activism**
- ⇒ **Education**
- ⇒ **Reducing our carbon footprint**
- ⇒ **Finances**
- ⇒ **Mourning Loss/Instilling Hope**

Addressing Climate Change

Climate Witness Stewards

To help Friends in PYM hold our commitment, we have appointed Climate Witness Stewards and charged them as follows;

CHARGE

The Climate Witness Stewards are established to:

- Stay current with all aspects of PYM's climate change and climate justice related actions, statements, and programs from the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and their relevant parts.
- Draw from their own expertise to synthesize that which they learn from PYM's constituent parts, so they may provide advice, expertise, and recommendations to the Yearly Meeting, and its entities, as needed.
- Hold the yearly meeting accountable to its commitment to a yearly meeting-wide witness on climate change and climate justice

RESPONSIBILITIES

To hold PYM accountable to its commitment, Stewards will:

- Know all aspects of actions, statements, and programs from the yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings.
- Listen, reflect and report on how well, to what extent, and in what ways yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings are living into their commitments.
- Recommend annual benchmarks and activities to be adopted by the body
- Foster an environment that enables and promotes the witness in a Spirit-led, trustworthy, and transparent manner
- Provide advice, expertise, guidance and recommendations:
 - on matters pertaining to climate change and its intersectionality with race and justice and on recommended resources, statements, trainings, trainers etc., suggested or drafted by others, for the use of yearly, monthly and quarterly meetings.
 - to the yearly meeting, and its entities, including councils and other governance groups, as requested or when there is a perceived need, drawing from their own and PYM's constituent parts' expertise
 - Consult with PYM staff and governance when the yearly meeting is considering partnerships with other climate witness organizations in the wider community

Addressing Climate Change

The Five Action Areas

Activism



Through advocacy and Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA), the YM will make a vocal and public witness to the existential crises of our time, using our moral authority to advocate for a swift and just transition to promote environmental justice and climate action.

Education



Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population is uneven and misinformed due to campaigns to cloud the facts. Gaining support for action requires that people understand what is causing climate change, what the current and potential future impacts of climate change are, and what changes in our economy and society are needed to address climate change.

Carbon Footprint Reduction

CO²

By reducing our own carbon footprint, we acknowledge our responsibility for global warming, and in doing this work, we lead by example. To be faithful to the work of reducing emissions, we must also address the systems that perpetuate and drive our limited clean energy choices. This work must be done at all levels of the YM from individuals and meetings to the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff and leadership.

Finance



A component of our commitment to addressing climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments, and related financial systems. Meetings, individual Friends, and families are actively encouraged to align their own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change and to have a greater social and environmental impact.

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope



For many, the enormity of the climate crisis and the urgency of addressing it can bring forth a sense of hopelessness. Many Friends also feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature while understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today. All of this can lead to a paralyzing feeling of despair. While we are asking ourselves to make climate change and environmental justice a priority, we must also take care of the people who are doing the work.

Create a Personal Playbook

Get Started

What is a Playbook?

A playbook is a comprehensive road map that outlines the specific activities that you, your household, or your meeting can undertake to address climate change in the five Action Areas. The group can decide what is the best area for your focus. You can work on just one or all five, or you can do one thing that encompasses all five. The Action Areas are not mutually exclusive and you can expect a great deal of overlap. The expectation is that over time you will increase your capacity for the work and you will try something in each of the five Action Areas.

This and the following pages will walk you through your planning for what you will do and how you will hold yourself accountable.

First Steps

Identify who will make a Playbook together: You can use this guide to make a plan for yourself, for your household, or for your meeting. Depending on who the playbook is for you might gather a meeting committee together, or the members of your household, or just you and your cat.

Gather your people. Gather together the people who will work on the playbook together. This is an opportunity to engage in discussion and fellowship and connect in community. To ease in the process, make sure everyone who will be attending the meeting has a copy of this guide, “Creating a Playbook for Climate Change,” in advance. Bring some snacks and choose a comfortable location to meet that makes people feel comfortable with tackling the challenging issues here with clarity and thoughtfulness.

Use the First Meeting Agenda on the next page as a guide to make your own agenda.

Create your Playbook: Follow your agenda and use this publication to work with others. Review the meaning of a PYM-wide witness, make an accountability plan and create your Playbook.

Share your plans with someone else. Tell a neighbor, your meeting, another meeting or the Climate Witness Stewards what you are doing. Sharing your plans helps you stay accountable to them and inspires others to take their own steps.

Create a Personal Playbook

Agenda for the First Meeting

This agenda walks you through the steps of creating a Playbook. Adjust it as needed so that it reflects the way you want to carry the work.

I. Gain a shared understanding of the purpose behind making a playbook.

- a) Read the description of a corporate witness and PYM's commitment to addressing climate change on pages 4 and 5.
- b) Read through the description of the five action areas for addressing climate change on page 6.

II. Worship:

Out of worship share your hopes for the experience of the group who is working together.

III. Make an accountability plan.

Use the *Accountability Plan* on page 9 to determine with whom and when you will share your plan and your progress.

IV. Brainstorm ideas for one or more Action Areas.

There is a two-page brainstorm section for each of the five action areas in the appendix. Each one provides some queries and some examples of the types of actions you might take.

- a) Decide which Action Area(s) you want to address to start with. This is *your* playbook so you can choose as many or as few action areas as you like and you can add or subtract them in the future.
- b) For the first Action Area, read through the queries and examples in the following pages.
- c) Respond to the queries for the Action Area.
- d) Turn to the next page and brainstorm at least five options that you might take for the action area.
- e) Circle the idea(s) that is most possible and meaningful.
- f) Repeat steps b-e for additional Action Areas.

V. Complete your Personal Playbook

Create your Personal Playbook by identifying your goals, your timeline and the people who will take next steps. You can use page 20 in the appendix to guide you. For each Action Area, make a plan for the following:

- a) Goal: What do you hope to accomplish?
- b) Activities: What steps will you take to accomplish your goal?
- c) Team Leader: Who will take the initiative and/or keep others moving on this goal?
- d) Participants: Who are the additional people who will work on this goal?
- e) Completion date: When do you expect to have this goal completed?
- f) Timeline: If there are intermediate steps that you want to get done by a date prior to the completion date, name them here.

VI. Wrap up

- a) Check in with each person on how they are feeling
- b) Set next meeting date

VII. Worship

Create a Personal Playbook

Accountability Plan

Through deep listening, prayerful discernment and faithful response, the... leading or ministry [that] is being nurtured may grow in relationship with God; the [ministry] may be anchored within the faith community; and... be held accountable to God... and to the community.

– Faith & Practice, Guidelines for a Spiritual Care Committee

To keep yourself and your group on track, check in with your playbook and your people on a regular basis.

To make an accountability plan:

- ⇒ Decide how often you will gather.
- ⇒ Form the queries that will guide you (see examples on page 10).
- ⇒ Consider planning an external checkin: occasionally meet with someone outside your accountability group. For example, a household might make a plan with a neighbor to have dinner together once every three months and share stories about what has worked and hasn't worked. A meeting might check in with another meeting at Quarterly Meeting. An individual might pair up with someone else at meeting.
- ⇒ Plan to report at least once a year to the yearly meeting. The annual State of the Meeting reports are already in place and can be used by meetings to provide an update. Or you may directly email updates to: ClimateWitnessStewards@pym.org.

Note: The Climate Witness Stewards are charged with receiving and summarizing reports to share back to our whole community.

Create a Personal Playbook

Activism



Often the voices of individuals, as voters, investors and consumers joined together can have a cumulative effect on policy makes and businesses. Friends can join their individual voices together to advocate for specific changes, through making their beliefs known in concerted efforts in support of campaigns for change and through participating in direct actions.

Queries:

- What in your life already speaks truth to power about the climate crisis? How can that be enhanced by an activism/action step?
- What is exciting or challenging that might draw you in? What makes it hard for you to take action?

Individuals: Lobby for change with elected officials

Ideas & Possibilities

- Learn how to lobby in person at [FCNL.org/resources/lobby-visit-roadmap](https://www.fcnl.org/resources/lobby-visit-roadmap)
- Learn how to lobby virtually at [FCNL.org/resources/how-lobby-congress-virtually-step-step-guide](https://www.fcnl.org/resources/how-lobby-congress-virtually-step-step-guide)
- Find out who your federal elected officials are at [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials)
- Join a lobbying organization such as Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Action Mid-Atlantic Region, or Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Non-violent Direct Action

- Protest or block fossil fuel pipelines, fracking and industrial installations.
- Participate in non-violent direct action with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT).

Join Allies and Friends

- Examples include: Th!rd Act, Elders Climate Action, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Greenpeace, 350.org, Sierra Club, PYM's EcoJustice Collaborative, and Food & Water Watch.

Voting

- Work for Fair Districts to end gerrymandering.
- Volunteer with League of Women Voters or League of Conservation Voters
- Work in the election/voting process for pro-climate candidates and to keep elections honest



Activism

Brainstorming

1. In the space below write in at least **5** possibilities that you or your group. Imagine you might learn together. Include simple things and massive things.
2. Circle the idea that is the most possible and the idea that is most meaningful.

A large, empty light blue rectangular area intended for writing brainstorming ideas.

Create a Personal Playbook

Education



Despite increasing coverage of climate change in the news, the level of knowledge in the general population and among Friends on the issue is very uneven. Gaining support for action requires that people understand what is causing climate change, what the current and potential future impacts of climate change are, and what changes in our economy and society are needed to address climate change.

Queries

- Have you sought out current best thinking on the impacts of climate change on God's creation and future generations?
- Are you sharing both the climate knowledge you have and solutions you are acting upon?

Ideas & Possibilities

Workshops

- Watch online workshops or recordings from: EJC, Project Drawdown, Third Act
- Have Quaker EarthCare Witness (QEW) speakers give a presentation at your Meeting

Blogs

- Yale Climate Connections
- Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet ([nasa.gov](https://climate.nasa.gov/))
- The BTS Center's podcast, "*Climate Changed*" (thebtscenter.org)

Books & Print

- Net Zero: How We Stop Causing Climate Change by Dieter Helm
- Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, edited by Paul Hawken
- Post Growth: Life After Capitalism, by Tim Jackson
- Being the Change: Live Well and Start a Climate Revolution by Peter Kalmus

Videos

- QuakerSpeak: Why Climate Change is an Issue of Faith: Quakers Lobby Congress
- TED talk: Climate Justice Can't Happen Without Racial Justice by David Lammy
- Project Drawdown: Climate Solutions (drawdown.org)

Create a Personal Playbook



Education

Brainstorming

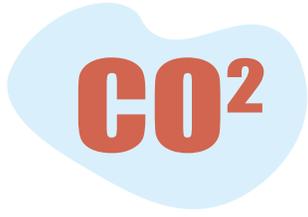
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Create a Personal Playbook

Carbon Footprint Reduction



By reducing our own carbon footprint, we acknowledge our responsibility for global warming, and in doing this work, we lead by example. To be faithful to the work of reducing emissions, we must also address the systems that perpetuate and drive our limited clean energy choices.

Queries

- How do your choices about food, transportation, clothes, etc., contribute to greenhouse gas emissions?
- What steps can you take to lower your carbon footprint?

Ideas & Possibilities

- Getting a good energy audit of either home and meeting building(s) gives you a factual basis for action to reduce energy losses.
- Using a lifestyle carbon calculator can show you where changes in your transportation and dietary/food purchasing routines would help eliminate excessive carbon contributions.

Assess your carbon footprint

Food and Land Use

- Grow your own organic food, buy local from regenerative farm CSAs or Farmers Markets, be aware of food miles.
- Eat seasonally and eat less meat.
- Do a food audit at home then find ways to waste less food.
- Pay attention to how food policies affect who grows our food, what food is grown and how, and who gets to consume it.

Energy

- Install insulation and weatherstripping, the best windows & doors possible, air lock entries, solar panels
- Use programmable thermostats and LED light bulbs
- Purchase renewably generated electricity
- Work with your township to make public buildings and schools carbon neutral
- Learn about government subsidies for clean energy for individuals, communities, and underresourced people. Rebates and credits may be available in your community

Clothing

- Learn about the impact of “fast fashion” and make a plan for your own low-impact wardrobe
- Mend, trade, buy second-hand, and/or recycle your clothes
- Look for natural fiber fabrics, preferably fair trade and organic. Rebates and credits may be available in your community
- Wash clothing in cold water and air dry as much as possible; use wool dryer balls to cut dryer time.



Carbon Footprint Reduction

Brainstorming

1. In the space below write in at least **5** possibilities that you or your group. Imagine you might learn together. Include simple things and massive things.
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Create a Personal Playbook

Finances



A component of our commitment to address climate change involves greening our purchasing, investments and financial systems. Friends can align their own spending and investments with the agenda of addressing climate change.

Queries

- What are the choices you can make about how you spend or invest money that would support renewable energy and build local communities and economies?
- Do your investments support fossil fuels?
- Does your bank or credit finance fossil fuel exploration or extraction projects?

Ideas & Possibilities

Investments

- Use the *As You Sow* website to delve into what your investment money is supporting
- Investigate supporting Th!rd Act's campaign to defund fossil fuel financing by avoiding commerce with the 4 biggest banks: Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo and Citibank.
- Learn about EQAT's Vanguard campaign.
- Use the Green America tool for finding more sustainable credit cards and banks (greenamerica.org)
- Review investments and remove any that include fossil fuels.
- Rivers and Mountains GreenFaith's, "Align Your Money with Your Values" (rivers-mountains-greenfaith.org)
- Check out the Bank for Good (bankforgood.org) to discover reliable banks and credit unions that have renewable energy policies. Some are women, black and Latinix owned and operated. Insurance company investments can be vetted for fossil fuel loans at Insure Our Future (global.insure-our-future.com).

Purchasing

- Buy less, buy practical useful things that last, buy natural materials that are sustainably certified.
- Consider the possibility of zero waste.
- Consider alternatives to plastic given the health and recycling harms of this material.
- Find out if your credit card company finances fossil fuels. Use the Green America tool (greenamerica.org).

Sharing

- Organize with your neighbors to share things like power tools, specialty cooking appliances and garden vegetables.
- Donate to reparations funds for Native Americans, black & brown organizations and climate refugees.
- Provide scholarships to underresourced families
- Advocate for restructuring school funding to create schools systems that are actually equitable.
- Make donations that promote energy sovereignty. Examples are GRID Alternatives (gridalternatives.org), and Share the Sun (phillygreencapital.org) donate Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs).

Philanthropy

- Set up a carbon reduction fund to hold contributions that offset car-travel to meetings. Use the fund to support community solar projects.
- Pay attention to serving justice as well as charity.

Create a Personal Playbook



Finances

Brainstorming

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Create a Personal Playbook

Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope



For many, the enormity of the climate crisis and the urgency of addressing it can bring forth a sense of hopelessness. Many Friends also feel a deep sense of loss from the changes taking place in nature while understanding that our own way of life is largely responsible for the crises we face today. All of this can lead to a paralyzing feeling of despair. While we are asking ourselves to make climate change and environmental justice a priority, we must also take care of the people who are doing the work.

In all of the work we do, from programs to finances to relationships, and in addition to that work, we need to ensure we are creating space to experience the depths of feeling and the presence of God.

Queries:

- What are the losses related to climate change that you are mourning?
- What gives you hope? How do you inspire hope in others?

Ideas & Possibilities

Gratitude

- Noticing the daily small natural beauties and cherishing them.
- Cherishing and keeping connection with friends and family in this time of loss and grief.

The Work that Reconnects

- Check out Johanna Macy's books & workshops.
- Read and listen to Robin Wall Kimmerer and read the Native American Thanksgiving Address and Honorable Harvest.
- Grow a food garden and plant native plants as you are able.
- Pachamama Alliance course: "*Resilience and Acceptance in the Face of Collapse*" (pachapeople.org/resilience).

Worship

- Hold worship sharing on earth health and loss to build a sense of unity and support.
- Take part in an Ecological Grief workshop with Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Worship with your Playbook Group.

Safe Emotional Sharing

- Form small groups with meeting members or neighbors and friends to share regularly.
- Connect with small peer counseling groups which are confidential and supportive.

Create a Personal Playbook



Mourning Loss and Instilling Hope

Brainstorming

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Action Area

Put It All Together!



Activism

Goal
Activities

Team Leader
Participants

Completion Date
Timeline



Education

Goal
Activities

Team Leader
Participants

Completion Date
Timeline



**Carbon
Footprint**

Goal
Activities

Team Leader
Participants

Completion Date
Timeline



Finance

Goal
Activities

Team Leader
Participants

Completion Date
Timeline



**Mourning Loss
& Instilling
Hope**

Goal
Activities

Team Leader
Participants

Completion Date
Timeline

Create a Personal Playbook

Queries to guide check-ins & reports

What did you experience? Did all participants have the same or different experiences?

**What support do you need?
Where will you get it?**

What gave you hope? What did you mourn?

Who have you shared this work with?

What did you accomplish? Is it what you expected?

How do you experience the Spirit in the work?

**What prevented you from acting?
How can you address that going forward?**

**Ideas &
thoughts.**
