

## 2024 Climate Witness Stewards Report at Annual Sessions 'Called to Healing'



15 minutes on Tuesday, 6/25, 7-8:15 pm

***As Friends, how are we led to be true to the testimonies of Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship?***

***Do we care enough about other races, ethnic groups, and cultures not as privileged as white Americans to make changes to our lives that can alter the trajectory of our imperiled future?***

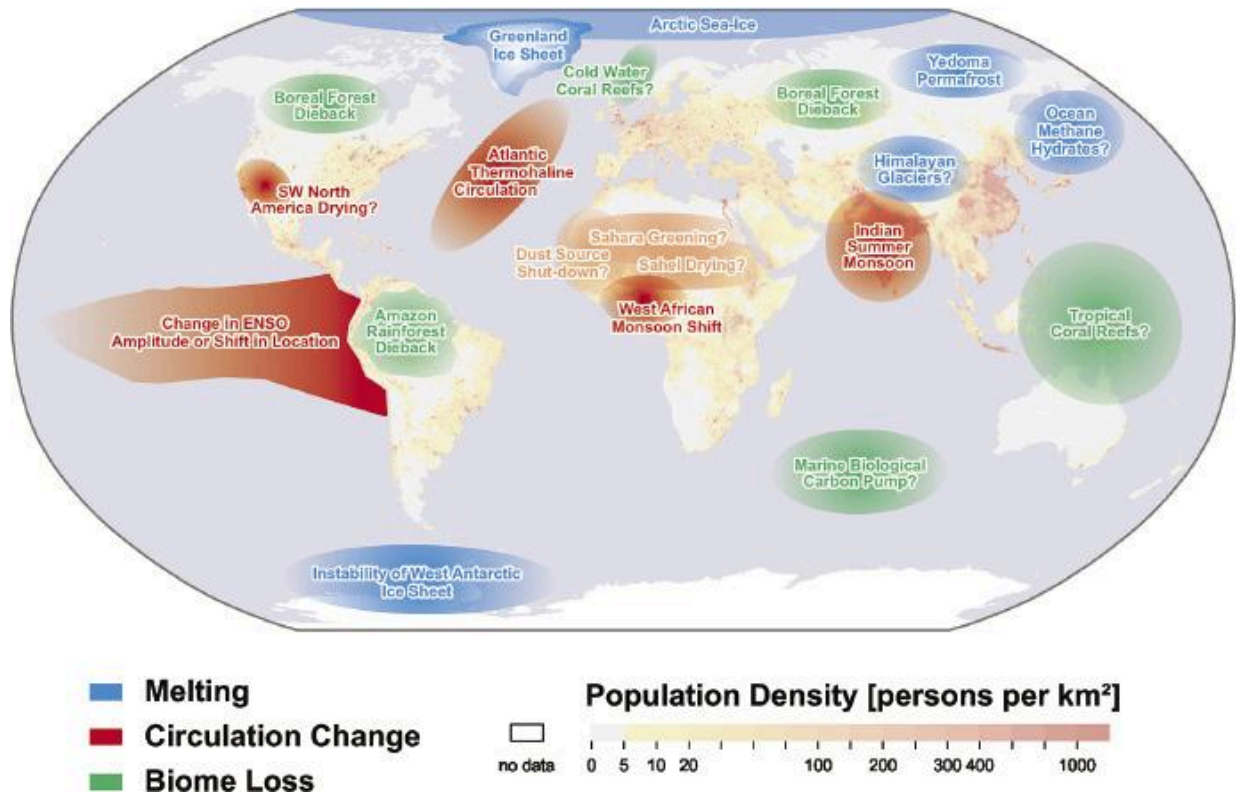
***Do we care enough about young people and their lives in a climate altered world?***

Climate Witness Stewards are called to lead and encourage our communities towards a healed relationship with the Earth. Primarily those of us in the global North have been living in ways which are abusing the health of our beautiful planet.

### **Current climate consequences which humans are suffering:**

- Devastating tornadoes are creating havoc of peoples' homes and causing millions of dollars in damages throughout the Midwest.
- Wildfires are burning forests and grasslands with wind blown smoke damaging lungs far from the flames.
- Melting polar ice is causing rising sea levels in all coastal areas but is especially hitting hard in in this country Louisiana, North Carolina and Florida.
- Heatwaves across the US and around the globe are killing people, damaging crop production and making food supply even more precarious.
- Pests and diseases are migrating (advantaged by hotter, more humid weather) and are adversely affecting human, animal and plant health and survival.
- All of the above are causing global extinction of plant and animal species.

## Earth's 16 Climate Tipping Points



We are in a state of planetary emergency. As scientific study has advanced, it is clear that climate tipping points risk unleashing irreversible changes, where some of the planetary systems amplify global warming. They are also interconnected and can go into a domino effect.

From a report by Dr. Johan Rockstrom at the World Economic Forum in Davos, March, 2023, nine of the 16 climate tipping points are in active change: Arctic sea ice, Greenland ice sheet, West Antarctic Ice Sheet, parts of East Antarctica, Permafrost, Boreal forests, Amazon rainforest, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, Warm-water corals.

The melting collapse of major ice sheets on Greenland, West Antarctica and part of East Antarctica would commit the world to around 33 feet of irreversible sea-level rise. The rainforests, permafrost and boreal forests are examples of biosphere tipping points that, if crossed, result in the release of additional greenhouse gasses further amplifying warming.

### Humans need to stop burning fossil fuels. Recommended choices for change:

1. Look to your home heating and cooling - insulate and tighten up your dwelling, transition to renewable energy.
2. Look to your transportation - limit or eliminate air travel, transition to the lowest possible fossil fuel use (walk, bike, bus, train, hybrid car or EV).
3. Look to your community to organize and fund public transportation.
4. Diet - grow your own food, buy local, eat less or no meat (esp. beef and dairy!)
5. Remove your finances from fossil fuel investments - banks, retirement accounts, stocks, ...
6. Vote for Climate Action leaders

7. Use your voice to talk about what climate actions you are taking and why with family, friends, neighbors, community leaders and policy decision makers.
8. Plan for how your community can shelter and feed climate refugees and become resilient in the face of changing biological and social upheaval.

### **Summary of Yearly Meeting Climate Actions**

Since our 2023 Annual Sessions report, the climate actions of Friends across the Yearly Meeting have been:

- PYM's Melissa Rycroft and Christie Duncan-Tessmer crafted an eloquent public statement in Nov. 2023 prior to COP 28 about the need to cease using fossil fuels. Quoting the statement: "Philadelphia Yearly Meeting calls on [world leaders] to acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of human induced climate change. They must clearly state that addressing the existential crisis of climate change requires ending our dependence on fossil fuels." "Every Friend, household, and meeting in our community is asked to be responsive to this query and we all ask our neighbors around the world to take immediate and practical steps to reverse our dependence on fossil fuels and demonstrate a communal reverence for interdependent life." [PYM Statement on the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP28\) · Philadelphia Yearly Meeting](#)
- Net Zero project for carbon reduction of PYM operations, gatherings & facilities has the goal of creating a carbon emissions report and actionable carbon reduction/elimination recommendations. The project now has an ad hoc group and PYM staff have written a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant.
- PYM Climate Action Playbook - All Monthly Meetings should now have a copy of the Climate Action Playbook for use as a starting point for personal and collective action; the link provides a copy you can download - [Playbook-10-26-2023-6.pdf \(pym.org\)](#)
- Climate Stewards now have a PYM web page - [Climate Witness Stewards – Witness \(pym.org\)](#) and an email to reach Climate Stewards - [climatestewards@pym.org](mailto:climatestewards@pym.org)
- Online Climate Cafes: a place for support and to report - These are informal Zoom conversations "where we can share the ways, large and small, that we are already in motion around environmental justice and the climate emergency, the obstacles we face, and the intentions we would like to hold going forward." All are welcome. Two Cafes have been held so far; the next dates are: Aug. 29, Oct. 24 at 7 pm. Check the PYM calendar for a registration link.
- Climate Liaisons: connectors between Monthly Meetings and Stewards - This role helps link Meetings to resources, access information, data, and expertise from Climate Stewards, other PYM collectives and outside organizations; functions to relay to Climate Stewards both personal and Meeting progress towards climate action goals; helps PYM better understand, communicate, and meet the needs of Monthly Meetings and advance adaptation planning and implementation in the face of climate change. Some Meetings have already appointed Climate Liaisons. **We ask that all Meetings appoint a liaison by Fall Continuing Sessions (Nov. 9, 2024).**

### **Great Climate Action Resources**

- Eco Justice Collaborative Webinars - This body of skilled and passionate climate justice activists has created webinars for climate action and information -

<https://www.pym.org/eco-justice-collaborative/>

- Eco Justice Newsletter - The newsletter covers: advocacy actions, education, finance, lowering carbon footprint, and mourning loss and instilling hope with links to pertinent articles, reports, workshops, events and websites. To subscribe - <https://go.pym.org/l/791983/2019-08-27/gmq>

### **Climate Stewards Looking Forwards**

- Upcoming CWS changes: we look forward to welcoming a new Climate Steward upon approval during this Annual Session. Andrew Anderson is stepping forward as the Interim Clerk of CWS, Jackie will continue as a Climate Steward for another term.
- We invite Friends to visit our Climate Witness Steward table in the Earthcare Center at Friends General Conference in Haverford.
- Stewards will be reporting this year's summary of Monthly Meetings' Climate Actions at Fall Sessions so get your information to us please! We read your answers to the State of the Meeting climate queries or you can email us or attend a Climate Cafe.

### **Proposed Benchmarks**

A part of our charge as Climate Stewards is to hold ourselves accountable. These benchmarks are proposed for your discernment and seasoning within your Monthly Meeting with a request for approval at Fall Continuing Sessions in November. The severity of the Climate situation is a catastrophe that we all must work to avert at every level.

**By Annual Sessions 2025 (July)**, measure the carbon footprint of Yearly Meeting operations, gatherings, and facilities.

**By December 2025**, identify how the Yearly Meeting could be carbon net zero **by 2030**.

**By 2030 or sooner, if at all possible**, Monthly Meetings strive to reach 50% carbon reduction for members and Meeting houses.

**Lastly, we offer a heartfelt thank you** to the dedicated Friends who have been working for years to educate and assist others to action to avert the worst climate devastation we continue to create with every gallon of fossil fuel fuel burned. We celebrate the increased collaboration between PYM groups and between Monthly Meetings!

*We call on all people to work with great urgency to heal our relationship with our planet.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Bonomo  
Clerk, Climate Witness Stewards