

Proposed Benchmarks for PYM's Climate Witness

August 2024

Proposed Benchmark

1. Measure the carbon footprint of Yearly Meeting operations, gatherings, and facilities.
Complete by: July 2025
2. Identify how the Yearly Meeting could be carbon net zero by 2030
Complete by: December 2025
3. Invite monthly meetings to strive to reach 50% carbon reduction for members and meetings.
Complete by 2030 or sooner, if possible.

Invitation to PYM Meetings

PYM Presiding Clerk is inviting Monthly and Quarterly meetings to give time to seasoning the proposed benchmarks in preparation for their coming before the body for consideration. This process will allow Friends to attend business sessions of the yearly meeting with hearts and minds prepared for discernment.

We are looking for thoughts and discernment around this, but that doesn't necessarily mean it requires a minute. If you would like to share anything from your discernment, send it to Nikki's email. The following are queries from the presiding clerk which may be helpful to set context. The decision we will be making in the fall is specifically about setting carbon footprint benchmarks.

- How is my Meeting addressing Climate Witness?
- How is my Meeting educating itself about climate issues?
- Does my Meeting know how climate change affects communities of color in our region/state/country?
- How does measuring our carbon footprint impact the world around us?

Key Points

1. These benchmarks will be brought forward for consideration for approval at Continuing Sessions, November 9, 2024.
2. They were recommended by PYM's appointed Climate Witness Stewards at Annual Sessions 2024. Climate Witness Stewards are appointed by PYM in part to "Hold the yearly meeting accountable to its commitment to a yearly meeting-wide witness on climate change and climate justice" and to do this they are charged with

recommending “annual benchmarks and activities to be adopted by the body.”

3. The PYM body approved Addressing Climate Change as a witness that the entire yearly meeting – each Friend, household, meeting and PYM generally – be under the weight of (March 2021).

The body approved a framework for supporting our witness the following July. It asks us to address climate change in five specific ways, including by decreasing our carbon footprint. The other four ways are through our activism, education, finances and mourning loss and instilling hope.

4. In the event that the benchmarks are approved:
 - a. The councils would be responsible for completing benchmark 1.
 - b. The councils would be responsible for ensuring benchmark 2 is met.
 - c. Monthly meetings would be responsible for progress on benchmark 3.

Additional Resources

To learn more about PYM’s Yearly Meeting Wide Witnesses:
[Pym.org/witness](https://pym.org/witness)

To learn more about Climate Witness Stewards:
[Pym.org/witness/climate-witness-stewards](https://pym.org/witness/climate-witness-stewards)

To learn more about what Friends are doing related to Climate Change:
[Pym.org/witness/news](https://pym.org/witness/news) (scroll down to climate)

To learn more about the five ways we are asked to address climate change:
[Playbook-10-26-2023-6.pdf \(pym.org\)](#)

Timeline

How did we get to the point of considering these benchmarks?

1965-2022 PYM minuted our concern over climate change x times

July 2014 PYM approved identifying a few specific witnesses we are called to as a full body. These are not to be delegated to a committee or other group to do on our behalf but we all, every Friend, every household, every meeting and the

whole yearly meeting, is asked to find where they can be engaged on behalf of the yearly meeting.

July 2020 The presiding co-clerks of PYM invited Friends and meetings to begin considering approving *Addressing Climate Change* as a yearly meeting wide witness

March 2021 PYM approved *Addressing Climate Change* as a yearly meeting wide witness

July 2021 PYM approved appointing Climate Witness Stewards to hold us accountable as well as a framework for supporting our witness in which all Friends, households, meetings and the yearly meeting were asked to consider our own actions in terms of

- a) Activism
- b) Education
- c) Carbon Footprint
- d) Finances
- e) Instilling hope and mourning loss

September 2022 The first slate of Climate Witness Stewards was approved.

July 2024 The Climate Witness Stewards recommended this benchmark

Measure the carbon footprint of Yearly Meeting operations, gatherings, and facilities.

Complete by: July 2025

Identify how the Yearly Meeting could be carbon net zero by 2030

Complete by: December 2025

Monthly meetings strive to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon for members and meeting houses.

Complete by 2030 or sooner