

**Quaker Earth Care Witness, Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group**  
**Chicago, Illinois 2011 April 7-10**  
**Roy Treadway – Convener**

The Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group met on 2011 April 8 and 9. In the absence of Donn Kesselheim, who resigned as clerk for health reasons, Roy Treadway convened the meetings. Present during our meetings were John Fletcher, John Hackman, Tom Small, John Hudson, Dick Grossman, Louis Cox, Ken Lawrence, Noel Pavlovic, Nancy Halliday, and Roy Treadway.

We reviewed several projects that the working group is under taking or contemplating.

**1. Carbon Footprint at Friends General Conference Gathering (FGC) at Grinnell College, 2011 June -July**

John Fletcher will administer the Carbon Footprint questionnaire at FGC again this year. He plans to compile data by yearly meeting and location to see if people are changing their lives to be more efficient.

**2. Electricity Source Survey**

Dick Grossman plans to conduct a survey of participants in QEW on their source of electricity by Survey Monkey. Roy Taylor and Roy Treadway will review the survey.

**3. Population Pamphlet Consolidation**

Louis Cox has put all of QEW's population pamphlets into one consolidated 32-page pamphlet for possible easier use. Each topic will need to be brought up to date and an introduction prepared. The Population Subgroup will review the materials. We could print small quantities at a time and have it available on the QEW website.

**4. Men for Men Project**

One non-Quaker has received support for a vasectomy through this project. We still need to do better marketing and advertising to get more people informed and involved.

**5. Population Videos**

Louis Cox has talked with some of the younger members of QEW about producing a video that might be available on You-Tube and publicized on Facebook. Louis will develop a suitable script and explore this project further.

**6. QEW Energy Fund or Grant**

Ken Lawrence suggested QEW develop a fund to make either loans or grants to help Friends Meetings (or individuals) undertake projects for significant energy efficiency (such as insulation) or renewable energy (such as solar hot water or electricity). Such a fund would allow persons interested in supporting such projects to help meetings which would like to undertake such projects, but cannot afford to do so themselves. Savings from energy efficiency or renewable energy would be returned to the fund to be used again. John Hudson will contact Interfaith Power and Light about their projects for houses of faith. John Fletcher (Convener), Ken Lawrence, John Hackman, John Hudson, and Louis Cox will explore possible ways to move this project forward by the October Annual Meeting.

**7. Bio-diversity**

Dick Grossman and Tom Small will discuss ways of pursuing our concern over loss of diversity of species.

**We did not feel that the Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group should be broken up into smaller working groups or disbanded. We should continue our work using sub groups where appropriate.** We did wonder if the term "sustainability" had lost its meaning in today's world or how the focus of Transition Towns of bringing together people to deal with the energy and climate shocks of the future might be part of the working group's focus.