

BYM Sustainability Gathering: Transcribed Flipcharts

Friday evening

Hopes

Broader understanding of some of the issues	Feel less pessimistic about the future
Looking for information on politics and new economics	Find Quakers/meetings interested in local public transport
Engaging people at a deeper level (beyond local produce, insulation etc.)	I'm very open – what I want, but also to new ideas, experiences
A project to mobilise electors, seeking a majority for substantial government action on climate change	Hope to find ways of encouraging sustainability which don't engender guilt
That people may start to think for themselves rather than follow the pattern	Improving meeting house sustainability
Find out about civil disobedience and direct action	Improving communication to improve & develop sustainability
Share in our meeting to encourage each other – not too modest about changes we've made	That becoming a low carbon sustainable community is possible
Grow in the spirit	Recognition that the fact thinking (& action) is still diverse <u>isn't</u> a problem – we are on different journeys to different places, with different emphases. Our role is to <u>welcome</u> that diversity as part of the movement for change. We are one but diverse; that is great.
Much sharing of ideas, grassroots change, community action	To communicate and inspire local meeting about sustainability.
Clarity, courage	To inspire/encourage AM Friends to participate in sharing/learning to adopt lifestyles/lives to adopt sustainable living to benefit of all
Learn from others how to engage members to motivate them to take actions in relation to lifestyle and lobbying	To find out how Quaker Life Central Committee can support the BYM Sustainability Group
New directions	Spiritual basis for the sustainability commitment?
Challenge my thinking	Gain inspiration from hearing what others are doing
Learn better communication skills to put across & inspire my community & influence politicians & get my meeting on board	Realistic ideas for what an elderly meeting might do
Quakers to be part of leading the way to others around sustainability linking to our testimonies.	Improve promoting green transport, green energy
Learn what others are doing.	Consider population growth on planet
Meet some people here who are not 'the usual green suspects' (e.g. aren't always the person from their meeting who comes to this kind of thing)	More sense of community
Be inspired and have an inspiring message to take back to my meeting	Working on responses to climate change
Hear something I'm not expecting	Practical thoughts!
Quakers to truly and honestly face up to some of the personal obstacles around this topic	Some inspiration/practical tips amidst current 'climate' of uncertainty
Be re-energised to move away from current projects and refocus on climate change & sustainability that can be achieved	To know what Quakers bring that others do not.
Re-energize	Thoughts on population growth
New ideas, new energy	To feel there is a possibility of making change

Needs

Connection

Inspiration

Renewed energy

How to speed up moving people forward? The less willing.

Explore the Quaker attitude to environmental sustainability

Realism about the urgency and seriousness of climate change

Renewed energy

Find people/Q meeting as interested in local public transport

Find some 'gathering buddies' as I don't know anyone here (hardly) & to be supported expressing my perspective

Confidence within meeting & taking message outside meeting

Become part of the 'solution' by working with like-minded Quakers

Find ways to cope with and accept my being part of this destructive human race

Communicate effectively with my community (Qs & others) and local politicians. Encourage my meeting to get involved

Learn from others' experiences how to focus on specific sustainable issues

Get the spiritual grounding of sustainability clearer & be able to articulate & communicate them

Introvert time

Not to be put on the spot to say out loud personal thing like my 'needs' to a room of people I don't know! (ps thanks for drawing river activity)

Laughter

Gathering rituals/moments to feel togetherness

What can I bring to this gathering? I bring my capacity to listen

Hear voices that are not afraid of being (called) NEGATIVE (challenge me/us!)

Develop practical steps to engage with those who do not share our values (yet...?!)

Wanting to include different non-Quaker groups in sustainability who use the Quaker meeting house

Simple holistic visual vision

Understand what sustainability means – for ourselves & outside world

Difficulties of how to visit married children who have settled in distant countries

Help in deciding what to do – 2 offspring & 2 grandchildren now live abroad

Find ways for AM to embed the Canterbury Commitment into the way it operates and shapes its vision

For people to be open and honest about some of the barriers they are finding – in communities or as individuals

CARTOON IDEAS (to Joe Burlington please)

Tea (esp after a meal)

People to be aware of disability issues (personal)

What is generally happening around sustainability in Q community & how to be a part of it

More information about choice of sustainable energy systems

Find local transition group

Turn down heating!

Keep it positive, joyful & optimistic

Bleak Outlook: "Want to know what to do"

Meet Positive People!

Engage Local/Area Meeting

One Saturday morning response group

Quakers are not as united on the C. Commitment as the minute would suggest. It's seen by some as a 'political' issue

Really positive – Fossil Fuel Divestment – Quakers have a big role

-Quakers can be leaders

Quakers do speak truth to power, and need to do more on climate change:

- government forbidding disinvestment for councils
- also procurement policies

So needs to be more work done on democracy – e.g. making ethical decisions (lots of allies)

Quakers can do this, as we are not dependent on government

Need to find stories linking people

We could support organisations like Avaaz, which has strong humanitarian principles

Quakers need to stress links between issues/testimonies

Lack of engagement on climate change – need to work beyond Quakers, rather than work hard on a few Quakers who are elderly with family far away

Community – should support others – if someone needs to visit a relative in Australia, the community can all travel less (or, where possible, alternative transport) or lead as Quakers in using our funds to find answers. 'Mercy ships' to Australia.

Food – what to eat, how it's grown, where it's produced – big emitter of GHGs

Should always act only in national interest, why not in global interest.

Could persuade government to move away from economic growth \equiv GDP \equiv national interest

We need a cohesion to live together, a way of accepting each other's shortcomings

Quakers need to engage more with big business – there are ethics at work within them.

Nurturing our Sustainability Ministry (Saturday workshop)

What might our ministries be

Motivating my meeting
Blogging
NVDA
Living a sustainable life
Multi-faith work
Non-threatening info. Sharing
Creative ideas/actions for living differently
Encouraging reflection
Living rituals/celebrations
Using photography/vision & nature to see and explain world differently
Re-discovering the sacramental in a new way
Community gardening
Zero-waste initiative
Share individual stories more
Being mainstream, not fringe
Nurturing life

What support do we need

People to bounce ideas of – face to face
People who will listen when I'm overwhelmed
Conversations with like-minded people
Rationalise ordinary work of meeting to make space for new stuff
Time & space
Shared activities
Encouragement & trust
Living Witness
Clear articulation of the underpinnings of the concern
The support of my meeting
Meetings for clearness
Help to engage with new media
Technical support
QPSW resources
Skill partnering
Skills network

Saturday late afternoon session:

What have we learned today? What has impressed us?

Quaker core activities/property

Sustainability interlinked with Quaker testimonies

Quinquennial reviews should include sustainability

Get our own house in order – a radical look at our structures

Sustainability in our DNA

Contribution of faith communities

Community

Listen to concerns first, then link to sustainability agenda

Tell stories as well as facts

Heart-to-heart sharing

Improve communication, using AM networks

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Improve understanding of Quaker procedures

Take our part among species in the world

Changing our lives

Vegetarian food

Return to first principles – challenging our comfort zones

Self-sufficiency & food production

Political change

Stop fossil fuel subsidies – petition

Make alliances to work effectively

Cut consumption now

Plan carefully to communicate effectively

Balance between Quaker and other activism – what is our role?

Spiritual upholding

Make it a moral issue

Hold gov't to account, to exceed Paris Agreement

EU Referendum discussion & support from central sus grp

Sunday morning: What are we taking back? Next steps

Use activity to build community	Create map Forest of Dean: Show how to link
Sustainability audit of MHs in AM	VEGE!
9am every day, uphold those doing the work	Encourage urgency
Quakers in Yorkshire event	Encourage direct action
London centric...	Explore general strike
Build community first...	Urgency – wealthiest cut consumption
Have confidence govt can be changed	To go from profit to prophet
Build more with multifaith/no faith	Link to other like-minded groups
Website with skills/knowledge	Need to change social norm
Link to Vibrancy in Meeting -> build life of Society & sustainability	Should we be encouraging LM to take message outside meeting?
Creative ways of dealing with isolation	Morality
Skype @ AM with Lindsey in Bonn	Explore co-housing
Count mileage, week by week, reduce.	Children's meeting & young people
Link sustainability to clear concerns in LM, e.g. refugee crisis, where already energy	Hirers at meetings
End fossil fuel subsidies	Five action points from Paris (send out)
Sing and dance a lot!	Creation – Godly Play story
Create New Economics gathering in Devon	Event to <u>celebrate</u> universe @ MH
Pick battles carefully & be scrupulously honest	Planetary boundaries
Importance of narrative (sustainability more inspirational than low-carbon)	Harness creativity – mapping, demonstrating what we mean by sustainability, creatively
Shared lunches	Help Hayes be more sustainable – compost etc.