

Quakers and the Climate Crisis

Quaker worship is a shared activity, with all participating as equals. In NZ, we have no Minister or Pastor. We each bring our whole lives and the world around us into a time of shared contemplation, and speak from our hearts, hoping to experience new clarity, and to find the strength, support and guidance we need to live in the world.

This process has led us to act against war, slavery, racism, and nuclear weapons, to promote gender equality and Te Tiriti, to found Greenpeace & help to found Oxfam & Amnesty International, to establish Quaker UN Offices, and to act for climate justice.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that human-caused planetary warming is leading to increasingly severe droughts, floods, fires, extreme weather, food shortages, intolerable heat, and biodiversity loss. These problems become more catastrophic with every degree of warming.

The Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty was originally signed in 2022 by 6 Pacific nations. Quakers of Aotearoa endorsed this call at our Yearly Meeting in 2023, joining the growing chorus of Indigenous Peoples, youth, lawmakers, and scientists calling for a global treaty to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition powered by clean energy and a sustainable future for all.

Please feel welcome to join us in our Meetings for worship and in our actions and collaborations to address the climate emergency:

Your Local Quaker Meeting:

Your Local Quaker Climate Action Groups :

Find out more:

www.quakers.nz

Quakers Aotearoa
NEW ZEALAND
Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

**QUAKERS
AND THE
CLIMATE
CRISIS**

SAVE OUR
PLANET

Five Quakers share their views, and stories of climate activism:

Sandy

Advocacy and Founding Co-ordinator, Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition

“As a small child, I used to pick rubbish off the ground and then kiss the ground to make it better. I still care deeply about social and environmental justice. Whether we are able to hold powerful governments and corporations accountable for climate destruction or not will ultimately determine our survival. The forced atomisation of human society - and our obsession with hardcore individualism and individual responsibility for global problems is hindering us from holding these bodies responsible for the harm they have caused. Quakers supported my work for two years with a group focused on holding corporations responsible for climate harm by divesting from their companies.”

Cathy

Student, Environmental Studies, Co-Editor Climate Club Newsletter

“There is still a deep sense in me that certain things are just not okay and it's important to fight them whatever it takes. For me, the capitalist exploitation of the world's resources, which has led to the climate and biodiversity crisis, is a clear example of something that is just wrong. I help run a climate action newsletter: <https://climateclubnz.substack.com/> We do a weekly newsletter with a selection of actions anyone can take right now to make a difference to climate change.”

Quakers work to live our lives through our Testimonies of Sustainability, Peace, Equality, Community, Simplicity, and Integrity & to promote them in public policy:

Sustainability: we believe our current economic and environmental practices are unsustainable and must be changed, for the sake of our survival and that of other species.

Peace: food and water shortages, as well as intolerable living conditions, are fueling mass migrations and wars for resources.

Equality: we view the Climate Crisis as a direct result of wealthy nations, corporations and individuals seeking greater wealth and power at the expense of the planet. This inequality grows as resources become more scarce.

Community: Communities are destroyed by extreme weather, creating greater instability in everybody's lives.

Simplicity: the Climate Crisis requires us to seek simpler ways of living, in harmony with each other and with the Earth.

Integrity: We seek to actively live our lives in a way that leads to climate justice.

Hoping to affect change, Quakers work in unity, both in spirit and in action.

Phillipa

Quakers Aotearoa Climate Emergency Correspondent

“When I was little we could swim in the rivers and collect fresh water crayfish from the local stream. Our pohutukawa tree was my first friend. As Aotearoa/NZ Quakers Climate Emergency Correspondent, it is my job to sift and prioritise information about the climate emergency for sharing with Friends. I also liaise with other organisations working on climate change. Neglecting the environment is not an option.”

Michelle

Teacher (EdD), mother of two

“I believed that Climate Change is an emergency, but felt hopeless to do anything, however, as I've been attending Quaker Meetings, I've recognised that working for climate change is just as important as my work for peace and non-violence. We have been attending Wellington Quaker Meetings and have started getting involved with the Quaker Climate Emergency work.”

Jeremiah

Age 12

“Sea creatures and how animals are cute motivates me to try and help them survive and not go extinct. When I'm older, I'm going to try and help sea creatures and sea animals and animals in general by stopping people from polluting.”