



**“Religion is an essential factor in motivating individuals to protect the environment and address climate change”**

<i>Faith Perspective</i>	<i>Quaker</i>
<p>Fundamental Principle of the Faith</p> <p><i>What the faith teaches about taking care of the environment (sacred texts)</i></p>	<p>The central Quaker belief is that there is that of God in everyone. Every human is unique and precious. This has led us to a commitment to Peace, Equality, Simplicity, and Truth. These values are the foundation of Quaker thinking and action. Quakerism is a way of living. It has no creeds or commandments. It is up to each of us to decide what or who God is.</p> <p>A commitment to the 'unity of creation' has always been part of Quaker faith. Early Quakers knew that to damage the earth just for human 'outward greatness' would be</p>





	<p>an injustice to future generations.</p> <p>Our faith requires us continuously to seek to understand how, through the ways we live and act, to build that just and peaceful world. As we learn how the way we live affects the world so we must change the way we live in pursuit (search) of that vision.</p>
<p>Application of the Principle to the Motion of the debate</p> <p><i>What responsibility the faith tradition's teaching passes to individuals</i></p>	<p>We believe that we do not own the world - it is a vital resource that must be shared with our fellow humans and all other living beings. All forms of life reflect God's work. It is our duty to use the world's resources in ways that help, not threaten or disadvantage, all life.</p>
<p>Implications for the debate</p> <p><i>Things to think about when preparing for the debate</i></p>	<p>We try to understand and reduce the real and potential harm caused by our actions and our lives as whole. We must learn to share resources fairly both with the</p>





current inhabitants of the world and with future generations.

This links strongly with the Quaker Peace testimony. Living sustainably without damaging the world with all its wonders is part of following a path of non-violence.

Sustainable living is also part of the Quaker belief in simplicity. If we avoid the clutter of consumerism (always buying new and more) and fashion and learn to live more simply then we can make space to focus on that which really matters. A commitment to simple living means remembering that we do not need much in material terms. We should not buy things we do not need and when we do we must understand how our choices impacts our planet.





Documentary references and interpretations

*Useful references from sacred text(s)*

Quaker thinking is summarised by 'Quaker Faith and Practice'. This is a book that records Quaker understanding. It has been regularly revised from its birth in the 1600's. Rooted in early Quaker thinking- Quaker commitment to simple living dates from the earliest days of Quakerism. William Penn in 1669 said in many cases "...the pride of one might comfortably supply the needs of ten".

John Woolman 1772 wrote "to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age". John Woolman himself wore undyed clothes partly due to concern about the environmental damage caused by the dying process.

More recently Quaker commitments





	<p>to our foundation beliefs have grown into an urgent desire to halt (put a stop to) climate change and ecological decline. In 1957 Quaker Faith and Practice says “If by condoning waste and luxury we overspend the allowance God has given us our children’s children will be cheated of their inheritance.”</p>
<p>Examples of faith-based environmental protection organisations and activities</p>	<p>Today Quakers are working to build an energy and economic system that has equality, justice and sustainability (it can be continued) at its heart.</p> <p>Quakers campaign for justice for the poor and disadvantaged who are unequally impacted by climate change. We call for policies that will reduce carbon emissions, and support actions that challenge the current fossil fuel economy.</p>







We think all people have the right to affordable, renewable energy. We believe there should be more equality in the way energy is owned and organised. We want to believe life quality more important than profit.

The Quaker United Nations Office focusses on the human impacts of climate change, food security and sustainability.

The Sustainability and Peace programme of Britain Yearly Meeting, (the central UK body for Quakers), is studying the connections between climate change and inequality and supports Friends actions in witness through political and other action. Britain Yearly Meeting became the first church to in Britain to disinvest all





its central funds from fossil fuels.

At a local level individual Quakers and local meetings are working together to make buildings and individual lifestyles more ecologically friendly through improved waste disposal, recycling, energy and water use.

