

Visalia Friends Meeting acknowledges that global climate change is one of the most serious issues of our time. The effects of climate change threaten to destabilize every ecosystem on the planet, with grave consequences for all living communities. Scientists predict rising sea levels, ocean current shifts, increasing violent storms, the disruption of food production systems, and the interruption of delicate ecosystem balances that have evolved over millennia.

Friends have long recognized their responsibility to hold their own actions in the light. The focus has been on personal action here and now. These values were so strongly held that Friends endured ridicule, incarceration and even death. We again are called to take personal action in the face of the looming destruction of life on this planet.

We make a commitment to the following:

We accept that we each have a responsibility for our contribution to global climate change and we resolve to hold each of our personal activities up to scrutiny.

We commit to changes in our habits and willingly embrace the discomfort that these actions might bring us.

We commit ourselves to continually educating ourselves about the issue of climate change and sharing that information with others.

Recognizing that one's personal desire to reduce one's contribution to climate change may exceed the means available, we commit to sharing and caring for each other.

We commit ourselves to communicating with legislators and others in a position of authority on a regular basis to voice our support for legislation that reduces carbon emissions and opposition to policies that exacerbate global warming.

We make a commitment to reduce our consumption of material goods, reuse already existing materials, and recycling those that can't be reused.

When a purchase of a new good must be made, we will include in our discernment the environmental impact of purchasing products that must be transported a long distance.

We commit to renewing ourselves in corporate discernment at Meeting for Business at least once each quarter.