

QPSW Sustainability and New Economy Grants

Guidance notes

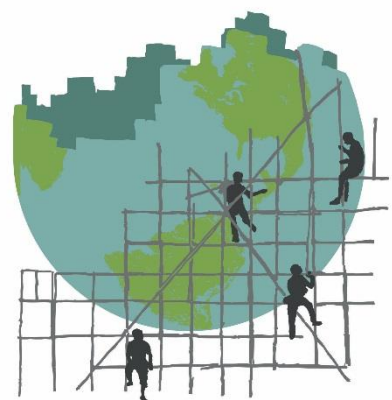
Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) awards grants to Quaker or Quaker-supported projects focused on sustainability and the new economy.

We hope to enable projects that help to build low-carbon, sustainable communities and a different type of economic system – ‘an economic system in which Quaker testimony can flourish’¹.

We do not have a blueprint for the new economy, nor do we know exactly what a low-carbon, sustainable community would look like. But we believe that they will happen, in part, because individuals and communities challenge the current mainstream system by doing things differently. This may be building alternative economic structures, running initiatives that show how we can live lower carbon lives, or creating local currencies or energy co-operatives to demonstrate that an alternative is possible.

We would like to receive applications for your project, however big or small - from a one-off event to something longer-term. When planning your application it might help to think about some of the following:

- Is its primary purpose to connect people to the Earth, or increase sustainability; to challenge unsustainable and unjust economics or build alternative models? Does it engage in politics, speak out, campaign, or do more than one of these things?
- Does it enable people to take action or behave differently in the future?
- Is it practical? Educational? Does it excite people, or encourage them to do something differently? Will it bring about a change? Does it get people thinking more deeply? Which one – or more – of these are you focusing on?
- How are Friends and your Quaker worshipping community involved?
- How could you extend its reach? Could it include people beyond the meeting? How could the impact be deepened?
- Grants are intended to help facilitate new, or support existing, initiatives. Particular attention will be given to those projects that may not otherwise happen.



¹ Minute 23, Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011

Eligibility

The project must be initiated or supported by a Quaker worship community. By Quaker worship communities we mean Quakers who come together regularly in worship. We are including local meetings, area meetings, young Friends General Meeting and other Younger Quaker worship groups.

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- The project need not be Quaker-led (and collaborative projects are encouraged) but there should be significant Quaker involvement.
- Applications should be accompanied by a minute of support from the Quaker worshipping community, which has come out of a discernment process.
- The project should be intended to build low-carbon sustainable communities or the new economy.
- We are no longer accepting applications for projects to do work to the fabric of a building or for the installation of solar panels. If you are interested in making your building more efficient please apply to the Meeting Houses Fund by contacting Malgosia Barczyk at malgosb@quaker.org.uk or on 0207 663 1097.
- We are only able to fund projects which are run in Scotland, Wales and England.

Applications

- Application forms are available from www.quaker.org.uk/sustainabilitygrants.
- You can also request an application form from Maya Williams by emailing mayaw@quaker.org.uk or telephoning 020 7663 1056. You can submit an application at any point up until **15 October 2018**, when applications will close.
- All applications must be made on a fully completed application form, though further supporting material can be included. Applications need to be accompanied by a minute of support from the appropriate local or area meeting.
- All applications need a main applicant and a supporting applicant who are both members or attenders of a Quaker worshipping community
- Applications also need to be signed by a clerk. Please see the 'notes for clerks' section in these guidance notes for more detail on this.
- Applications are generally considered once a year only.
- Applicants will be informed as to whether they have been successful or unsuccessful by the end of **November 2018**. The money will be distributed to successful applicants by **December 2018**. Final decisions on awarding grants are made by the QPSW Economics, Sustainability and Peace sub-committee.
- Grants not taken up within one year of the date of the offer will lapse, unless an alternative agreement has been made.

- In giving a grant our support for you is financial, but also spirit-led and prayerful, so we hope to maintain contact through the year to hear of any developments so we can continue to support and uphold you.

Sharing the story

- All successful applicants will be expected to work with QPSW staff to find ways to share information about their project within the Yearly Meeting. This could be through writing an article for publication, sending press releases and photos to local media, giving talks at other meetings, or holding workshops at events.
- We will also expect at least one report that we can share on the Quaker website through the *Our Stories* page (www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories).

Examples of projects funded through this grant scheme:

Footpaths for a greener life training

Members of each local meeting in Gloucestershire are getting trained to facilitate the Footpaths to a Greener life programme, a community carbon-reduction course initiated by Transition Leicester. Gloucestershire area meeting hope that following the training, each local meeting will run the course again within their wider community.

Community-owned energy

Airton Quakers applied for a grant to enable local Quakers to connect with and support their local community energy project. The money was to support the project to reach and connect with the wider community through workshops, films and discussion.

No Faith In Fracking activity

Quakers across the north west of England have been supported by Pendle Hill Area Meeting, to help organise a week of faith based activity at the gates of Preston New Road fracking site, alongside members of other faith traditions.

Workshops on aligning business models to Quaker values

Malton local meeting supported one of their members to apply for a grant and run a series of workshops looking at the legal structures of different Quaker organisations. The workshops aim to meet the needs of Friends seeking a general interest in business, and Friends who are running or planning to run their own businesses.

Sums available

- You can apply for a grant of between £100 and £2000
- A maximum of £5000 in grants will be distributed annually.
- Grants are one-off payments, though applicants can re-apply in future years. We may prioritise applications from new projects and/or meetings that have not received a grant before.
- A grant may provide the sum total of the amount needed by the project, or may only cover a proportion of the costs, though it must comprise no less than 20% of the total.
- If the grant covers a proportion of the cost, you will need to explain where the balance of funds will come from, how much of this is already secured, how much is still to be

secured, and if any risks are foreseen. You can find information about some other Quaker grants at www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/grant-making.

Origin of funds

The funds for these grants come from the annual budget of QPSW. Grants are intended to enable Quaker worshipping communities that would not otherwise be able to carry out this work on sustainability or new economics to do so. They are also a means for Friends to support the work of other Friends across the Society and to strengthen the corporate concern for sustainability and economic justice.

Notes for Clerks

All applicants should make sure that the following information is shared with the clerk/s of the local or area meeting:

- Clerks need to make sure that the project has been discerned within the Quaker worship community, and that if the community is led to support the project an appropriate minute of support, signed by the clerk/s, comes with the application.
- Clerks will also need to read through and sign the completed application form before it is returned to Friends House.
- We would also hope clerks ensure that the meeting remains informed about project throughout the year, particularly if the project is not a project of the Quaker worship community. We recommend a regular (perhaps six monthly) updates to the worshipping community from the project.

For further information and support

We recommend that you contact QPSW to discuss your project before applying. We can answer any questions you may have about the grants or the application process, and can provide support to help develop ideas into project plans.

Successful applicants can also get in touch at any point during their project to ask for advice and share updates.

Please contact:

Maya Williams, Economics, Sustainability & Peace Network Coordinator

mayaw@quaker.org.uk 020 7663 1056

Friends House 173 Euston Road London NW1 2BJ