

# **Port Townsend Friends Meeting Carbon Tithing Program**

A Workshop On The Why and How of Carbon Tithing for  
Port Townsend Quakers

- Why a Carbon Tithe?
- What other Quaker Meetings are doing
- What other Communities of Faith are doing
- Calculating your Carbon Footprint
- Determining your pledge amount
- Making the Pledge
- Where will it go?
- Queries

## AGENDA

- *"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people." George Fox*
- It is widely accepted that a carbon tax would be the most effective and just way (with appropriate rebates) to reduce carbon emissions and that it is past time to address the global and intergenerational injustice of anthropogenic climate disruption (ACD). While we seek enactment of such a tax, we can personally choose to contribute to a Voluntary Carbon Tithe now.
- *We live in a carbon culture and all of us are complicit. Choosing to participate in a Voluntary Carbon Tithe program is a big step toward "Living in Possibility," as Emily Dickenson wrote.*

## Why a Carbon Tithe?

- On March 13, 2016, the Port Townsend Friends Meeting developed a minute stating that the Meeting “fully supports its Peace and Social Justice Concerns Working Group in their active exploration of these issues (concerning anthropogenic climate change), their researching of options, and their development of a local response that could serve as an example to others...”

**Port Townsend Friends Minute**

The Mount Toby Friends Meeting created a Carbon Tax program a few years ago.

Participants include:

- Mount Toby Voluntary Carbon Tax Witness,
- Burlington Friends Meeting,
- Northampton Friends VCT Group,
- Storrs Friends Meeting VCT Group,
- Hartford Monthly Meeting VCT Witness,
- UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA,
- Green Sanctuary Committee UU of Amherst,
- Beacon Hill Friends Meeting,
- and several individuals.

**What other Quakers are doing**

- Dime-a-gallon program;
  - Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Berkeley
  - Mount Toby Friends Meeting and others

**What other Friends are doing**

- **Commit2Respond**

- A coalition of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience working for climate justice
- "As individuals, congregations, and organizations, we commit to take action in each of three ways:
  - SHIFT to a low carbon future
  - ADVANCE the human rights of affected communities
  - GROW the climate justice movement

**What other Communities of Faith  
are doing**

- **Cool Congregations**
  - Interfaith Power and Light program
  - Certified Cool Congregations
    - The first 20 CG are averaging 42% greenhouse gas reductions and are jointly preventing 2.2 million pounds of GHGs from entering the atmosphere annually.

**What other Communities of Faith  
are doing**

Carbon Footprint: the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels by a particular person, group, etc.

Many different 'calculators'

We suggest using the Terrapass calculator

**Calculating your Carbon Footprint**

There are several ways to determine the amount of your monthly pledge. You may:

- Simply pledge a monthly amount you are comfortable with
- Base your calculation on a percentage of your monthly fuel use
- Base your calculation on an offset amount based on your best estimate of all of your monthly carbon contributions (like that arrived at using the Terrapass Carbon Footprint Calculator)

**Determining Your Pledge Amount**

# Voluntary Carbon Tithe Pledge Form

## **VOLUNTARY CARBON TITHE PLEDGE FORM**

### **Port Townsend Friends Meeting**

- I am/ we are joining this activity in order to:
- Witness to others our urgent concern for the earth and its inhabitants;
- Provide a way to act in common with others around this concern;
- Repair damage we have done to the earth by our use of fossil-fuel based energy and act to reduce and eventually reverse catastrophic climate disruption;
- Overcome our sense of powerlessness or hopelessness around our ability to address effectively the climate disruption threatening our precious planet;
- Raise our awareness of our energy usage and encourage us to reduce it.
- The manner of determining your voluntary carbon tithe is completely up to you and probably will be different for all participants. A simple method would be to simply pledge a monthly amount and commit to it.
- Other methods include, perhaps, committing to contributing a dime a gallon for all fuel used each month, or to contributing an amount equal to 10% of all fossil fuels costs consumed by you or your family each month.
- We suggest using one of a number of carbon footprint calculators available online. We recommend the one provided by Terrapass (<http://www.terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator>) as it is fairly inclusive, shows how your footprint compares to the national average, and suggests a dollar amount that would offset your carbon production.
- Now that you have calculated the amount you voluntarily pledge, write it down here:
  - Amount pledged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- **I/we agree to calculate our carbon tithe and make said contribution to the Port Townsend Friends Meeting on a monthly basis.**
- **Name:**
- **Date:**
- Please submit a copy of this form to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and keep a copy for your records. Feel free to change your pledged amount at any time by filling out another form and submitting it to the Committee. All funds will be earmarked specifically for this program.

## **MAKE YOUR PLEDGE**

Your pledged amount will go into an earmarked fund that will be used at the discretion of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to contribute to actions or organizations directly reducing carbon emissions. These may include installation of solar panels on the meeting house, contributing to organizations committed to greenhouse gas reduction programs, purchasing carbon offsets, and educational outreach.

**Where will it go?**

- Am I committed to passing on a habitable planet to future generations and is this evident to others in how I live and how I witness?
- Do I live in possibility knowing that with the Spirit “way may open”? Do I acknowledge the scientific facts of global warming and that it is impacting everyone on the planet—rich and poor? Do I witness to myself and others our responsibility to act in ways that encourage adaptation to current realities and that will help mitigate the severity of global warming. How? Why? When?
- Do I take whatever small steps are within my present capacity, trusting that if I follow the truth I have more will be given me?
- Have I made changes in my lifestyle that are reducing greenhouse gases and what might be my next steps?
- Am I helping my meeting reduce its carbon footprint?
- Am I uniting with others who share my concern for stewardship and do I bear public witness to the Spirit? How? Why? When?
- Have I divested from fossil fuel companies? Do I seek to influence any investment/pension funds I have to divest from fossil fuel holdings?
- Am I open to a Voluntary Carbon Tithe Witness or other actions to move public opinion and governments toward better stewardship of all resources?

## Queries