

Climate Statement  
Asheville Friends Meeting

Asheville Friends bear witness to the truth of our times: in this moment, we recognize that we are facing an existential crisis that requires a response greater than individual actions. The systemic structures as well as the daily choices of peoples, governments and faith communities across the globe must be radically transformed in order to avert the climate catastrophe we are creating. The continued burning of fossil fuels is destabilizing the climate, acidifying oceans, and destroying the natural systems that humans and all living creatures depend on.

World leaders will come together for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP29). Asheville Friends call on them to acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuels is the primary cause of the climate crisis, and to recognize that many of the nations that are hardest hit by a warming climate have been the least responsible for the crisis and are least able to cope with the consequences. We call on COP29 to clearly state that the existential crisis of climate change requires more than merely an orderly transition. We must end our use of fossil fuels by 2030. We call on COP29 negotiators to commit to fully finance the Loss and Damage Fund to compensate developing countries, and the Green Climate Fund to implement renewable solutions in developing countries.

Asheville Friends are guided by our query for Care of the Earth that asks “How do I hold in the Light the impact of climate change on the 'least of these,' the vulnerable members of the human, animal, and plant communities?” Every Friend, household, and Meeting in our community is asked to be responsive to this query and to demonstrate our communal reverence for interdependent life.

Let us all take immediate steps to reduce our carbon footprint, such as reducing or eliminating meat consumption, and switching to renewable electricity. Let us promote and participate in actions that directly impact the fossil fuel industry, such as fossil fuel boycotts and divestment. Let our lives speak of the radical transformation we know we must undergo, and let us advocate fiercely for radical transformation in our government and our economy.