

Requested Action: Approve the attached minute and become a co-petitioner on a petition to be sent to Governor Wolf

The Petition: For the Governor to use executive authority to adopt an auction-cap-trade regulation in Pennsylvania. The regulation would place an upper limit (Cap) on carbon emissions which would result in Pennsylvania being carbon neutral by 2050. Revenue raised through the sale/auction of the right to use carbon would be used to reduce any state structural deficit, provide funding for education, invest in job-creating clean energy and spur economic development throughout the state.

Background: Peace and Service Committee (“P&S”) received the petition and a supporting letter from Diana Reinhold, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting in the middle of October. The committee received further data from Pat McBee in the middle of November, which included the level of support the petition had received from the Quaker Community. The Committee (Betsy Crofts, Claire Staffieri, Marguerite Chandler, Nola Bencze, Caroline Wilson and Nancy Martin) considered the request at its meeting on November 19. P&S recommends approval of the request by Newtown Monthly Meeting.

Supporting Reasons:

- Pennsylvania’s emissions of greenhouse gases are globally significant, exceeding those of most nations of the world on both an absolute and per capita basis.
- Pennsylvania’s Constitution provides its people with the “right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.”
- P&S believes the petition to be a thoughtful, science-based and realistic approach to reduce carbon footprint of Pennsylvania and is in keeping with world-wide initiatives by the UN and the Paris Accords.
- The petition was researched and drafted by reliable, knowledgeable parties:
 - The Clean Air Council – a member-supported environmental organization headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - Widener University Commonwealth Law School Environmental Law and Sustainability Center
 - Baird Brown – Friend, graduate of Westtown, Principal and Founder of eco(n)law LLC, former Partner and head of Energy and Sustainability Practice at Drinker, Biddle and Reath
- The Minute and petition has been widely discussed and endorsed. Over 60 individuals and 13 Friends Meetings (see attached list), including Friends Fiduciary, Northeast PA Audubon Society, Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, Westtown School and the Eco-Justice Collaborative of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting are among the co-petitioners.

Note: The deadline for filing as a co-petitioner has been extended to the end of January 2019. The full text of the proposed regulation is posted on the P&S Committee page.

Attachments: Proposed Minute
Exhibit A Identification of Petitioners