

LOVING EARTH PROJECT

Caring for the World we love

It can be overwhelming to think about environmental break-down and our part in this. The Loving Earth aims to help people to engage with sustainability issues, motivated by love. It helps us focus on specifics and to reflect on them creatively, without being overwhelmed.



People are invited to reflect on three core questions:

- Think about something you love or care about which is threatened by environmental break-down (it could be a person, a place, a species or anything) ;
- What do you do that contributes to the problem?
- And what do you do, have you done, or might you do to contribute to the solution?

They are encouraged to jot down their answers and to draw or collage something to illustrate part of their response. Some people will find it easy; others will be more challenged. Finding out more or having conversations may be their first step.

The project started out as a community textile project displayed at the *Seeking Routes* art exhibition on an environmental theme by Quaker artists, at Swarthmoor Hall in summer 2019. A number of Friends sent in small textile panels along with some writing to illustrate their response to the three core questions. These can now be seen at <http://lovingearth-project.uk/gallery/> and can be borrowed for displays elsewhere. As well as exploring the questions individually in this way, group workshops (with or without textiles) have been shown to work for a variety of groups and ages (no artistic skills needed).

The project is now expanding, with a website linking to practical information about climate change, and a Facebook page to share responses, solutions , etc. Anyone can join in, and we hope to engage widely within and beyond the Quaker community; Friends overseas, and people involved with a range of community and faith groups have already expressed an interest.

We plan to develop a range of workshops to engage hearts, minds and hands, in addressing the challenges. Some of these will explicitly draw on spiritual practices, but the project can be interpreted in many different ways. Some people will wish to make one or more textile panels to join the collection, but more will probably not do so.

We are now seeking a small team of volunteers to help the project grow; otherwise it won't! We'd like a small and diverse team able to develop and offer workshops and handle admin and communications, though the latter should be minimal.

Please get in touch with lovingearthproject@gmail.com if you'd like to join the team, and do let others know about this joyful and energising project.

Linda Murgatroyd

lovingearth-project.uk
@LovingEarthProject
lovingearthproject@gmail.com

