

**Report of the SAYMA Earth Justice Committee
4/6/2024**

Earth Justice Committee has developed the following draft Statement of SAYMA's concern and call for action regarding the Climate Crisis. We encourage Friends to bring this draft Statement to your Meetings as impetus to consider, discern, approve, revise, and/or create a statement of your own that reflects your Meeting's leading(s) with respect to the Climate Crisis. **Please send the results of your meeting's discernment to the Earth Justice committee via email at earthjustice@sayma.org.** We hope and expect to bring a Climate Statement to the Summer Sessions in Berea based on the feedback that we receive and discernment that will take place during the Retreat, in keeping with our established process for SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

We do not seek discussion of the draft minute by the Representative Meeting. We do not seek discernment about its content or any kind of wordsmithing exercise. If anyone has clarifying questions, committee member Roy Taylor will try to answer them.

**Climate Statement [Draft Version]
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA)**

The Religious Society of Friends witnesses 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 act in radical concert to address the climate catastrophe we have created.

World leaders will come together for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP29). SAYMA calls 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.

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. Friends in the Southern Appalachian region 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 we all ask our neighbors around the world to take immediate and practical steps to reverse our dependence on fossil fuels and demonstrate a communal reverence for interdependent life.