

Earth Justice Report June 2021

Earth Justice is the committee formerly known as the SAYMA Earth Action Network, which was formerly known as the Ecological Concerns Network.

We have been meeting since January.

We have adopted a revised mission:

We are at a moment of ecological crisis which merits the full engagement of Friends. The response to this crisis will encompass our traditional testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality, and integrity.

We therefore seek to:

- a. act as a catalyst for action on healing the environment in a just and equitable manner, and to encourage Friends to understand and undertake this work as a spiritual leading;*
- b. raise awareness of the unjust, disproportionate effect that environmental degradation has on those who are the most vulnerable: low income, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color;*
- c. serve as the hub of a network connecting SAYMA Friends, providing educational programs, forums, workshops, and other resources to individuals, monthly meetings, and Yearly Meeting;*
- d. collaborate with other organizations working on environmental justice; and*
- e. serve as a source of spiritual and moral support for Friends engaged in healing the Earth.*

We seek like-minded people to join us in our work, including a Friend willing to also serve as SAYMA Rep to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

We are striving to identify Earth Justice work that has relevance across the SAYMA region. Here are three we have discussed:

Objective #1: Assist households, meetings, and communities to develop and adopt a plan for a fossil-fuel-free future.

Objective #2: Encouraging tree planting, re-forestation, and re-wilding of lawns and other areas. Encourage native plants and food plants.

Objective #3: Identify coal ash ponds in our regions and determine whether they are leaking toxins into groundwater and rivers, and identify affected communities, to understand what would be necessary to mitigate harms.

We invite input from Friends on other work to be done.

Visit our committee web page: https://www.sayma.org/earth_justice.htm

Join our FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/saymaearthjustice>

Meetings are currently held on Zoom on second Wednesdays at 7 pm. All interested Friends are welcome to join us.

Deni Elliot (Charleston)
Rylin Hansen (Asheville)
Roy Taylor (Atlanta)
Charlie Wilton (Berea)