



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

May 2013

Issue 75



Topical activity

Global warming and the XL pipeline

In some previous *Journeys in the Spirit* Topical activities the issue of global warming and climate change has been raised. In this Topical activity we hope that we have provided some accessible ways to talk with children about what global warming and climate change actually are.

This can be scary and huge for adults as well so we also provide some links to information for adults as well. It is important for people of all ages to feel that they can respond and make a difference so we have also included links to information about the global campaign to prevent the building of the XL oil pipeline from Canada to the USA.

But, first, some pictures of children in the USA protesting with their families about climate change:



.....and in London on April 11th Quakers joined lots of people at 8.00 in the morning in a demonstration to show John Kerry, United States Secretary of State, how strongly people feel about Tar Sands and the XL pipeline



Information to help adults understand:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming

<http://350.org/en/understanding-350#1>

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/speak-out>

Information to help children understand:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/find_out/guides/world/global_warming/newsid_1575000/1575441.stm

A way to act together:

http://act.350.org/letter/a_million_strong_against_keystone/

Letters could be written and sent – see the American example below. What else might children and meeting do? How does 'speaking truth to power' as an idea help us all here?

One example of a letter written by an American family:

Dear First Lady Michelle Obama,

First I want to share with you how grateful my family is that you and your family are in the White House for four more years. I believe that you and your husband care about the American people and understand government's role in its citizens' well being.

I want to ask you to please talk with the president about climate change and the course our planet may take if the XL Pipeline is allowed to be built in our country. This is not just an environmental issue, it is a human health issue. As a mother and breast cancer survivor I cannot encourage the president and our representatives enough to study the effects the XL Pipeline and climate change would cause on our health and well being.

The environmental decisions your husband makes today will impact your daughters and mine. You see, we sit around the table and talk about politics too because politics effects all aspects of our lives. Whether it be embracing all individuals as equal and worthy of respect regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status (my daughter calls this being a friend) or going to the doctor's when she is sick. Please tell your husband that any decision he makes on climate change must consider all whose land this dangerous pipeline would cross and the children of today whose lives will be affected by his decisions. As I saw first hand at yesterday's Forward on Climate Rally in San Francisco, "There is no Planet B." This is the Presidents opportunity to leave a lasting legacy on humanity.

With warmest regards,