

The Policies that Guide Us

How does FCLCA's staff know what to support and what to oppose when legislation is proposed? What is an "FCLCA position" and how do we know it is line with our core values?

The work of FCLCA – its lobbying and advocacy concerns – are guided by Policy Statements developed by a Policy Committee of the FCLCA Board and approved by FCLCA's General Committee.

Every year, the Policy Committee

n reviews three of our 17 policy statements

n invites participation from Friends all over California to discuss and revise them

n after a months-long process, presents three proposed drafts to the General Committee at its statewide meeting in December.

This year, the General Committee approved three policy revisions: Concern for the Environment; Taxation, Budgeting and Fiscal Policy; and Human Services.

We'd like to share with you one of our 2009 policy statements, [Concern for the Environment](#). The 2009 revision adds specific guidance to our board, volunteers and staff about FCLCA's vision for our society's relationship to the environment and the measures needed to accomplish that vision. [FCLCA](#)



Acting as God's Stewards – FCLCA's Policy on Concern for the Environment

Friends Committee on Legislation of California affirms that the Quaker values of truth, justice, social health and peace are fundamentally linked to and connected to our relationship with the earth. Our actions and decisions that destabilize the environment will ultimately destabilize our communities and promote conflict.

Friends Committee on Legislation of California endeavors to promote policies that will heal the environment and promote living in harmony with nature. We as a society must develop a thriving relationship with the natural systems that support us. Human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity, and recognizing and managing the scale of our impacts (see also Family Planning policy).

Friends believe that “the earth is the Lord’s” and we gratefully acknowledge that:

“All we possess are the gifts of God. We act as God’s steward, and it becomes our station to act agreeably to that divine wisdom which God graciously gives to his servants.”

– John Woolman

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature he finds it is attached to the rest of the world.”

– John Muir

We envision a society that:

- is fueled by 100% renewable resources;
- creates no toxic substances and no “waste”;
- revitalizes and regenerates the health of the earth’s living systems;
- ensures quality-of-life for all beings; and
- ensures that all people can be full environmental stewards and participate in public environmental decision-making, regardless of economic or geographic condition.

In pursuing this vision, FCLCA supports measures which:

- **ensure** all environmental policy development is open, transparent, and has full participation of affected communities, including the recognized and unrecognized Native American tribes and groups who maintain deep connections to their lands;
- **ensure** our land use and natural resource policies maintain healthy ecosystems and regenerate forests, grasslands, and all habitats;
- **promote** land use decisions that improve existing cities and urban environments, and improve access to housing, jobs, and human services within current urban boundaries; and
- **take** swift and decisive action on climate change to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use, and support climate adaptation efforts to mitigate any adverse impacts on affected people and species. Good practices include use of renewable energies, conservation, efficiency, scientifically-credible sequestration of carbon, and the localization of food systems and economies.
- **are equitable** in that all peoples benefit, and ensure marginalized populations are not regressively impacted [e.g. in carbon taxes (see also Taxation, Budget and Fiscal Policy)];



- **in no way compromise** the health of natural ecosystems;
- **promote** green collar industries and jobs to create a healthy economy and environment, while providing meaningful, livingwage entry level jobs for the underemployed;
- **protect** all people and ecosystems from toxic exposures, such as pesticides, air pollution, endocrine disruptors, or hazardous chemicals; and
 - **ensure** equitable and affordable access to clean water, and promote its efficient use and conservation. Water pricing must allow for maintenance of systems while ensuring affordable access for all as a fundamental human right.
 - **ensure** that diversion of water for humans does not degrade healthy rivers, streams, and lakes;
- **restore** natural streams and lakes where water depletions have been significant; and
- **take** a precautionary approach wherever there is significant uncertainty or significant lack of scientific consensus, such as with untested chemicals or unknowns about the storage and safety of toxic and nuclear wastes and act so as to be the most protective of public and ecological health, habitat, and biodiversity. [FCLCA](#)