



Faith Plans

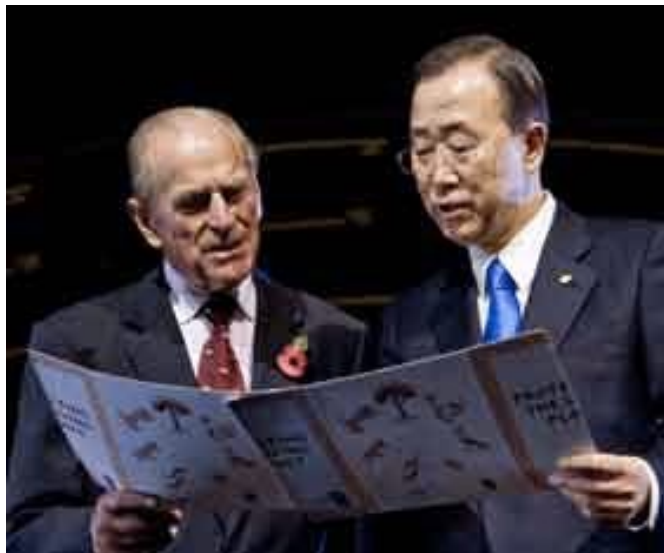
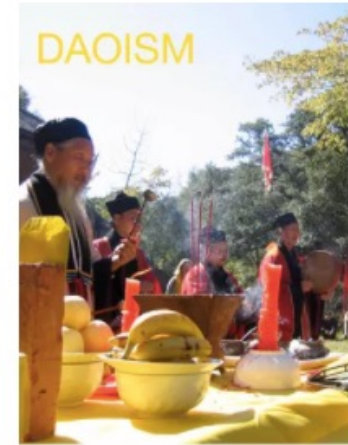
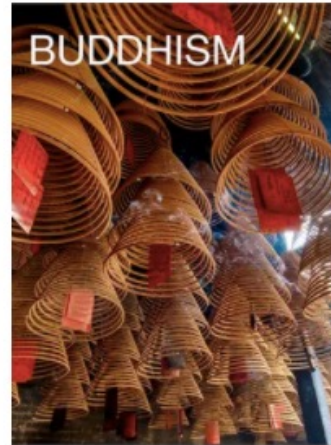
For people and planet

A Holistic Approach to a Sustainable Future

Origins of Faith Plans

2009 Commitments by faith tradition

Click on the images below to find out what Commitments were developed as part of the original programme.





Credit: Reuters

- 4th October multi-faith Appeal to COP26: commitment to faiths putting in place '**bold plans**' and '**aligning investments**'
- Leadership from the top – significant shift – needs to be acted on

Full statement here: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/10/04/211004a.html>

Our commitment and our creativeness

- The followers of *religious traditions* have a crucial part to play in addressing the crisis of our common home. We commit to taking much more serious action. Young people are demanding that we listen to the scientific insights and that we, their elders, do much more.
- First, we commit to *advancing the educational and cultural transformation* that is crucial to sustain all other actions. We underline the importance of:
 - Deepening our efforts to bring about a change of heart among the members of our traditions in the way we relate to the earth and to other people (*'ecological conversion'*). We will remind our communities that care for the earth and for others is a key tenet of all our traditions. Recognizing the signs of the divine harmony present in the natural world, we will strive to incorporate this ecological sensitivity more consciously into our practices.
 - Encouraging *our educational and cultural institutions* to give priority in their programs to relevant scientific insights, to strengthen integral ecological education, and to help students and their families relate to nature and to others with new eyes. Beyond the transmission of information and technical knowledge, we want to instill deep-rooted virtues to sustain the ecological transformation that is required.
 - Participating actively and appropriately in the public and political discourse on environmental issues, sharing our *religious, moral and spiritual perspectives* and uplifting the voices of the weakest, of young people, and of those too often ignored, such as Indigenous Peoples. We underline the importance to reframe environmental debates from being about technical issues alone to include moral issues.
 - Engaging our congregations and institutions with their neighbors in the *building of sustainable, resilient and just communities*, creating and developing resources for local cooperation in, for example, restorative small-scale agriculture and renewable energy cooperatives.
- Second, we underline the importance of taking *far-reaching environmental action within our own institutions and communities*, informed by science and based on religious wisdom. While calling on governments and international organizations to be ambitious, we also recognize the major role we play. We wish to emphasize the importance of:
 - Supporting actions to reduce carbon emissions, achieve carbon neutrality, promote disaster risk reduction, improve waste management, conserve water and energy, develop renewable energy, provide green open spaces, conserve coastal areas, prevent deforestation and restore forests. Many of these actions require *partnership* with farming and fishery communities, especially small-scale and family farmers, whom we will support.
 - *Working to make bold plans* to achieve *full sustainability in our buildings*, land, vehicles and other properties, joining the global race to save our planet.
 - Encouraging our communities to embrace *simple and sustainable lifestyles* at home, so as to reduce our collective carbon footprint.
 - *Striving to align our financial investments* with environmentally and socially responsible standards, ensuring greater accountability and transparency as the tendency to move away from investments in fossil fuels and toward investments in renewable energy and restorative agriculture is becoming ever more widespread. We will encourage public and private sector stakeholders to do the same.
 - Evaluating all the *goods we purchase and the services we hire* with the same ethical lens, avoiding two different moral standards being applied to the business sector and to the rest of social life. For instance, we will raise awareness in our faith communities about the need to examine our banking, insurance and investment choices, to correct them in line with both the values we proclaim here.



THE EARTH IS GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL

Get finance out of fossil fuels and into renewables

MAKE CLIMATE FINANCE LEGALLY BINDING

WE DEMAND CLIMATE JUSTICE

WE DENY CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL SO WHY WILL IT STOP?

ROSES R DEAD VIOLETS R

MAKE CLIMATE FINANCE LEGALLY BINDING

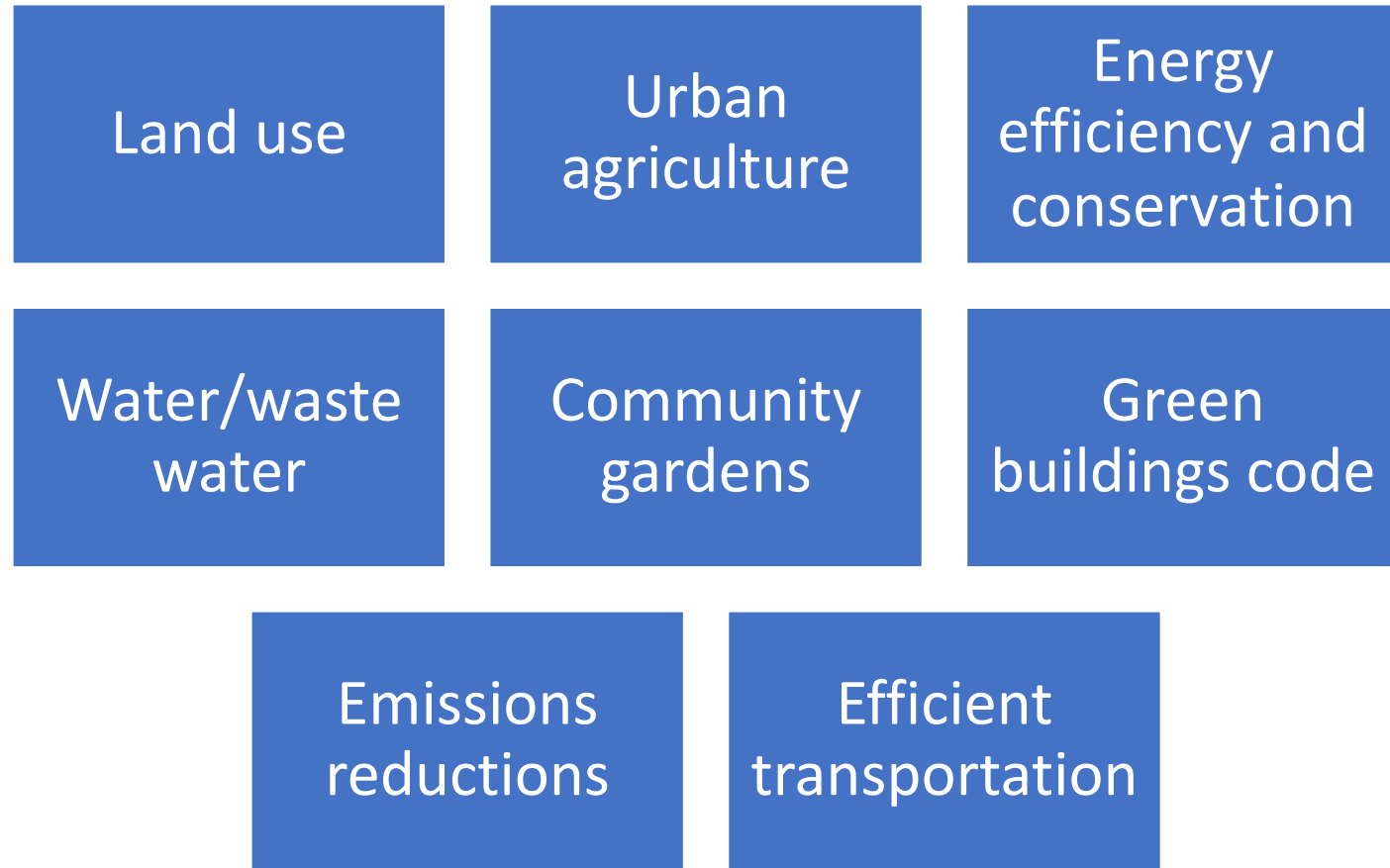
SPEAK UP FOR PAYING UP

global hours

Act now

FAITH AND BELIEFS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Standard sustainability planning models



Why is this approach problematic for faiths?

- Focus is on reduction - reduce your emissions, footprint... doing less!
- Focus almost exclusively on tangible assets: buildings, changing energy suppliers, energy efficiency, waste management, tree planting
- Misses the many intangible assets of faiths – access, influence, moral voice, wisdom
- Issue is framed based on importing external thinking (science, UN, government) – often seen as an ‘add on’ to the core business of faith

A standard approach fails to fully appreciate the unique, and potentially transformative role of faiths as major stakeholders in the future

What is different about Faith Plans?

- An **integral process** that starts with the faith and builds from there
- **Holistic** – takes into account the full spectrum of faith assets and activities
- **Solution focused** – drawing on opportunities
- **Adaptable** – not a rigid framework, can be modified so long as it is holistic



Putting Faith at the Centre



What are our core beliefs & values?

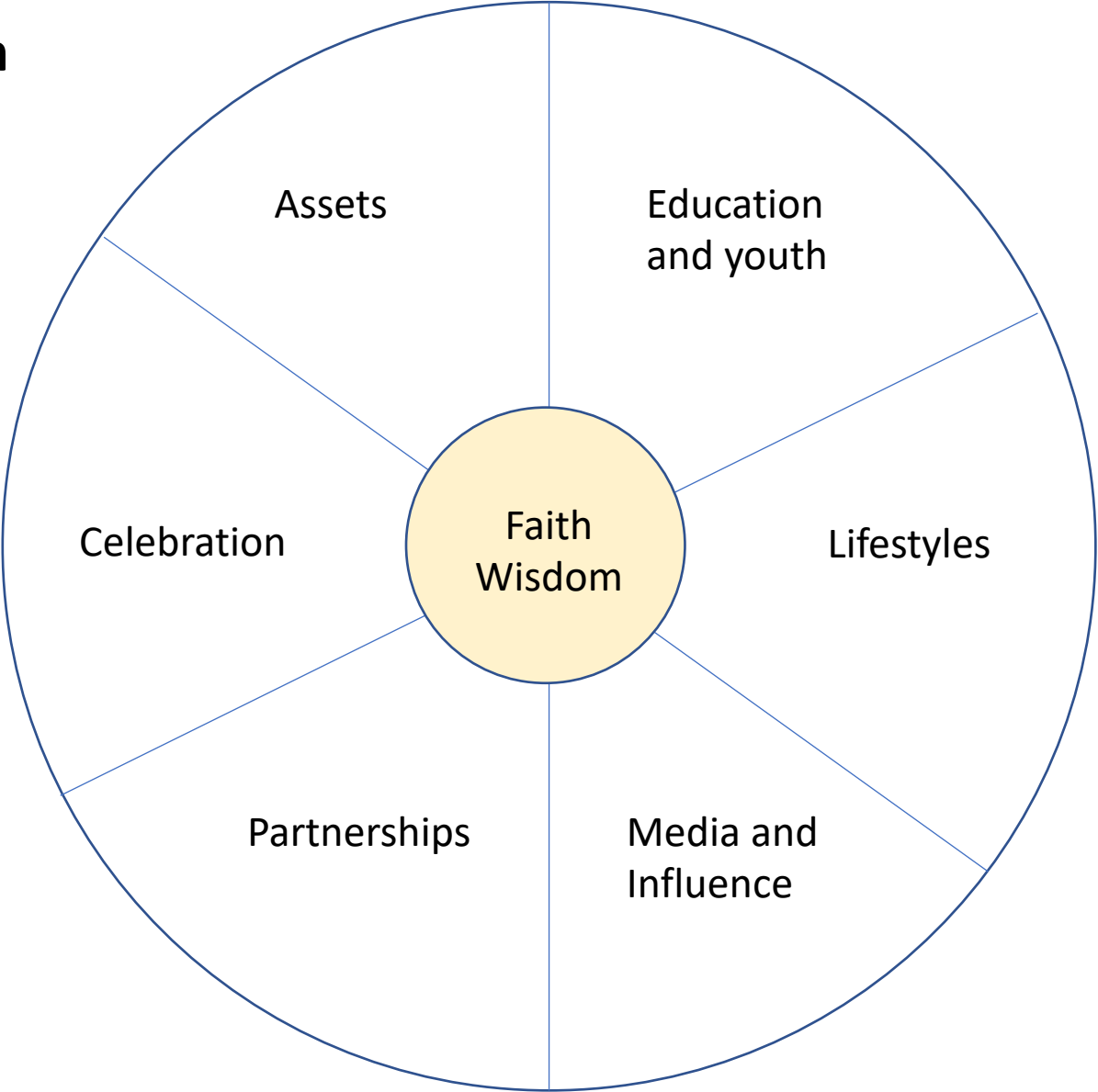
What does our faith tell us about how we need to care for the earth and other people?

Where can we find sources of inspiration on this?

Are there examples we can readily turn to to inspire others on taking action?

What aspects of our theology/story do we need to revisit in light of the ecological crisis?

Key Areas of Faith Community Life



Have we applied our core beliefs & values to how we live faith community life?

Which of these areas are applicable to our faith organization?

Who from our faith organization needs to be involved in preparing the plan?

Can we have sub-processes that feed into the overall plan?

Which areas could be our major focus?

Start with a Holistic Audit

Aligned processes:

Standard Sustainability Audit

Alignment of financial investments

Wisdom	Assets	Education and Youth	Lifestyles	Media and Influence	Partnerships	Celebration
Theology/ Philosophy of nature	Buildings – usage, energy, water	Curricula	Green audits	Subject matter	Dedicated staff and funding	Traditional festivals
Liturgies and rituals	Land and forests	Informal education and youth	Traditions of simple living	Influence	Lay people	New Festivals
Sacred places	Waste management	Vocational Training	Pilgrimage and tourism	Advocacy and campaigning	Eco-twinning	New traditions
Stories, quotes and practices	Procurement and Purchasing	School buildings	Purchasing power	Guides and handbooks	Other technical partnerships	New beautiful places
Spirituality, prayer and meditation	Financial Investments					
Theological training	Enterprises eg. Healthcare					



Faith Plans Planning Guide

Faith Plans Planning Guide will help your faith community get started on developing a long-term Faith Plan.

It is up to each faith group to decide what they will focus on in their plan, depending on their core beliefs and values, priorities, resources, time, and capacity. The purpose of this step-by-step guide is to provide some simple pointers, some of which may or may not be relevant to your faith-group. Visit www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas for more specific guidelines on planning for the seven areas of the Faith Plans programme.

The Faiths Plans programme has **four guiding principles**, building on the foundations of the first programme of establishing Faith Long-term Plans. These are relevant to both individual organisations and the co-ordination of multi-faith working groups which will enable groups to work together and deliver change at a greater scale.

Each faith community
commits to a 5-7 year plan
to care for creation based
on their tradition.

FaithPlans platform can
support through sharing
and learning as we journey
together.

FaithInvest invites
communities to log their
plans on the faithplans.org
website by May 2022 (if
possible)

Together, we assess
progress at the Stockholm
+50 Summit in June and
deliver our eco-plans to the
UN at COP27 in November

*As we develop the plans,
FaithInvest helps to source
faith-based investment
opportunities to implement
them!*



Faith Plans
For people and planet

Large network of umbrella and resource partners

Religions for Peace



Religions for Peace



Laudato Si' Action Platform



World Evangelical Alliance



Hazon



Operation Noah



Laudato Si' Movement



Interfaith Power & Light



China Biodiversity Conservation
& Green Development Foundation



Bhumi Global

Bahá'í
International
Community

Baha'i International
Community



GreenFaith



Interfaith Rainforest
Initiative



EcoSikh



Focolare Movement



JLens



Interfaith Center for
Sustainable Development



Kenya Interfaith Network for
Action on the Environment



Ethiopian Council for Gospel
Believers' Churches

FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Initiative,
UN Environment



UNDP's Learning for Nature



United Religions Initiative



Yale Forum on Religion
and Ecology



The Conservation Foundation



EcoOne

Affiliated Partners and
Programmes



Stop Ecocide Foundation



EAT



Our Planet Our Future



www.faithplans.org

[SIGN UP!](#)[Home](#) [About](#) [Participants](#) [Seven Key Areas](#) [News & resources](#)

Faith Plans

The world's faiths are responding to the 'cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor' by developing Faith Plans for People and Planet – long-term faith commitments to use their buildings, lands, investments and influence to drive practical action to create a better world – for the benefit of people and planet, and for today's and future generations. Join the Movement!

Make your commitment now

Hundreds of faith groups around the world are planning how they can use their assets, investments, wisdom and influence to drive practical action on climate change, the environment and sustainable development – to create a better world for us all.

[Join us!](#)

Join the Movement

Sign the commitment to develop your own Faith Long-term Plan and commit your institution to take practical action for people and the planet.

[Yes, I'll join](#)

Platform is open to all and supports an online multi-faith community to exchange ideas and experiences – and get concrete support.

Next steps!

Join the Movement

Join the movement

Hundreds of faith groups around the world are developing Faith Plans, using their faith's assets and investments, wisdom and influence to drive practical action on climate change, the environment and sustainable development. Wherever you are on your journey, we are here for you. Simply register your interest below to receive more information, or sign up to join the movement!

Register your **interest**

New to the concept of Faith Plans and not sure how to begin? Register your interest to receive information and resources to help you get started.

[Register](#)

Make your **commitment**

Ready to develop your Faith Plan? Join the Faith Plans programme and show how your institution will take action for people and the planet.

[Sign up](#)

Explore the Faith Plans Hub

Resources

The Faith Plans programme focuses on Seven Key Areas where the world's major faiths can have a long-term environmental impact. The resources below are organised under these Seven Key Areas. New resources are being added as they become available.

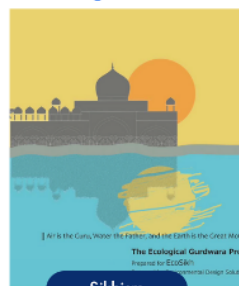
Simply click to download the resource you want.

'There is not a moving creature on earth, or a bird that flies with its wings, but they are communities like you'

– Qur'an 6:38

Faith-consistent use of assets

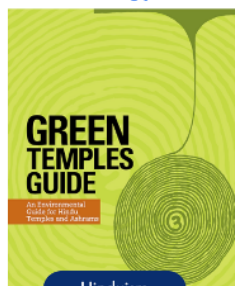
Buildings, construction and energy



Sikhism

Green Gurdwara Guide

A guide to greening Sikh gurdwaras, produced by EcoSikh



Hinduism

Green Hindu Temples Guide

Make your Hindu temple or ashram greener, from the Bhumi Project and ARC



Islam

Green Up My Community Toolkit

Islamic guide to help mosques and other Islamic groups address environmental issues



Multi faith

Energy Star Action Workbook

A guidebook for congregations to improve energy efficiency using the Energy Star program

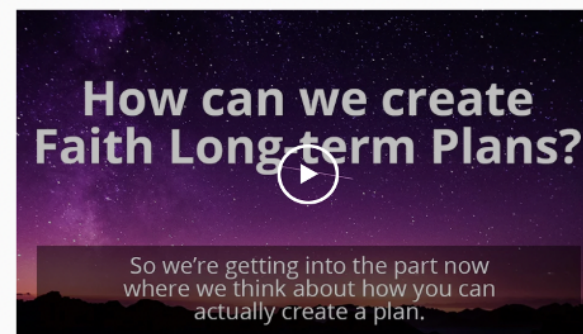
Visit www.faithplans.org for our online **library of technical guides**, and more detail on the the **Seven Key Areas** to help you get started with planning.

How to use the Seven Key Areas framework

The Seven Key Areas are a framework for faiths to use as they plan how to use their buildings, land, investments and influence to drive practical action on the environment.

This framework is not prescriptive; each faith group will chose which areas apply to their own particular community and situation.

Read more about the Seven Key Areas below. We have also been holding a series of webinars on the different areas. Check out our events page for forthcoming webinars or watch recordings of past webinars.



This short video on creating a Faith Plan was recorded during one of our webinars.

Start the planning process

- Download our **simple planning guide** for helpful pointers and suggestions for taking the first steps!
- Explore the **Seven Key Area framework** for pointers & suggestions
- Complete the **baseline survey as a reflection & action tool**

Faiths are key stakeholders in the planet

Around 50% of educational institutions around the world are founded, managed, or associated with faith institutions, and this figure is even higher in the Global South. How can religions use their influence in the education system – and in the many ways they engage young people in informal education – to pursue their environmental goals?



SCHOOL CURRICULA

1. Does faith-consistent teaching already exist within your formal education system? If so, have you mapped this?
2. How can you incorporate more in-depth, faith-consistent teachings about ecology and the environment into the curriculum? TBC
3. What capacity do you have for practical teaching and learning?
4. Have you considered how gender plays a role within your education systems and how this may impact the learning of your young people?



INFORMAL EDUCATION

Often it is out of the classroom that children will learn some of their most important lessons.

1. Can schools extend the reach of their environmental curriculum by connecting with their local community?
2. Do you run faith groups for young people outside formal education? How can teaching and activities be tailored to include the environment?
3. Is there potential to set up environmental youth groups in your local or wider community?
4. Are there opportunities for



SCHOOL BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

1. Can you ensure all new education buildings and extensions are built with rigorous environmental and sustainability criteria, and that playing fields and gardens pay attention to the needs of wildlife and nature as well as children?
2. Can you encourage young people to use environmentally friendly ways of travelling to and from school?
3. Is there potential to create outdoor classrooms or learning spaces?
4. How can your policies in relation to school property support the UN's



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Save the date!

Workshop 2

**Thursday
February 22nd
2022**

11:00 New York | 16:00 London | 17:00 Paris |
19:00 Nairobi | 21:30 Delhi

Mobilising your Assets for People and Planet

"A workshop for exchange and learning, and guidance from Investment Solutions at FaithInvest."

Visit our events page to find out more and book your place: www.faithplans.org/events