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.
• 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.
Standard sustainability planning models

- Land use
- Urban agriculture
- Energy efficiency and conservation
- Water/waste water
- Community gardens
- Green buildings code
- Emissions reductions
- Efficient transportation
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

- Assets
- Education and youth
- Lifestyles
- Partnerships
- Media and Influence
- Celebration

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

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<tr>
<th>Wisdom</th>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Education and Youth</th>
<th>Lifestyles</th>
<th>Media and Influence</th>
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<th>Celebration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Buildings – usage, energy, water</td>
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<td>Green audits</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<td>Informal education and youth</td>
<td>Traditions of simple living</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Procurement and Purchasing</td>
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<td>Theological training</td>
<td>Enterprises eg. Healthcare</td>
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**Aligned processes:**

- **Standard Sustainability Audit**
- **Alignment of financial investments**

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**Faith Plans Planning Guide**

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](http://www.faithplans.org) for more specific guidelines on planning for the seven areas of the Faith Plans programme.

The Faith 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!
Large network of umbrella and resource partners
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.

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.

Register
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

Visit [www.faithplans.org](http://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 choose 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

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 Faith 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.
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