



Faith Plans Planning Guide

The aim of this Guide is to help you and 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. For more specific guidelines on planning for the seven areas of the Faith Plans programme, visit www.faithplans.org/seven-key-areas.

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.

The **guiding principles** encourage groups to think both realistically and ambitiously about the design of their plans and how to best implement them. By looking at past, present and future actions and contexts, the most appropriate plans can be drawn up to address situational environmental issues drawing on the theology held by each faith.

Guiding Principles

1. Take stock of the past and celebrate previous successes and learnings.
2. Gain a clear understanding of the present, summarising the current context for each of the Seven Key Areas of action (see below).
3. Imagine and plan the future, using real world, measurable impacts to plan ideas.
4. Share the narratives, within faith traditions, within the laity, and to the wider world, with specific support and encouragement for participating groups to develop their advocacy programme.

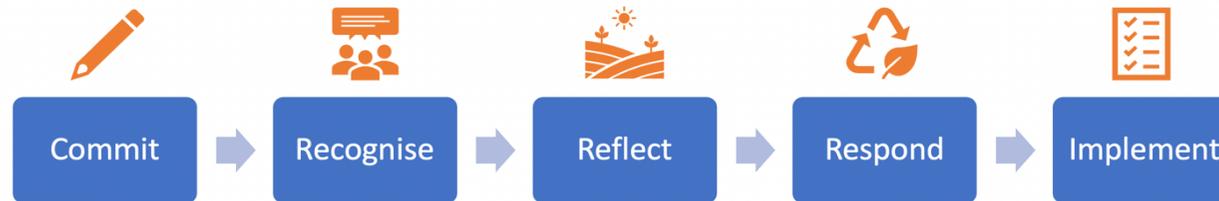
The Seven Key Areas

The programme focuses on seven key areas (summarised below) where the world's major faiths can have a long-term environmental impact. In the context of stating your specific commitments and actions, please consider how you will apply gender equality, race and human dignity considerations into each area.

The Seven Key Areas

- 1. Faith-consistent use of assets:** eg, Construction and buildings, Healthcare and medical facilities, Land Management, Water, Financial investments, Purchasing and consumption.
- 2. Education and young people:** eg, School curricula, Informal education, Vocational training & entrepreneurship, School buildings and grounds, Conservations and recycling policy, Youth organisations and camps, Nature trails, School eco-twinning, Environmental monitoring.
- 3. Wisdom:** eg, Theological education and training, Crisis and adaptation, Liturgies, quotations and orders of prayer, Sacred places, Theology of nature, land, forests, water, Stories and practices, Prayer.
- 4. Lifestyles:** eg, Green audits, Traditions of simple living, Families, population and choices, Pilgrimage and tourism, Nature protection, Purchasing power.
- 5. Media and advocacy:** eg, Subject matter, Influence, Advocacy, Guides and handbooks, Materials.
- 6. Partnerships, eco-twinning and new environmental departments:** eg, a Dedicated staff and funding, Lay people, Eco-twinning, Other partnerships.
- 7. Celebration:** eg, Traditional festivals, New festivals, New traditions, New beautiful places and developments.

Key steps in the planning process



<p>RECOGNISE & COMMIT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify who you need to gather with to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vision (Reflect) ○ Plan (Respond) ○ Implement a Faith Plan for People and Planet. • Form a small team. • Register your commitment to developing a Faith Plan: www.faithplans.org/sign-up • Be inspired. Visit inspiring stories from faith groups around the world for ideas and to find out what worked well for them when developing their Faith Plans.
<p>REFLECT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your faith drive your ambition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask why caring for the environment is important to the beliefs and values of your faith. ○ Are there guiding principles which your organisation currently uses to guide environmental action? ○ What stories/teachings/texts, etc, are there in your faith tradition to guide your work? • Write a statement on this that you can use to ground your Faith Plan. What would you like to achieve over the short and long term (your aims)? How will you achieve this vision (your objectives)?

RESPOND

- The FaithPlans initiative recognises that each participating faith community starts from **its own unique position** and needs to create a Plan that accords with its theology, context and capacity. Take stock of what you have/own within your faith group.
- Engage in research and planning.
 - What matters to your faith? What action is most needed in your context? What changes/difference do you want to achieve? What activities are already underway? What are the wider operations (schools, hospitals etc.) within your faith? Do you have access to knowledge and partnerships to help you deliver the changes you want?
- Drawing on the Seven Key Areas of the Faith Plans programme, identify where in your community can you take action for People and Planet?
- Watch the Faith Plans webinars on the Seven Key Areas.
- Visit the Faith Plans' library of resources for guidance on where and how to act!
- Explore the Seven Key Areas for prompts.
- Read FaithInvest's [Developing Faith-Consistent Investment Guidelines](#) for guidance on steps towards aligning financial investments with your belief and values.
- Complete the Faith Plans baseline survey of environmental action your faith group has already taken in the past. This survey will help you identify environmental actions and activities to include in your Faith Plan.
- Decide which key areas you should focus on in your Faith Plan?
- Set short-term and long-term goals for your Faith Plan that are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and anchored within a Time Frame.
- Will you have to fund the implementation of your Faith Plan? If so, is funding available? Who needs to be involved in the implementation of your plan? Have you set a timeline of steps and activities? Do you need a project management template?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw on experience of any environmental projects/programmes for lessons learned, identify what went well and what needs to change/be adapted for success. • Put your Faith Plan on paper (you could include a Background and Faith Statement, identify the key stakeholders, write the aims and objectives, the actions and outcomes, the timeline for the project, how potential risks will be managed, and how progress will be monitored). • Remember: Make time to CELEBRATE this important step. Contact the Faith Plans team if you need help with planning.
<p>IMPLEMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When writing your Plans, explore how you can find a proportionate, meaningful and workable method to monitor your progress. It is important to measure the impact of your work but make sure you are focussing on the changes you want to see rather than undertaking burdensome processes that eclipse the activities you plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan how you will monitor and evaluate the progress you make when developing your plan. Ensure that you can make changes to your plan if needed. ○ Consider how you will know that your activities are achieving their intended outcomes or are on track to make the impacts that matter to your faith. • Consider how you will communicate your progress, as this is a valuable way to maintain the focus and motivation of the leadership, laity and the wider world. Communicating your progress is also a key success factor for embedding lasting change. • Celebrate progress and tell us your Faith Story! • We will support participating groups to disseminate their Plans through key publications, platforms and events.

GET IN TOUCH: If you have any queries, please do get in touch at info@faithplans.org