



Key Area 6 Partnerships

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We all know that working in partnership with others is far more powerful than working alone. As the Dalai Lama said: 'We can see that all the desirable experiences that we cherish or aspire to attain are dependent upon cooperation and interaction with other sentient beings.' There are many different types of partnership, so how can faith groups increase their impact on the environment by working in partnership with others?

These guidelines provide you with simple questions to consider as you develop opportunities for partnering in action for the benefit of people and planet.

Steps and questions to consider as you develop your Faith Plan

<i>Name of faith community/group/organisation</i>	
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Dedicated staff and a dedicated funding source

Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. Do you have staff dedicated to developing environmental work? Is there a focal point for this work, a website? An office? If not, could you open an environment office?	
2. Can you put funds aside annually to fund this work and outreach?	

<p>3. Will these staff have access to the right training and resources to do their work effectively?</p>	
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Lay people

Questions	Space for notes and comments
<p>1. Have you tried to involve lay people who are active in environmental fields to help you develop appropriate ecological responses to issues? Lay people often want to contribute but no-one asks them to do so.</p>	
<p>2. Try establishing an advisory group of members of your faith who are specialists in different fields related to the environment – law, water management, land management, education, waste management etc. The advisory group will offer you most professional advice and could also link your programmes into the wider work of local, national or international agencies, so that your own efforts are multiplied, or leveraged.</p>	
<p>3. It's also worth thinking about the level of professionalism, diversity of backgrounds and experience, and generations represented you need within an advisory group. Who will represent the needs and ideas of your community in a diverse and inclusive way?</p>	

Eco-twinning

Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. Do you have existing links or twinings with other groups – churches, mosques, temples, dioceses and the link in different parts of the world?	
2. If they are in places that are already experiencing climate change at a critical level, have you thought of partnering with them on an environmental basis? And if you are in a place that is experiencing climate change, have you thought about bringing that into your twinning relationship?	
3. Have you explored the possibility of twinning with a secular organisation?	
4. What can be shared beneficially between your organisation and the one you twin with (resources, knowledge and the like)?	

Other partnerships

Questions	Space for notes and comments
<p>1. Look around and see who might partner with you because they share the same interests, for example, in organic farming, clean energy usage, recycling, among many others. There is no need always to reinvent the wheel!</p>	
<p>2. Have you made links with secular bodies that are already working, environmentally, in the field?</p>	
<p>3. Have you made links with other faith bodies in your region that are interested in improving their environmental impact but may not know where to start?</p>	
<p>4. Are there areas where you can share expertise and experience and avoid duplication?</p>	

For more information visit www.FaithPlans.org

To learn more, watch the Faith Plans webinar on [Partnerships](#) and visit our [Partner page](#).