



Seven Key Areas

Faith-consistent use of assets

Buildings and Energy

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The faiths manage and run many buildings, from places of worship to schools, hospitals, halls of residence, youth centres, retreat centres, and much more. As a result, they have a significant role to play in reducing the environmental impacts of their buildings by focusing on energy sources and energy consumption.

This guideline provides prompts and pointers to help you identify what steps you can take to mobilise the use of your physical assets for the benefit of people and planet

Steps and Questions to consider as you develop your Faith Plan

Name of faith community/group/organisation	
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Use and management of buildings and energy

First steps: Assess the environmental impact of your existing buildings and structures – the places of worship, accommodation and feeding facilities, other community buildings which are owned and managed by your faith organisation (eg, temples, mosques, churches, hospitals, schools, retreat centres, community houses).

Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. What are the current uses of your buildings, the status of their structural stability, and need for repair?	
2. Are there any pressing energy-related problems regarding building structure and use? Eg, how well are your buildings are insulated?	

<p>3. What steps can you take to reduce the negative and enhance the positive environmental impact of your building?</p>	
<p>4. How can you reduce the energy consumption of your buildings (eg, energy-saving light-bulbs)?</p>	
<p>5. Can you switch to a local renewable energy provider? Or install renewable energy measures yourself (eg, solar panels, heat pumps etc.)</p>	
<p>6. Are funding sources available to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption in your buildings?</p>	

<p>7. What organisations do you need to connect with to find out more about energy solutions for your buildings? Are there any in your local area?</p>	
<p>8. Do you have examples of good practice in certain sites which could be replicated in other locations?</p>	

<p>Next steps: <i>If relevant, identify the construction activity you are likely to undertake in the next 5 to 7 years (including maintenance, repairs and retrofits as well as plans for new buildings).</i></p>	
<p>9. What is the likely environmental impact of your construction activities and decisions?</p>	
<p>10. What alternatives could be considered to minimise harmful impacts on the environment (eg, source of</p>	

construction materials, multiple purpose spaces?	
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For more information...

To learn more about possible actions you can take, watch the Faith Plans webinar on [Managing faith assets: Buildings, healthcare, purchasing, consumption](#) to hear examples from experts and to access links to key resources.

Resources provided by our partners include:

On buildings, energy use, and efficiency:

- Interfaith Power & Light: www.interfaithpowerandlight.org
- EcoSikh: [Green Gurdwara Guide](#)
- Green Pilgrimage Network: [Green Hindu Temple Guide](#)
- Muslim Agency for Development Education: [Green Up My Community toolkit](#)
- Energy Star®: [Action Workbook for Congregations](#)
- Catholic Climate Covenant: <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org>
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: [Guide to Greening the Parish](#)