



Seven Key Areas

Faith consistent use of assets

Health, hospitality and food

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Faiths are significant providers of hospitality, whether that's caring for visitors to their hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, retreat centres and pilgrim hostels, or caring for patients in hospitals, hospices, orphanages and care homes. The Catholic Church alone manages around a quarter of the world's healthcare facilities, for example.

Many run major catering operations or supply food to the needy. Faiths also run hotels, guesthouses, gift shops, cafeterias, retreat centres and restaurants. Rites of passage such as births, marriages and deaths often involve generous catering and gifts, all of which involve sourcing of food and materials that have local or global impacts on the environment.

The faiths have a significant responsibility to use their purchasing power, consumption and hospitality practices for the benefit of the environment. These guidelines provide you with simple questions to consider when purchasing goods and practicing hospitality 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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Health, hospitality and retail

<i>First steps: Explore your faith's theology of the protection and care of life.</i>	
Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. If you provide any form of hospitality (eg, through hotels, guesthouses, retreat centres, or hospitals, orphanages, etc), do you have a sustainable management plan on the use of water, sanitation, hygiene, supplies, buildings, transport, electricity, waste etc? If not, could you develop one?	
2. Which areas of your hospitality practice can you improve immediately and how can you work to improve the sustainability of your operations over the period of your Faith Plan and beyond?	

3. One of the biggest driving forces behind the illegal wildlife trade is the use of wildlife (especially endangered species) in some traditional medicines. How can you reduce demand for such products? Can you help identify alternative sustainable herbal remedies that can be used instead?	
4. How can you promote a change in attitude among your followers so that demand for wildlife species in traditional medicines is reduced?	
5. Have you looked at the sourcing of the food served to patients and visitors? Can you increase the amount of food that is grown locally, in season, without pesticides and according to nature-friendly principles? The UK's Soil Association recommends that the food you buy should be at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 70 per cent fresh or unprocessed; ○ 50 per cent local; ○ 30 per cent organic. 	

Food, farming & purchasing

<i>First steps: Identify what kind of food is sourced and served by your hospitality and catering outlets.</i>	
Questions	Space for notes and comments
1. Have you looked at the sourcing of the food served to patients and visitors? Have you mapped where your food comes from?	

<p>2. Your purchasing decisions have more power than you may realise. How can your hospitality and retail outlets improve the ethical and ecological impact of their food sourcing?</p>	
<p>3. Can you increase the amount of food that is grown locally, in season, without pesticides and according to nature-friendly principles? In its recommendations for catering organisations, the UK's leading organic organisation, the Soil Association has a programme called Food for Life. It recommends the 75-50-30 principle for ethical food sourcing, ie, that the food you buy should be at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 75 per cent mainly unprocessed; ○ 50 per cent locally sourced; ○ 30 per cent organic. 	

<p><i>Next steps: Consider the way you cater for your community</i></p>	
<p>Questions</p>	<p>Space for notes and comments</p>
<p>1. Cooking for large numbers of people is highly energy intensive. How can your hospitality and retail outlets increase their use of renewable sources of energy?</p>	
<p>2. When organising funerals, baptisms, circumcisions, etc, can you recommend for catering companies that demonstrate environmental</p>	

<p>excellence in their sourcing and operations. How about conferences and meetings?</p>	
<p>3. Can you reduce or end the use of disposable plates, cups and cutlery in your festivals and celebrations and within your community more generally?</p>	

<p><i>Next steps: Consider how you can engage your community on nature-friendly food and farming</i></p>	
<p>1. How can you encourage people in your community to reduce their meat consumption overall, increasing their intake of plant-based foods, alongside smaller portions of, for example, sustainably produced, free-range meat, dairy and eggs?</p>	
<p>2. Have you considered helping your local community improve their farming and growing practices? Could you train them in climate-friendly, sustainable farming methods?, or link up with organisations who can do so?</p>	
<p>3. Faith communities own a great deal of land that is leased to tenant farmers for agricultural production. Do you have environmental guidelines and principles for how that land should be managed?</p>	



For more information...

To learn more about possible action you can take, watch the Faith Plans webinar on [Managing faith assets: Buildings, healthcare, purchasing, consumption](#), engage with personal stories and real-world examples, and access links to key resources.

You may also wish to explore in more detail, the resources provided by our partners.

Food – sustainable agriculture, sourcing, consumption, divestment and investment:

- EAT Forum <https://eatforum.org/>
- Hazon <https://hazon.org/ijofee/overview/>

Hospitality and retail:

- [The Green Gurdwara Guide](#), EcoSikh
- Inspiring case study from British Quakers: [Friends House](#), London.

Case studies

These inspiring case studies from around the world have plenty of tips and ideas to help you progress on your Faith Plans journey.

- [Daoists outlaw use of rare species in traditional Chinese Medicine](#)
- [Islamic Farming](#)
- [Farming God's Way: A Biblical approach to agriculture](#)
- [World's first ethical hotel run to Gospel principles](#)