



THE GREEN UP! TOOLKIT

A EU GUIDE FOR MOSQUES AND ISLAMIC GROUPS



**“DO NOT
POLLUTE THE
EARTH AFTER IT
HAS BEEN SO
WHOLESOMELY
SET IN ORDER.”
(QUR’AN 7:56)**

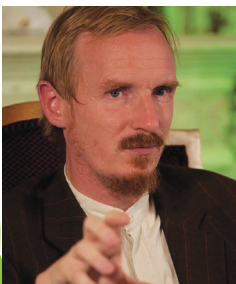
FOREWORD BY SHAYKH ABDAL HAKIM MURAD



Welcome to this Green Up! Toolkit. In these pages you will find practical and inspiring advice on how to make your mosque a showcase of environmentally-responsible design and practice. In a time of high energy prices, and global worries about the crisis of the ecosphere, this is the perfect time to campaign for green practices which will not only save your community expensive energy bills, but will also remind the world that Allah's religion exists to serve humanity and the world in which we all live.

Around the planet there are inspiring examples, from ancient times and from modern, cutting-edge mosque communities, of superb and environmentally-sustainable practice, ranging from the choice of local and sustainable construction materials, to the incorporation of innovative recycling systems, plus technologies which not only save electricity, but actually help to generate it! Allah has made the Muslims to be His stewards on the earth, and what more noble and authentic expression of the Da'wa process could there be, than serving Allah's beautiful and precious creation through environmental activism? And what better place to start than in His houses, which, as the Holy Prophet tells us, are the places which He loves the most.

May Allah bless us and assist us all in this sacred and inspiring mission!



Abdal Hakim Murad
Dean, The Cambridge
Muslim College

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WHAT'S GREEN UP MY COMMUNITY?

In June 2011, at the European Muslim youth Conference the initial ideas for the 'Green Up My Community' campaign first emerged. It was at this conference that a group of young people from countries across the continent such as Germany, Ireland, Sweden, the UK and Italy, first planted the seed for an project that would change the face of Muslim youth activism in Europe.

For the first time, young European Muslims were being invited to unite around the cause of environmentalism, drawing on deeply entrenched Islamic traditions around protecting the earth and living in harmony with creation.

Islam places great emphasis on the importance of caring for the environment and maintaining the balance that Allah has created. That's why we believe that we Muslims are in a great position to take the lead when it comes to promoting environmental practices - as individuals and as a community.

And there's no better place to start than at our local mosques and community hubs! This is where you come in...

HOW TO USE THE GREEN UP! TOOLKIT

If you want to help your mosque or Islamic group to adopt more environmentally friendly practices, then the Green Up! Toolkit is just what you need! Whether you want your mosque to introduce recycling programmes or set up a community garden, this toolkit aims to give you everything you need to run an effective campaign - from key statistics and Islamic references on environmental issues to guidance on how to plan and implement environmentally friendly policies and practices.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Qur'an has 750 different verses which talk about the environment! Look out for some of them in this toolkit.

CLIMATE CHANGE – A GLOBAL CONCERN

Climate change is “the most severe problem that we are facing today – more serious even than the threat of terrorism.”

David King, Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government 2000-2007

Global warming, melting ice caps, rising waters, desertification... or just one giant conspiracy? Everyone has something to say about climate change. For most experts, however, it is nothing less than the greatest challenge facing the world today.

Over the last two decades, we've seen that the effects of a changing climate reach far beyond bizarre weather patterns. The diverse environmental impacts affect the health and wellbeing of humans and animals; they affect animal habitats, successful food production, wealth, livelihoods, security and economic wellbeing! However, it's not too late to start making changes in our lives in order to combat climate change and reduce its potential impacts on our environment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists predict that the changing global climate could lead to the mass extinction of several species in the near future. Melting ice caps, rising sea levels, drought and global warming will have a direct impact on the natural habitat of wild animals ranging from polar bears in the Arctic to orangutans in Indonesia!

SHOCKING CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS!

- **IN THE LAST FOUR DECADES, MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES HAVE DIED IN CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS**
- **6 IN EVERY 10 PEOPLE ARE DIRECTLY VULNERABLE TO THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE!**
- **THE 50 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ONLY PRODUCE 1% OF GLOBAL CO² EMISSIONS, YET 99% OF THOSE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE LIVE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES!**
- **DEFORESTATION ALONE ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 20% OF GLOBAL CO² EMISSIONS – MORE THAN THE ENTIRE TRANSPORT SECTOR!**

CASE STUDY: BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is one of the countries that will be most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change over the next three decades. It's one of the most densely populated countries in the world with a population of over 164 million people. Nearly half of those live less than five metres above sea level, making them extremely vulnerable to flooding, which is predicted to increase as a result of climate change. This means that people will struggle to continue to make a living in traditional ways, such as fishing and agriculture, and will become climate refugees. Scientists predict that loss of land through flooding could lead to as many as 20 million climate refugees from Bangladesh by 2050! The government is working with NGOs like BRAC to help people learn how to cope with and recover from disasters.

Sahena Begum leads one of several Disaster Committees in her area in North West Bangladesh, a region prone to river flooding.

Watch her story here:

<http://youtu.be/4kQao8Uv8Rc>

or scan this QR code. ↓



WHAT'S BEING DONE?

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

The UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) was launched at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The Summit brought together 178 governments and 2400 NGO representatives to rethink the direction of economic, social and environmental activities impacting on people and our planet.

Since 2005, it has included the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty which sets binding obligations on industrialised countries (including the UK) to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 1995, all the countries who are signatories to the UNFCCC – also known as the Conference of Parties (COP) - have met annually to seek long-term solutions for a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

In 2012, 20 years after the Earth Summit, world leaders met again in Rio for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The conference initiated an intergovernmental process of creating Sustainable Development Goals. More than €185 billion was pledged towards sustainable development initiatives.

ARTICLE 1 OF THE 1992 UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) DEFINES CLIMATE CHANGE AS:

“... A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”



HERE IN EUROPE, AS PART OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, THE EU HAS COMMITTED TO REDUCING ITS CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS 80-95 PERCENT BY 2050



THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of 8 goals to reduce global poverty agreed by world leaders in 2000, also played a part in putting climate change on the global agenda. MDG 7 is about ensuring environmental sustainability and focuses on the following areas:

- Encouraging countries to integrate principles of sustainable development into their policies and programmes
- Reversing the loss of environmental resources, such as rainforests
- Reducing biodiversity loss
- Halving the number of people living without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Achieving a “significant improvement” in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

As the 2015 deadline for achieving the MDGs approaches, world leaders have been looking ahead to a post-2015 development agenda and a UN System Task Team has been set up for this purpose. Environmental sustainability remains high on the agenda for post-2015 development.



WHAT'S BEING DONE IN THE EUROPE?

As part of the Kyoto protocol, agreed in 1997, the EU has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below the 1990 levels, as well as a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. After having hit their 2012 target of reducing emissions by 8% from 1990, the European Commission has published a roadmap that charts a cost-effective pathway for cutting the EU's emissions 30% by 2030, and 80-95% by 2050.

Many European countries have invested large amounts to stay at the forefront of sustainability. Iceland is known for getting virtually all of its power from renewable energy. Germany recently topped a poll for energy efficiency by introducing tougher construction standards and a “feed-in tariff” by which suppliers of renewable energy enjoy guaranteed price levels for 20 years. Scandinavian nations like Sweden are high on the eco-friendly list for initiatives like their green-friendly rail networks. With 2/3 of greenhouse emissions being emitted from the developed world, Europe has a large role to play in cleaning the environment.



THE LOCAL IS GLOBAL!

Understanding what climate change means for us and how we live our lives has an impact on a global environment can be a challenge. When we talk about climate change, it can seem like something far away that doesn't really have anything to do with us. But that attitude couldn't be further from the truth! We're part of a global community and we share the earth and its resources with everyone else.

Climate change affects every single one of us and, at the same time, every single one of us is contributing to the way the world around us is changing. When the European Union was formed, it facilitated trade routes economically through many countries. We buy oranges from Spain and mangoes from Pakistan. Our clothes are made in factories in Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh and China (okay, 80% of the products we buy are made in China!). Our cars are German and Japanese.

The fact is, we all depend on each other. Despite the ease of consumption however, globalisation has dampened our appreciation for the local and 'seasonal' produce.

Islam teaches us that God created balance (mizan) in the world. Our planet is a trust (amanah) from God, who has made us stewards (khalifa) over his creation. As global citizens, we share responsibility for working collaboratively to restore the balance that God created on the earth in whatever way we can.

Virtually everything we do as part of our day-to-day lives, from throwing out a bag of wrinkly tomatoes to taking the car to work, has consequences for our world. At first, that can seem really intimidating. But if you look at it from another angle, it's actually incredibly empowering. It means YOU have the power to make change!

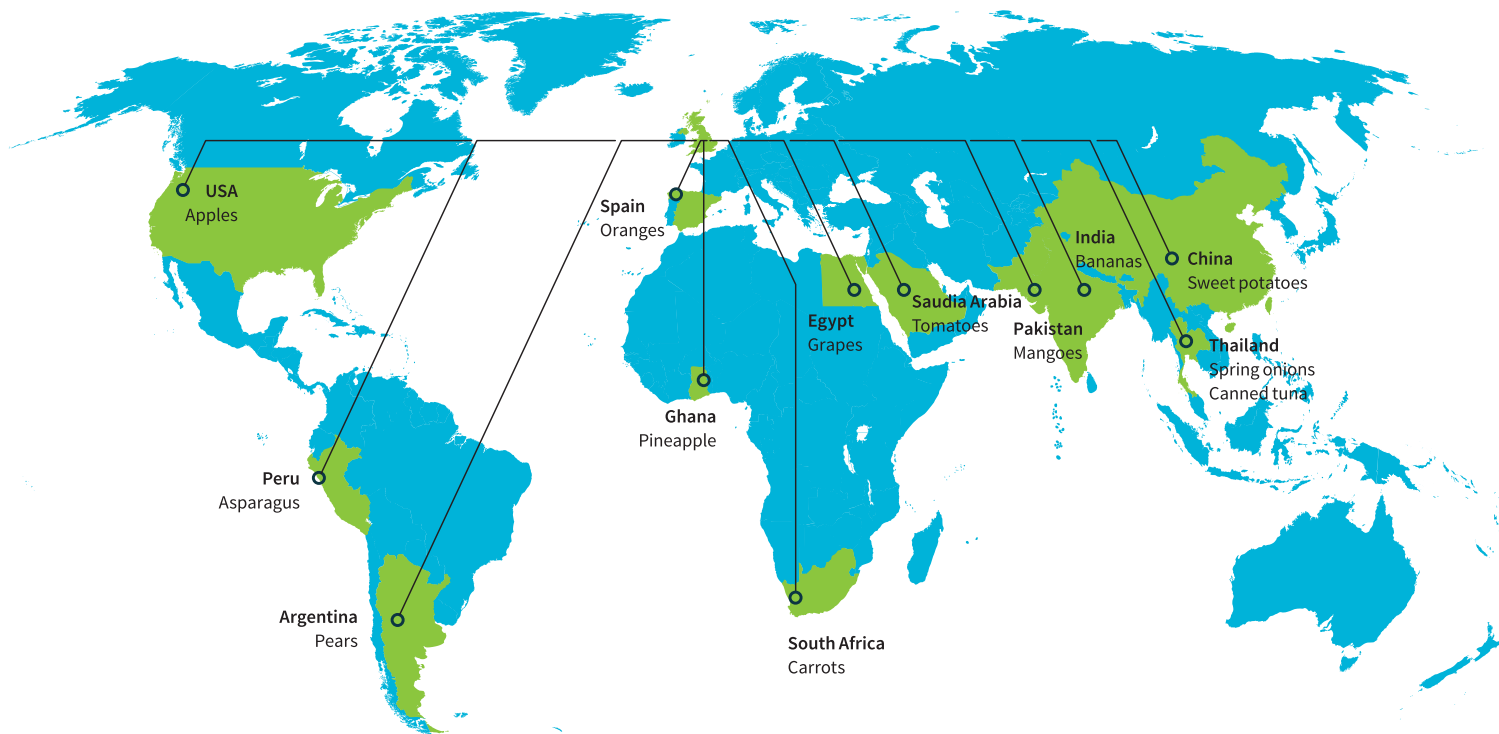
DID YOU KNOW?

80% of the 1.4 billion people who go hungry every day are directly involved in producing the food that we eat! Find out why - <http://youtu.be/ftmX6nTmKgE> or scan this QR code. →

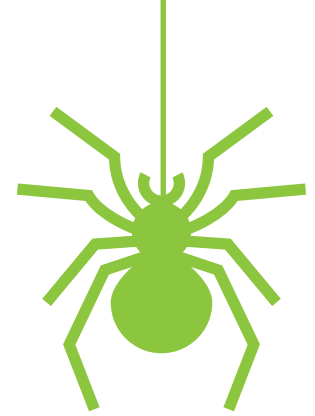


**THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)
SAID: "THE WORLD IS GREEN AND
PLEASANT AND ALLAH HAS LEFT YOU
IN CHARGE OF IT, SO BE CAREFUL OF
HOW YOU CONDUCT YOURSELVES."
(MUSLIM)**

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR EUROPEAN FOOD



ISLAM & THE ENVIRONMENT



Islam teaches that human beings have been placed on the earth as khalifa (stewards) of the environment. The term khilafa (stewardship) carries with it the connotation of trusteeship – of being given something to take care of on behalf of someone else. In this instance, human beings have been appointed stewards over the earth to take care of it on behalf of its Creator and Owner, God.

In return, He has “given you the earth for a dwelling place and the heavens as a canopy” (Qur’an 40:64), while enjoining us to “eat and drink the sustenance God has provided and do not cause corruption in the land” (Qur’an 2:60).

Tawhid is a central concept in Islam and is the core of our ethical framework because it describes both the oneness of God and the unity of his creation, all of which submits to Him in worship. Tawhid is reflected in the balance (mizan) of God’s creation, which we’re responsible for taking care of. The world around us and the sustenance and benefit we gain from it are all signs (ayaat) from God.

GREEN PROPHETS

The stories of the prophets that we hear as children are filled with tales that emphasise the importance of respecting the world around us and ALL its inhabitants. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself was a shepherd, as were Jesus, Moses and Abraham before him (peace and blessings be upon them all). From the story of Prophet Suleiman and how he avoided stepping on an ant colony to the miracle of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Abu Bakr being saved from their enemies by a spider and a dove, Islamic traditions repeatedly remind us about the interdependency between humanity, animals and our environment.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) taught us to treat animals kindly, to be moderate in our behaviour and avoid excess, both in our dealings with each other and in our interaction with the environment. He was a real environmental pioneer and his teachings are just as valid today as they were over 1400 years ago!

“IT IS HE WHO SENDS DOWN WATER FOR YOU FROM THE SKY, FROM WHICH COMES A DRINK FOR YOU, AND THE SHRUBS THAT YOU FEED TO YOUR ANIMALS. WITH IT HE GROWS FOR YOU GRAIN, OLIVES, PALMS, VINES AND ALL KINDS OF OTHER CROPS. THERE TRULY IS A SIGN IN THIS FOR THOSE WHO REFLECT.” (QUR’AN 16:10-11)

**"ALL THE
CREATURES THAT
CRAWL ON THE
EARTH AND THOSE
WHICH FLY WITH
WINGS ARE
COMMUNITIES
LIKE YOURSELVES."
(QUR'AN 6:38)**

ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

AMANA

The concept of fulfilling a trust or obligation.

KHALIFA

Custodians, stewards – God created humanity as khalifa on Earth and made us responsible for taking care of the world and everything in it.

MIZAN

The concept of balance in creation (literally, it means "balance" or "scale.")

TAWHID

Central Islamic belief in the unity and oneness of God and creation.

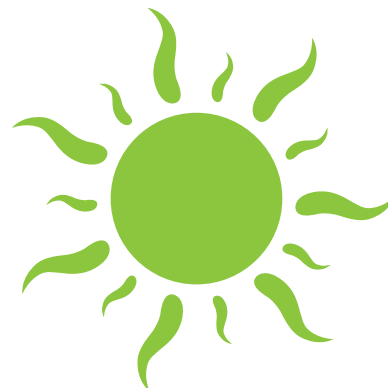
UMMAH WASAT

The concept of being the "middle nation" i.e. of moderation, not excess or over-consumption.

TAKABUR

The concept of arrogance or superiority that mankind has over nature that must be rejected; everything comes from God and to Him it must return.





BUT ISN'T CLIMATE CHANGE JUST GOD'S WILL?

The Qur'an repeatedly reaffirms that God created the world in a state of balance and made humankind His stewards (khalifa) on earth as a test to see how we behave. Climate change and its consequences are the direct result of humankind acting in excess in our dealings with the environment – we've been failing in our duty as khalifa.

**"EACH SOUL IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ITS OWN ACTIONS;
NO SOUL WILL BEAR THE
BURDEN OF ANOTHER."**

(QUR'AN 6:164)



Now it's up to us, as individuals and communities, to take responsibility for our actions and work proactively as a global community to restore the balance created by God. Sometimes it might seem like the actions we take or the changes that we make in our lives are too small and insignificant to make a difference, but small actions by millions of people DO change the world! Remember, regardless of whether we see immediate effects or not, God judges us by our intentions, and the Prophet (pbuh) said that "the dearest of actions to God is that which is done regularly, even if it is small" (Bukhari and Muslim).

**"IT IS HE (ALLAH) WHO MADE
YOU SUCCESSORS (KHALIFA)
ON THE EARTH AND RAISES
SOME OF YOU ABOVE
OTHERS IN RANK, TO TEST
YOU THROUGH WHAT HE
GIVES YOU."**

(QUR'AN 6:165)

ISLAMIC ECO-HISTORY



RECYCLING SMOKE: SULEYMANIYA MOSQUE (TURKEY)

Designed by innovative architect Sinan, the 16th century Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul had special screens installed in the windows to capture smoke from candles to prevent it from polluting the environment.

The captured smoke was then turned into ink for use in calligraphy. Fresh air was drawn through regulated vents near the floor, resulting in a temperature controlled building that required little heating or cooling.



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE: HARAMS & HIMA (MIDDLE EAST)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) created conservation areas called hima and haram, where trees and plants were protected by Islamic law from exploitation and the area set aside to be used for public welfare. These were community owned grasslands, forest, wetlands and bee-keeping reserves that supported the natural resources important to the wellbeing of local communities, and varied in size from a few acres to hundreds of square kilometres.

While the basic concept of hima predates Islam, the protected areas were reserved for powerful tribal leaders with other community members seeing little benefit. Islam modified the system so that the economic and environmental benefits were shared between all. Some of these reserves lasted well into the 20th century making them among the oldest continuous preserved natural habitats in the world.

BUILDING WITH MUD: DJENNE MOSQUE (MALI)

The Great Mosque of Djenne is not only the largest mud building in the world, it is also an extremely eco-friendly and sustainable building. While the present structure dates from the early 20th century, it is built on the site of a previous mud mosque and follows the typical architectural style of the area. The building was constructed with mud bricks, a completely natural material, using local resources. The mud walls make for an excellent insulating material keeping the interior cool during the summers and warm during winters. The mosque is also highly sustainable over time as its maintenance only requires plastering the walls with mud once every year. The entire community of Djenne takes part in this maintenance in what has now become an annual festival.



THE NEW GENERATION OF ECO-MOSQUES

WHAT'S AN ECO-MOSQUE?

Eco-mosque is a new concept for regenerating mosques to make them more environmentally and economically sustainable – reducing their impact on the environment while contributing to the well-being of local communities.

We've found out about some great green initiatives taking place at mosques across the world and right here in Europe including plans for Europe's first ever completely eco-mosque in Cambridge. Here are a few examples of mosques leading the way into a greener, Islamic way of building our places of worship.



DID YOU KNOW?

Qatar is currently in the process of developing guidelines which will mean that all new mosques in the country will be more environmentally-friendly!

ECO-MOSQUE PIONEER #1



NAME: NORDERSTEDT MOSQUE (TBC)
LOCATION: NORDERSTEDT, GERMANY
OPENED IN: DATE TBC

A small Muslim community in Norderstedt, Germany, has pioneered renewable energy sources by placing a wind turbine within the minaret of their mosque. The eco-friendly building is the brainchild of the Hamburg architect Selcuk Ünyilmaz, who has long incorporated energy efficiency into his work. The wind turbines will be housed in two 22-metre-high minarets and Ünyilmaz plans to install a pair of 1.5-metre glass rotor blades in each tower. At certain times of the day light will be beamed at the blades to create a kind of light show.

Wind energy was chosen over solar power because northern part of Germany is quite windy and the mosque could make good use of the local conditions. For more see:

<http://goo.gl/7Vi1Sz>



ECO-MOSQUE PIONEER #2



NAME: THE CAMBRIDGE NEW MOSQUE
LOCATION: MILL ROAD, CAMBRIDGE (PROPOSED)
OPENED IN: DATE TBC

Billed as Europe's FIRST totally eco-mosque, the Cambridge New Mosque is a truly inspirational project which aims to create a space that, according to Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad, Chairman of the Muslim Academic Trust, will be "inclusive, sustainable, safe, secure and respectful of the neighbourhood... of which the local and wider Cambridge community can be proud!"

The mosque will be naturally lit throughout the year thanks to large skylights integrated into the design. It will be well-insulated to ensure energy efficiency and heated by locally generated energy from ground source heat pumps. The mosque designers have also made real efforts to encourage worshippers to think about the environment when travelling to the mosque by incorporating plenty of bike parking and ensuring that the mosque is easily accessible by foot. Find out more at: www.cambridgemosqueproject.org/



ECO-MOSQUE PIONEER #3



NAME: BUYUKECELI MOSQUE
LOCATION: BUYUKECELI MOSQUE, TURKEY
OPENED IN: 2010

When a nuclear plant was proposed for the Turkish village of Buyukceli, the residents decided to demonstrate their resistance not through protest and petitions but by highlighting the viability of renewable energy. Using the support of Greenpeace, they decided to show the power of solar energy and installed photovoltaic panels on the local mosque. Power from the panels supply enough electricity for the entire needs of the mosque. Greenpeace Mediterranean Project Coordinator Alidost Numan said: "We want to call attention to the fact that it is possible to protect nature and increase job opportunities by using clean energy." Numan added that if the government provided incentives for photovoltaic systems instead of building the nuclear plant, a total of 120,000 brand new, clean and qualified jobs would be created. Find out more at: <http://goo.gl/LnPCSQ>

OTHER INSPIRING ECO-MOSQUE INITIATIVES AROUND THE WORLD:

KHALIFA AL TAJER MOSQUE, DUBAI (UAE) – The mosque is set to feature the latest green technologies including solar panels and the recycling and purifying of ablution water for irrigation and washroom supply.

PARK51 COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEW YORK (USA) – Also known as the “Ground Zero Mosque”, Park51 will be the first mosque to comply with strict US LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Standards.

BOBO DIOULASSO GRAND MOSQUE (BURKINA FASO)
– Was built in the late 1800s, using nothing but timber and clay! It’s an example of traditional Sudanese mud architecture – a very sustainable method of construction.

AL-MARKAZ AL-NAJMI MOSQUE, MANCHESTER (UK)
– This mosque opened in 2008. The mosque community started planning to replace their old prayer space back in 2003 with a brand new mosque and decided to incorporate energy-saving measures and use environmentally friendly building methods. It’s made with recycled wood and reclaimed stone, features solar panels and energy-efficient under-floor heating and a glass façade which lets in natural light.

AL-MAWADDAH MOSQUE (SINGAPORE) – Built in May 2012, Singapore’s first eco-friendly mosque features solar tubes that also function as skylights, a rooftop garden, motion sensor lights and taps fitted with regulating devices to reduce water wastage.



PROPHET MUHAMMAD
(PBUH) SAID: "THERE
IS NONE AMONG THE
BELIEVERS WHO PLANTS
A TREE, OR SOWS A SEED,
AND THEN A BIRD, OR A
PERSON, OR AN ANIMAL
EATS OF IT, BUT IT IS
COUNTED AS CHARITY
FOR THEM."
(BUKHARI)



PRACTICING YOUR GREEN DEEN

That's enough theory - now it's time to get practical! We've established that caring for the environment is a fundamental Islamic principle.

So how do we go about getting greener in our day-to-day lives? The Green Up My Community! campaign has come up with **5-key areas to focus on.**

SAVE ENERGY

Wasting energy is expensive and it has major negative impacts on the environment, because it means more and more energy has to be produced to meet our needs, which leads to increasing dangerous carbon emissions. There are often times between prayers when prayer rooms are not in use – simple things like turning the lights off if you're the last person to leave will reduce waste and the cost of your electricity bill!

CONSERVE WATER

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) advised us not to waste water “even if you are doing wudu’ on the banks of a fast-flowing river.” Virtually everything on our planet depends on water for survival, yet it's becoming an increasingly scarce resource. 780 million people in the world still do not have sustainable access to clean drinking water (ONE). When water levels in rivers fall, oxygen levels also fall, reducing the numbers of fish and plant life, which in turn means there are fewer food sources for other sealife and birds! Making small changes like not leaving the tap running while you do wudu’ (ablution) can make a significant difference.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Sumatran elephant is now a critically endangered species due to agricultural plantations and deforestation for pulp and paper, which have led to its habitat being reduced by up to 70%! Elephant numbers have declined by more than 80% in less than 25 years in Sumatra's Riau province, and herds confined to small forest patches are not expected to survive in the long term

Watch Shaykh Khatri Al-Maliki demonstrate how to perform wudu’ without wasting a drop of water!

<http://goo.gl/KTYsw7>



EAT OF THE GOOD THINGS

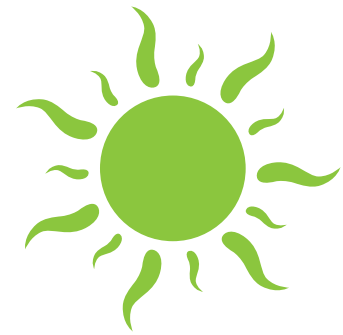
God tells us to “Eat and drink the sustenance God has provided and do not cause corruption in the land” (Qur’an 2:60). Around one-third of all food produced is thrown away – that’s a ridiculous statistic in a world where we produce more than enough to feed everyone, yet over one billion people go to bed hungry every day. Overconsumption in rich countries pushes up the price of food and has a serious impact on the environment as more land is cleared for farming and agriculture. Destroying large areas of rainforest means animals lose their habitat and global warming speeds up, as there are fewer trees to take carbon dioxide emissions out of the atmosphere.

We can make a difference by rethinking our consumer habits. Many mosques and Islamic groups host iftars and community events where food is served. Carefully calculating the amount of food you need to buy for such events will reduce wastage. You could also think about offering Fairtrade tea or coffee and using locally sourced ingredients.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

It can be hard to resist all the adverts and enticements to buy more - more clothes, more furniture, more food, more everything! Much of this ends up in landfill sites and produces methane and carbon dioxide, both harmful greenhouse gases, as it decomposes. Some finds its way into the oceans, creating hazards for seabirds and other wildlife.

The simplest way to reduce waste and limit our contribution to an overly consumer-oriented society is to buy less stuff! Glass bottles can be reused, clothes can be recycled or donated and food waste can be put to good use to make compost. As community hubs, mosques could host recycling bins or collect second-hand clothing to be re-used.



GREEN DEEN

There are loads of ways to increase our communities’ awareness of environmental issues and our Islamic responsibilities. Green Deen is about becoming conscious of the environment in everything we do. It can be anything from picking up litter or taking some time out to contemplate the beauty of the world around us, to setting up a community mosque garden or giving a khutbah (sermon) on recycling!



INTRODUCING...

THE 'HOW GREEN IS YOUR DEEN' TEST FOR MOSQUES AND ISLAMIC GROUPS

The 'How Green is Your Deen' test is a measure of how environmentally sustainable one is trying to be.

The Prophet (PBUH) said that the best of deeds are those that are consistent, even if few, and so we are hoping this test can provide motivation to stay consistent and to gradually reduce your carbon footprint.



There are many websites where you can test your carbon footprint. The purpose of this test is to motivate you to slowly add more initiatives to your routines.

You can add your own initiatives to the mix and be as innovative as you like, or you can work your way up this list, and hopefully **keep adding NEW GREEN HABITS** every time **YOU TAKE IT!**



YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

How committed are you to reducing your footprint on nature and keeping the planet green?

This is the start and where you 'test' your true #GreenUp habits.

Page 24 has a list of awesome #GreenUp initiatives to help you assess how green you really are. Take the challenge and see how many boxes you tick.



TAKE THE PLEDGE

It's now time to 'TAKE THE PLEDGE & MAKE THE PROMISE' to add simple green habits to your daily life. Here are some examples, remember, take 2-3 pledges and try add any of your own initiatives too!

- I promise to visit my local thrift store and buy one item to wear
- I promise to buy a reusable water bottle and coffee cup
- I promise to buy two compact fluorescent light bulbs for my office/room
- I promise to find my nearest farmers market & try three new organic products a month
- I promise to look for a local eco-friendly dry cleaner
- I promise to buy a new house plant
- I promise to only use a reusable tote/bag
- I promise to buy an organic t-shirt



GREEN UP MY COMMUNITY

This the final part of this exercise, at this point not only have

you added #GreenUp initiatives to your own personal routine and taken the 'Pledge' to do so but it is your responsibility to make a difference within your own family, circle of friends and communities!

Don't forget we must encourage each other to think and live 'Green', and to share knowledge on embedding environmentally friendliness and ethical consumption in our communities.

BISMILLAH & GOOD LUCK!

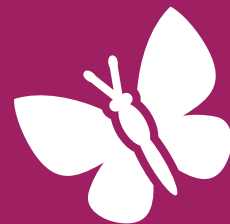
And remember, we're here to help so don't be shy – if you have any questions or need help, just pick up the phone or drop us an email at:

greenup@femyso.org or info@letsgreenup.org

SAVE ENERGY	PUT UP ENERGY CONSERVATION POSTERS	SWITCH TO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY ENERGY SUPPLIER
	WALK TO MOSQUE / CAR POOL DAYS	INTEGRATE SOLAR PANELS
	GET AN ENERGY AUDIT	MOVEMENT-SENSITIVE LIGHTING
	PROVIDE BIKE RACKS	
CONSERVE WATER	PUT UP POSTERS IN WUDU' AREAS TO ADVISE WORSHIPPERS NOT TO RUN TAPS WHEN DOING WUDU'	FIT CISTERN DISPLACEMENT DEVICE (AVAILABLE FREE) TO TOILETS
	INTRODUCE TOUCH-SENSITIVE TAPS IN WUDU' AREAS	INSTALL A MAINS-FED WATER COOLER
	COLLECT RAINWATER FOR USE IN GARDEN	BAN ON DISTRIBUTING PLASTIC BOTTLES
	FIT FLOW REGULATORS TO TAPS	
EAT OF THE GOOD THINGS	PUT UP POSTERS ABOUT TAYYIB CONSUMPTION	USE FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS IN EVENTS & MEETINGS
	USE TAYYIB FOOD (ORGANIC, LOCAL, IN-SEASON) IN EVENTS & MEETINGS	COMPOST KITCHEN WASTE
	SET UP A COMMUNITY GARDEN TO GROW VEGETABLES AND HERBS	ORGANISE A COMMUNITY TRIP TO AN ETHICAL FARM
REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE	PUT UP RECYCLING POSTERS	ORGANISE A CLOTHES SWAP EVENT
	SET ECO-FRIENDLY OFFICE RULES	USE RECYCLE BINS TO SEPARATE RUBBISH
	LITTER-PICKING DRIVE IN COMMUNITY	INTRODUCE CLOTHING RECYCLING BINS
	USE WASHABLE/BIO-DEGRADABLE CUPS AND PLATES AT EVENTS	
GREEN DEEN	START A NOTICEBOARD OR NEWSLETTER TO EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITY ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	ORGANISE TALKS, FILM SCREENINGS AND EVENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
	SET UP A BIRD FEEDER / PLANTS TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE	ALLOCATE AN OUTDOOR SPACE FOR PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION
	USE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS	MADRASAH SESSIONS ON ENVIRONMENT
	KHUTBAH ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	HOST A GREEN FAIR
	NATURE WALKS	

**“THE WORLD IS
GREEN AND PLEASANT
AND ALLAH HAS LEFT
YOU IN CHARGE OF
IT, SO BE CAREFUL OF
HOW YOU CONDUCT
YOURSELVES.”**

(MUSLIM)



YOUR A-Z GUIDE TO THE GREEN UP! INITIATIVES

CLOTHES RECYCLING

There are lots of organisations which collect second-hand clothing to recycle, sell in charity shops or to send to people in need around Europe and around the world. Research in your local communities if you can to host a clothing bank at your local mosque or centre.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

We live in a globalised world where we've become used to having the food we want, when we want – regardless of whether it's in season or not! Transporting food across the world can be very harmful for the environment. It's also costly and results in loads of wastage – strawberries don't stay fresh for long! Setting up a community garden will give your local community a chance to come together and grow their own food, which they can share among themselves or donate. It's a wonderful way to connect to our environment while learning a new skill, making friends and helping each other out.

DRINK TAP

We're really blessed in the UK to have access to drinkable tap water. Bottled water is really wasteful and damaging to the environment – for every gallon of water bottled, two gallons of water are wasted in production! And most plastic bottles end up on landfill sites rather than being recycled. The solution? Drink tap water! As a mosque or Islamic group, you can start by providing jugs of tap water rather than bottled water at events, and you can encourage people to bring in their own refillable water bottles instead of providing plastic cups at dispensers. A long-term, cost-effective solution is to invest in mains-fed water coolers. Find out more at <http://www.madeineurope.org.uk/learn/bottled-water>

ECO-OFFICE

Creating an eco-friendly office environment is a lot easier than it might sound! Offices use a lot of energy – computers, printers, lights, modems... it's all go, all the time! Simple things like remembering to turn off printers and computers completely at the end of the day can cut a significant amount off your energy usage. Using recycled paper and avoiding unnecessary printing is another simple way to reduce your mosque's carbon footprint. If you have to print, try to print double-sided, or reuse old documents as scrap paper. Put up posters to remind staff not to waste electricity.



EDUCATION

Whether it's giving a khutbah (sermon) on environmental issues, running a madrasah session for young people about the way the prophet took care to live balanced, sustainable lifestyles, or getting the local community involved in a garden project or Green Fair, education is key to increasing our level of consciousness about our responsibility to the environment and God's creation

FAIR TRADE

Fair trade is all about a fair deal for the farmers and producers who make the products that we buy every day – from coffee, tea, dates and chocolate to clothes and furniture! In Islam, we're encouraged to eat food that is both halal (slaughtered correctly) and tayyib ("good" and ethically produced).

Fair trade is a good way to start. You can easily introduce fair trade to your mosque by providing fairly traded Palestinian dates for iftar in Ramadan. Learn more about fair trade at www.fairtrade.net

GREEN FAIR

Nothing beats a community fair for family-friendly fun! Hosting a Green Fair at your mosque will give the community a chance to learn more about the environment and get involved in mosque initiatives in a fun, informal atmosphere. You could have clothes swaps, give people a go at planting flowers or herbs in pots, sell locally produced or Fairtrade products... the options are endless!

GREEN RAMADAN

Ramadan is the month of charity and good deeds – it could be the perfect opportunity to combine some of these initiatives and get people thinking about how we can interact with our environment in a more ethical way! Prepare in advance by growing your own food for iftar or finding sustainable local sources, link up with a local soup kitchen to donate any extra food or set up your own and encourage people to travel to the mosque together for iftar or night prayers.

GREEN TRAVEL

This is a simple and effective way of saving petrol (and money!) and reducing our carbon footprint. Many people attend the mosque every day for prayers – why not set up a carpool system so that people living in the same area can travel to the mosque together? Those who live close to the mosque could walk or cycle to prayers with their friends – saving energy, getting fresh air AND increasing their reward from God!

MOVEMENT SENSITIVE LIGHTS

They respond to movement and turn themselves off if there is no movement for a period of time. They can be a costly investment, but it will save you lots of money in the long run!

NATURE WALKS/LITTER PICKING

Depending on the location of your mosque, there's a good chance that you've got plenty of natural wonders right on your doorstep, whether it's plants, flowers, insects or other wildlife. Why not get a group together to go and explore? This could be a fun, educational activity for youth groups or young members of the community. An alternative would be to have a litter picking drive to help clean up your local area while raising awareness of the importance of responsible waste disposal and recycling.

OUTDOOR PRAYER SPACE

In our busy lives, it's can be hard to find the time to take a step back and contemplate the world around us. Often, we're distracted when we're praying, or in a rush to get back to whatever it was we were doing before. Having an outdoor prayer space can give people a chance to take time out to connect with nature and contemplate the world around them in a serene atmosphere, away from other distractions.



CASE STUDY: NOUR ENERGY, GERMANY

NourEnergy is a volunteer work project team in the field of photovoltaics, which is the technique that converts sunlight into electrical current energy ie solar power systems.

The team of NourEnergy is made up of professionals who come from different countries and even different continents. With Islam as it's core ethic, Nour energy seeks to spread light using electricity that is 100% free of CO2 emissions.

For more see:

<http://www.nour-energy.com/>

RECYCLING BINS

These make the process of separating waste for reuse, recycling or disposal much more efficient. Nowadays most councils have facilities for recycling glass, cardboard, paper and most plastics. You can make it easier for your congregation to recycle by providing separate bins inside the mosque for paper, glass and plastic, and general waste. Check your local council's recycling guidelines and get in touch with them if you need any assistance.

SOLAR PANELS

They capture the sun's energy through photovoltaic cells which convert the sunlight into energy. They don't need direct sunlight to work and can even generate some electricity on cloudy days. In the long run, installing a solar panel can save you a significant amount of money on your energy bills.

SOUP KITCHEN

As Muslims, we're encouraged to give to charity and look out for those who are less well off than ourselves, whether they're Muslim or not. A soup kitchen can be a way to provide much needed meals for the homeless or deprived, while building an atmosphere of love and community. You could use produce from your community garden to make the soup! Ramadan would be a good time to start an initiative like this, as many mosques already provide iftar for their congregations – all you need to do is expand the service to everyone.

TOUCH SENSITIVE TAPS

They turn themselves on when they're touched and then turn off after a few seconds, reducing water wastage. This is a great way to prevent people leaving taps running when doing wudu' for example.



CASE STUDY: EAST LONDON MOSQUE, LONDON

The Maryam Centre at East London Mosque is home to thousands of bees as part of an initiative to increase dwindling bee numbers in the capital. “Honey bees have a vital role to play in our environment, one which we often take for granted, by pollinating the trees, flowers, fruits and vegetables. These industrious insects are mentioned in the Qur’an – indeed, a chapter is called ‘The Bees’ (An-Nahl). Also honey, which has numerous benefits, is mentioned in sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him).” Khalil, East London Mosque Beekeeper.



GETTING YOUR MOSQUE OR ISLAMIC GROUP INVOLVED WITH THE GREEN UP!

Let's start from the beginning. You've spent loads of time reading up on environmental issues, you've got lots of ideas for how your mosque can start getting more eco, you're brimming full of passion and raring to go! That's brilliant... but stop for just a second.

Imagine that you're a member of the mosque committee at your local mosque. You've got a full-time job and help out with the mosque in your spare time. There are always a million-and-one things on your to-do list. How are you going to react to someone coming in and telling you that the mosque needs to start recycling and set up a garden and go fairtrade and install solar panels? You'd send them packing, right?

Like all successful campaigning, working with mosques and religious leaders starts with getting your tactics right. And 99 times out of 100, there's no need to run in all guns blazing! The Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) example shows the value of taking things step by step to ease people into change – even the Qur'an was revealed bit by bit in response to the specific needs and questions of the Muslim community!



WHAT IS CAMPAIGNING?

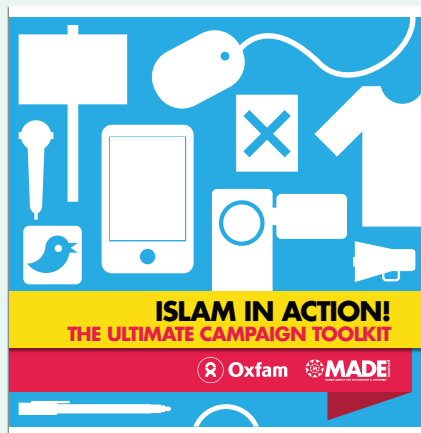
Campaigning is the process of taking organised actions to influence the ideas of individuals, groups and decision makers, in order to achieve tangible change.

We've put together a few tips in this section to help you run a Green Up My Community! campaign in your local mosque or Islamic group and get them on board with the Green Up!

A great resource is Islam in Action – the Ultimate Campaign Toolkit, by MADE in Europe and Oxfam.

It's jam-packed with information and ideas that can help lead you to campaign success.

To order your free copy email info@madeineurope.org.uk



KNOW YOUR SPACE

The way you decide to run your campaign and the issues you decide to campaign on will depend on your mosque or Islamic group's needs and the facilities available. For example, does it provide iftar during Ramadan, and what happens to the leftovers? Does it have space for a garden? Are there youth groups and Islamic circles running that you can work with?

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

If your mosque is already quite environmentally aware, you're probably in a strong position. What you need to do now is work out how can you encourage those involved to take that extra step forward. On the other hand, your mosque might still need help with basics such as recycling!

KNOW YOUR FRIENDS

Remember, mosques are community hubs where people gather to pray, learn and meet friends. This potentially gives you lots of options for engaging with the mosque community through youth groups or Islamic circles, as well as working with mosque committees and community leaders – after all, successful campaigning is all about building a movement for change. If people who use the mosque support you, it's more likely that the people in charge will take notice.



CASE STUDY: INSTITUT AL ANDALUS, FRANCE

This Islamic community centre in Strasbourg has already had environmental documentary screenings, organised trips to organic farms and appointed a committee specifically to set up ecologically sustainable rules and actions for the centre.

They have also pledged to install bike racks, invest in more ecological taps and double glaze all their windows!

For more see:

<http://www.al-andalous.fr/>

DO'S & DON'T'S

DO...

DO MAKE SURE THAT YOU APPROACH MOSQUE LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN A RESPECTFUL AND APPROPRIATE MANNER.

For example, women may prefer to take a friend when going to meet an Imam, in order to maintain Islamic etiquette. It might be a good idea to send a letter first and then follow up with a phone call or face-to-face meeting.

DO BE PASSIONATE

Do your research so you can explain why this is an important issue! Check out the “Islam and the Environment” section for Qur’anic verses and hadith that add support to your cause! You can also tell your mosque about the benefits of joining the Green Up! scheme (see p 22).

DO USE YOUR PERSONAL CONTACTS

If you know someone who’s involved with the mosque committee for example, ask them to help you out. This is a great way to build trust and adds credibility to your campaign.

DO LOOK FOR ALLIES

Whether it’s an imam, a prominent member of the community, a group that meets at the mosque or a local councillor, anyone who is willing to support you publicly is a massive asset, so make the most of their support and make sure they know you appreciate it!

DO USE YOUR CREATIVITY

Your most useful resources are the skills, experiences and ideas YOU have – make the most of them!

DON'T...

DON'T GET FRUSTRATED

Aggression or hostility is not a good approach. You’ll just put people off and that’s not going to help you achieve change.

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE A CAMPAIGN PLAN

This will help you decide what steps to take in your campaign and set out clear objectives for your campaign. The Islam in Action! Ultimate Campaign Toolkit has loads of tips to help you develop a great campaign plan.

DON'T GIVE UP

Change rarely happens overnight. Be patient, persistent and, if things don’t seem to be going to plan, take a step back and see if changing your approach might help.

DON'T FORGET TO OFFER CONCRETE IDEAS OF WHAT YOUR MOSQUE CAN DO

At the same time, make sure they know that they’ll be the ones making final decisions – you’re just there to help them along. It’s important that mosque leaders and communities feel a sense of ownership over the campaign if you want to create long-term change.

HELP!

I CAN'T GET A MEETING WITH THE PERSON IN CHARGE

Don't worry! It's often quite hard to organise a meeting with the people in charge straight away – after all, they're busy and have plenty of other things to think about too. Try to look for people who support you within the mosque and outside – you're likely to find allies who can put in a good word for you with the management and help you set up a meeting! You can get a lot done just by working with small groups of people without having to bother the committee – the added bonus of this is that when you do need help from the mosque committee, you'll already have the support of other mosque users!

MY MOSQUE DOESN'T HAVE MONEY FOR NEW INITIATIVES

Not everything has to cost money – there are lots of things your mosque can do for free, such as organising a nature walk or giving an environmental khutbah. On the other hand, hosting a Green Fair can be a great way to fundraise for specific initiatives such as a community garden or solar panels! There are also local pots of funding available from councils and other charities for community environmental initiatives which you can look out for.

MY MOSQUE DOESN'T THINK THE ENVIRONMENT IS A PRIORITY

This can be a real challenge, as it's really important not to let yourself get frustrated. You could try to gently introduce small changes, such as putting up signs in the wudu' area to encourage people not to waste water, or getting permission for a walk to the mosque day! Try to get support from other mosque attendees and members to encourage the management to take notice of your campaign.

CASE STUDY: KUBRA ERCAN, GERMANY

"I would like to be able to look back on a successful year in which at least 20 mosques have become more environmentally friendly, and in which at least one mosque bigger steps, such as solar panels on the roof to be addressed.

Moreover, that very many people, community members were sensitized to this issue, in the mosque and at home – So at least 1,000 people who are actively in the mosque and in their own budget dedicated to this topic and implement something."

RESOURCES

ISLAMIC ENVIRONMENTALISM

GREEN UP MY COMMUNITY

www.letsgreenup.org

FEMYSO

www.femyso.org

MADE IN EUROPE

www.madeineurope.org.uk

THE ECO MUSLIM

www.theecomuslim.com

IFEES

www.ifees.org.uk

WISDOM IN NATURE

www.wisdominnature.org.uk

KHALEAFA

www.khaleafa.com

GREEN DEEN

www.greendeenblog.com

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

YOUTH CLIMATE

www.youthclimate.org

GREENPEACE

www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/en/

STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

www.stopclimatechaos.org

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate

THE FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL

www.fairtrade.net

POLICIES, TREATIES AND GOVERNMENT

UNITED NATIONS

EARTH CHARTER

www.earthcharter.org

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK

CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

www.unfccc.int

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

www.ipcc.ch



CAMPAIGNING TOOLS

ISLAM IN ACTION!

THE ULTIMATE CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

www.madeineurope.org.uk/learn/resources/ultimatetoolkit

UN CALENDAR DAYS

www.un.org/en/events/observances/days.shtml

GREEN KHUTBAH

www.khaleafa.com/greenkhutbah/

GUARDIAN ENVIRONMENT

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/series/the-ultimate-climate-change-faq

WHO CLIMATE CHANGE FACTS

www.who.int/features/factfiles/climate_change/facts/en/



KEY CALENDAR DATES

WORLD FOOD DAY

16 October

EARTH HOUR

8pm, last Saturday in March

WORLD WATER DAY

22 March

EARTH DAY

22 April

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

end February - early March

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 June

WORLD OCEANS DAY

8 June

WORLD POPULATION DAY

11 July



MADE in Europe aims to inspire and mobilise young Muslims in Europe to take action against global poverty and injustice through campaigning, education and volunteering.

We believe that as Muslims, we can and must play a part in the search for solutions to global poverty. Whether through raising awareness in our communities, lobbying decision-makers, volunteering in the UK and overseas or choosing a career in international development, we believe that we can empower young Muslims to be at the forefront of the global poverty debate, to challenge global norms that keep people in poverty and to become leaders of social change.

www.madeineurope.org.uk



FEMYSO (Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations) has become the representative voice of Muslim Youth in Europe and is regularly consulted on issues pertaining to Muslim Youth.

It has developed useful links with the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and a host of other significant organisations at the European and international level.

www.femyso.org

WWW.**LETSGREENUP**.ORG
info@letsgreenup.org



Write to us:

FEMYSO

(Forum of European Muslim Youth
and Student Organisations)
Rue Archimède 50
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium

MADE IN EUROPE

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United Kingdom