

Faith Groups & Air Pollution



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Hinduism

"The foundation of Hindu faith is known as DHARMA, meaning 'living in harmony with nature and the force that sustains the world.' We are to respect all things in nature we are part of and which we depend on"

Ram Aithal - Trustee & Faith guide.
Balaji temple, Tividale.

The natural world is interconnected with the deities of Hinduism. It is interwoven with living beings and as the Hindu Declaration on Climate Change states *"We cannot destroy nature without destroying ourselves. Man is integrally linked to the whole of Creation"*.¹ Air pollution affects all people within society: it is detrimental to health, leading to respiratory problems and reduced life-expectancy. It is also harmful to animals, and dissolves in water, entering rivers and streams and causing damage to wildlife. Acting to improve the air we breathe is an action Hindus can take to protect our planet and 'respect all things in nature'.

Judaism

"Judaism teaches that human beings have been appointed as Guardians of the Earth, commanded in the book of Genesis 'to work it and to watch over it'"

Rabbi Margaret Jacobi,
Birmingham Progressive Synagogue.

As Guardians of the Earth, we have a responsibility to defend the environment and all creatures who inhabit it. Air pollution has a detrimental effect on all members of society; most of all those in the poorest communities. To ignore this fact is to display a profound lack of care for the world which God has created. We must make wiser choices in order to improve air quality for all of us. Good actions are expressions of our faith: by acting in a way which preserves God's Creation and shows respect for its inhabitants we express our commitment to God.

Islam

"As Muslims, we believe that our relationship with God should go beyond the regular formalities of worship and should also include love and stewardship of the blessings that have been provided to us."

Kamran Shezad – Bahu Trust.

Muslims must care for Allah's Creation, and all people and things within it. Air pollution poses a significant harm to other people, as well as animals and all other parts of the environment. Actions are a demonstration of faith and service to Allah, we must make better choices about how we travel, to protect the environment, all beings within creation and start to restore balance. By improving the air that we breathe, we start to restore the balance which human action has transgressed, and show respect for Allah.

Sikhism

"Everything we see around us, every human, plant and insect living on this planet. Every planet in our galaxy and every galaxy in this universe, this is all God".

Prubhjot Singh - Eco Sikh.

Sikhs can perform Seva (the practice of selfless service) by reducing our carbon footprints, respecting the environment and everything in it. Air pollution causes huge problems for the health of people in our city, and significantly harms animals and plants as well. To live in harmony with all creation, we must act to reduce air pollution; making more considered choices about how we travel.

¹ <http://www.hinduclimatedeclaration2015.org/english>

What Can We Do?

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