



The Islamic
Climate Change
Declaration **Toolkit**



“Allah has made the earth green and beautiful, and He has appointed you as stewards over it.”

— Saying of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit will help equip you and your supporters to share the Islamic Climate Change Declaration with Muslims, people of faith and other stakeholders around the world. It is a simple and easy to use guide to get supporters to champion climate justice in your local community on a global issue that affects us all. Together, we hope this toolkit will help build a greener Muslim community globally which will act on the verse in the Qur'an where Allah reminds us that:

“He is the One who made you inheritors of the earth, and He raised some of you above others in rank, in order to test you in accordance with what He has given you.”

(Qur'an 6:165)



What is Climate Change?

Islam teaches us that Allah created this world in a balance, but human activities and excessive use of fossil fuels have led to the depletion and destruction of the earth and to changes in its climate. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our century where unprecedented levels of carbon emissions have caused an increase and worsening of disasters, such as floods and typhoons, affecting some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world.

According to research by the Environmental Justice Foundation, it is expected that between 2030 and 2050; climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress as well as numerous respiratory related diseases. As Muslims we have a responsibility to protect our earth as Islam teaches us that we have a moral duty to take care of Allah's creation as He has made us stewards on the earth.

COP21: Paris Climate Conference

One of the most important negotiations will occur in December in Paris when world leaders will convene at the COP21 meeting, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. COP stands for the Conference of Parties, the key decision-making body of UNFCCC, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference in Paris will be the 21st of its kind. It will be a pivotal moment in history as it will aim to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, setting a target of keeping global warming below 2°C.

We must speak up to push all countries to boost the just transition to a world powered by 100% renewable energy, especially those that most contribute to climate change yet are not doing enough to limit dirty energy and carbon emissions which is causing harmful consequences to environment and human lives.

Join Islamic Relief on the road to Paris! Help us to call on world leaders to make firm commitments to tackle climate change by taking action and joining one of the global marches taking place on 29th November on the eve of the COP21. Together, we want to ensure a more sustainable and green world! This is a crucial moment for the world and we need enthusiastic and dedicated activists like you to join the call for climate justice as Allah says to us in the Qur'an:

"I am going to place in the earth a khalifa (steward)."

[Qur'an 2:30].

Islamic Climate Change Declaration – How to Use It

The Islamic Climate Change Declaration, launched on August 18th 2015 in Istanbul, called on Muslims around the world to take heed of the message about protecting the environment and the Islamic responsibility we have to become stewards of the earth. The Declaration was adopted by over 60 Muslim leaders from around the world and outlines recommendations for governments, businesses, faith leaders, NGOs and civil society to consider in this critical year ahead of COP21.

[Here](#) is the full text available on the website which will be available in other languages which we would encourage you to read in full and share with faith leaders and your networks.

Call to Action: Islamic Climate Change Declaration Excerpt (August 2015, Istanbul, Turkey)

"We call upon the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol taking place in Paris this December, 2015 to bring their discussions to an equitable and binding conclusion, bearing in mind:

The scientific consensus on climate change, which is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate systems;

- The need to set clear targets and monitoring systems;
- The dire consequences to planet earth if we do not do so;
- The enormous responsibility the COP shoulders on behalf of the rest of humanity, including leading the rest of us to a new way of relating to God's Earth.

3.2. We particularly call on the well-off nations and oil-producing states to:

Lead the way in phasing out their greenhouse gas emissions as early as possible and no later than the middle of the century;

- Provide generous financial and technical support to the less well-off to achieve a phase-out of greenhouse gases as early as possible;
- Recognize the moral obligation to reduce consumption so that the poor may benefit from what is left of the

earth's non-renewable resources;

- Stay within the '2 degree' limit, or, preferably, within the '1.5 degree' limit, bearing in mind that two-thirds of the earth's proven fossil fuel reserves remain in the ground;
- Re-focus their concerns from unethical profit from the environment, to that of preserving it and elevating the condition of the world's poor.
- Invest in the creation of a green economy.

3.3. We call on the people of all nations and their leaders to –

Aim to phase out greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible in order to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere;

- Commit themselves to 100 % renewable energy and/or a zero emissions strategy as early as possible, to mitigate the environmental impact of their activities;
- Invest in decentralized renewable energy, which is the best way to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development;
- Realize that to chase after unlimited economic growth in a planet that is finite and already overloaded is not viable. Growth must be pursued wisely and in moderation; placing a priority on increasing the resilience of all, and especially the most vulnerable, to the climate change impacts already underway and expected to continue for many years to come.
- Set in motion a fresh model of wellbeing, based on an alternative to the current financial model which depletes resources, degrades the environment, and deepens inequality.



- Prioritise adaptation efforts with appropriate support to the vulnerable countries with the least capacity to adapt. And to vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, women and children.

3.4. We call upon corporations, finance, and the business sector to –

- Shoulder the consequences of their profit-making activities, and take a visibly more active role in reducing their carbon footprint and other forms of impact upon the natural environment;
- In order to mitigate the environmental impact of their activities, commit themselves to 100 % renewable energy and/or a zero emissions strategy as early as possible and shift investments into renewable energy;
- Change from the current business model which is based on an unsustainable escalating economy, and to adopt a circular economy that is wholly sustainable;
- Pay more heed to social and ecological responsibilities, particularly to the extent that they extract and utilize scarce resources;
- Assist in the divestment from the fossil fuel driven economy and the scaling up of renewable energy and other ecological alternatives.

3.5. We call on all groups to join us in collaboration, co-operation and friendly competition in this endeavour and we welcome the significant contributions taken by other faiths, as we can all be winners in this race

تَارِي خَلَا أَوْ قُبَيْتَسْنَا فَمَا كُنَّا تَامَ يَفِي مَكْتُوبُ بِيْلٍ نَكَلُو

“He (God) wanted to test you regarding what has come to you. So compete with each other in doing good deeds.”

(Qur’an 5: 48)

If we each offer the best of our respective traditions, we may yet see a way through our difficulties.

3.6. Finally, we call on all Muslims wherever they may be: Heads of state, Political leaders, Business community, UNFCCC delegates, Religious leaders and scholars, Mosque congregations, Islamic endowments (awqaf), Educators and educational institutions, Community leaders, Civil society activists, Non-governmental organisations, Communications and media

أَلُو طَلَّ أَبْجَلًا غُلْبَتِ نَلَوَ ضَرَّأَلَا قَدْرُخَتْ نَلَا كَنَّا إِحْرَمَ ضَرَّأَلَا يَفِي شَمْتِ أَلَو

“Do not strut arrogantly on the earth. You will never split the earth apart nor will you ever rival the mountains’ stature.”

(Qur’an 17: 37)

We bear in mind the words of our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him):

“The world is sweet and verdant, and verily Allah has made you stewards in it, and He sees how you acquit yourselves.” (Hadīth related by Muslim from Abu Sa’id Al-Khudrī)

10 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Talk to your leaders about the Declaration

We encourage you to reach out to your religious leaders and share the messages of the Islamic Climate Change Declaration. Your local Islamic Council of faith leaders, mosques or community leaders can read about importance of climate change from an Islamic perspective and be encouraged to officially adopt the Declaration. Why not suggest that they use this toolkit and deliver a sermon on the Islamic obligation to be stewards of the earth? Through reaching out to our congregations we can reach thousands of Muslims to take action and stand up for climate justice. We have useful talking points [here](#) for you to use when speaking to your faith leaders.

2. Join the Global People’s Climate March on 29th November 2015

There are global marches taking place all around the world on the eve of the COP21, you can check out a full list of the marches taking place [here](#) and sign up to join one in your city now! Adding your voice and speaking out for climate action is part of the Islamic injunction taught to us in the Quran, we are told to speak out against injustice and climate change is a clear injustice affecting people’s lives and future generations. We need to be at these marches in our numbers to put pressure on the decision makers involved to reach an fair and just deal. Allah says:

“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allāh, even though it be against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, be he rich or poor, Allāh is a Better Protector to both (than you). So follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you may avoid justice, and if you distort your witness or refuse to give it, verily, Allāh is Ever Well Acquainted with what you do.”

(Qur’an 4:135)

3. Spread the word through social media

There are many ways you can raise awareness about the impact of climate change so why not share and tell people about the Islamic Climate Change Declaration by sharing it on social media? When the world and media will be talking about the Paris COP21 event in international media – we need to be talking about the role Muslims have to play in being a part of the climate solutions by talking about it in our homes, mosques, schools and local communities. Here is a list of suggested text to tweet from 29th November on the eve of the climate summit and [Islamic ahadith and verses](#) that you can share on Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

Sample tweets:

‘Join @IRWorldWide as we call on world leaders to do more for the world’s poorest and vulnerable’
#Muslims4Climate #RoadToParis’

‘We are demanding governments to protect the poorest hit by climate change as we are stewards of the earth’
#Muslims4Climate’

‘Allah placed us as stewards of the earth, join us on 29th Nov at the global people’s climate march to call for a sustainable solution.’ #Muslims4Climate



4. Raise awareness in your local community

Learning about the Islamic teachings on the environment can make us better and greener Muslims. You can share this toolkit with all its useful resources to encourage others to take action in their own community, workplace and at home. Why not organise a gathering, talk or local event to talk about the Islamic teachings on environment and sustainability using this toolkit?

5. Recycle and reduce waste

One of the most effective ways we can reduce our own contribution to climate change and pollution is through recycling on a regular basis. If you don't have recycle bins in your community, why not initiate one where families and communities can recycle materials? Almost everything can be recycled, even food waste! (Check [this website](#) out on how to recycle). The beautiful teachings of Islam instruct us not to waste and be extravagant so why not make a list of things you can reduce? Like stop buying plastic bags at the shopping store and taking your own instead, or reducing the amount of water you use to take a shower? Allah says in the Qur'an:

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who are wasteful."

(Qur'an 7:31)

6. Fast for the Climate

Thousands of people are also joining the 'fast for the climate' initiative where you join others in standing in solidarity with those suffering from climate change and its disastrous consequences by fasting before COP21. Join thousands of activists and supporters on December 1st to raise awareness and send a powerful message that climate change is not acceptable, and that through fasting you are standing with those whose lives and food or agriculture has been affected by climate change. Sign up to join others around the world and fast for the climate [here](#).

7. Organise a local eco-event to fundraise for climate change

We encourage you to hold an event or a sermon on the Friday 27th November or any other Friday in December in your local community, school, and/or mosque to talk about the Islamic teachings on the environment. When organising an event locally, try to come up with creative ways to be eco-friendly like having organic meat or a vegetarian meal or local produce instead. There are many ways you can raise funds to support climate livelihoods projects as well that will benefit both the community and the environment in which they live. You can see more about funding Islamic Relief's climate projects [here](#).

8. Get your mosque to deliver a 'green khutbah'

The Islamic Climate Change Declaration can be used as a guide for a green khutbah (sermon) on the Environment and Islam, why not approach your local mosque to ask if they would deliver a sermon before the global marches take place around the world to educate and raise awareness to the congregation on the importance of protecting our environment in Islam? [Here](#) is a useful template you can share with your Imam.

9. Read up about climate change

One of the ways we can campaign and tackle climate change is through better educating ourselves on the issue; there are a range of resources available online and books that you can read to help you understand what you can do to become a better steward of the earth. Islamic Relief works around the world to alleviate the suffering of some of the most vulnerable communities affected by climate change, you can read about how we are tackling and improving lives affected by climate change in our policy briefing paper [here](#). There is also a full list of resources and websites to learn more about climate change at the end of this toolkit.

10. Pray for the protection of the earth

As people of faith, we can use the power of dua to pray for the earth and for God to give us strength for everyone to commit to helping those at the front line of climate change, whether as leaders showing political will for action or people taking action on the ground. Why not pray together and encourage your congregation around COP21 to pray for a more just and fairer world where the climate crisis is addressed? The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) taught us that 'dua is worship' so let's remember to pray for the world and all those suffering in it, and for ourselves to be planted where we can be of benefit to humanity at this critical time during the climate talks. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart – and that is the weakest of faith."

[Muslim]

Key Dates & Events

Below is a list of key events taking place around the world to take part in around COP21:

Date	Event/Activity
Sunday 29th November 2015	Global Climate March in London, Paris and many cities around the world – see full list here of marches taking place
Monday 30th November 2015	COP21 begins in Paris
Tuesday 1st December 2015	Fast for the Climate initiative
11th December 2015	COP21 scheduled to end (if not extended)
12th December 2015	Civil society march in Paris

Further Resources

Please visit www.islamicclimatedeclaration.org for further resources and see below.

[Muslim Climate Action](#)

[Climate Action Network](#)

[Global Climate March](#)

[Islamic Relief Climate Change Policy Paper](#)

[Global Climate March Resources](#)

[The Islamic Foundation for Environmental and Ecological Sciences](#)

[Green Up My Community Toolkit](#)

[Green Muslims Khutbah Guide](#)

Interfaith Resources

[The Global Call for Climate Action](#)

[The People's Pilgrimage](#)

[Fast for the Climate](#)

[Faith Events at COP21](#)

Contact Us

For further information or to share photos about any of your events or ways we can support you please email our Global Campaigns Coordinator by emailing Lotifa.begum@irworldwide.org or on Skype at lotifabegum or on +44 7850226689

Please share this toolkit far and wide so together we can be better stewards of the earth.



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