

SUSTAINABILITY IN ISLAM

Sustainable Traditions In **HISTORY**

- Quran 6:141 "And do not waste God's bounties: verily, He does not love the wasteful!"
- Quran 27:88 "And you see the mountains, thinking them rigid, while they will pass as the passing of clouds. It is the work of Allah, who perfected all things."
- Sahih Bukhari Vol. 8, Book 73, No. 41 "If any Muslim plants any plant and a human being or an animal eats of it, he will be rewarded as if he had given that much in charity."
- Historically, Muslims have understood the Prophet Muhammad as displaying compassion towards animals as God's creatures, created *hima* (protected wildlife preserves), advocated for equitable distribution of water, prohibited disposing of waste in waterways, and forbade hunting for sport.
- Zaynab, Avicenna, Ibn Arabi, and Jalal ad-Din Muhammad ar-Rumi advocated for care of plants, animals, and natural resources.

- Reduce car use. Carpool, bicycle, or use public transportation!
- Keep your old phone and other electronics. Technology uses lots of mining-intensive minerals, so update your tech as rarely as possible.
- Use reusable versions of straws, water bottles, diapers, and napkins.
- Volunteer and donate.

Sustainability **TODAY**

- Emphasis on creation care and *khalifah* (stewardship)
- Islamic environmental nonprofits: Green Muslims, EcoMena, and Muslims 4 Peace
- Environmental advocates: Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Dr. Nayawiyyah Muhammad, Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, Fazlun Khalid, Dr. Nawal Ammar, and Dr. Mawil Izzi Dien
- Books: *Muslim Environmentalisms: Religious and Social Foundations*, *Green Deen: What Islam Teaches About Protecting The Planet*, and *Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust*
- Congregations are going solar with help from Interfaith Power & Light

DO YOUR PART!

- Buy what you need and learn to repair what you have.
- Eat less meat. Try beans, peas, hummus, lentils, peanut butter, tofu, and meat alternatives instead!
- Lessen AI use.
- Sign petitions encouraging environmentally-friendly policies!
- Reduce backyard pesticide use.
- Encourage your workplace to implement resource-saving initiatives.
- When growing your family, consider adoption as an option.
- When appliances break, replace with energy-efficient versions.

This congregational resource was created as part of the Sustainability In Religion program by Conserve It Forward, a nonprofit organization focused on empowering everyday people through environmental education, and made by religious studies PhD student Avalon Jade Theisen in consultation with Islamic studies professor Dr. Han Hsien Liew.

