



# Muslim Green Guide to Reducing Climate Change

*As for the earth, We have spread it out, set firm mountains on it, and made everything grow there in due balance (Qur'an 15:19)*

co-published by:

LifeMakers UK & Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences

# Muslim Green Guide to reducing Climate Change

## Co-Published by:



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# Letter from Amr Khaled – LifeMakers

*In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the most merciful. All praise is for Allah, and peace and blessings upon his Prophet Muhammad (saw) and all of his followers.*

Surely brothers and sisters, in our moments of reflection, as we gaze around at our Lord's signs and admire his majesty in the beauty of the trees that provide us with delicious fruits, the clouds from which fall the nourishing rain and the vast oceans which man harvests and upon which he is carried great distances; we must surely recognise that the earth and everything in it is a trust placed upon us. We are temporary custodians and this is another of Allah's tests for us to see how we care for our environment and all things within it.

Climate change is the consequence of man disturbing the balance of Allah's creation. The harmony of our weather, our land, air and sea has all been affected by too much pollution and too little care in consuming the earth's resources.

It is required within our Islamic faith, that we behave as responsible and considerate citizens in our families and communities, practising concern and moderation in our lives. We can do this best by following the guidance of

Qur'an and Sunnah, which clearly invites us to live in harmony, not only with our neighbours, but also with our environment.

Mindful of Allah's tests for all of us, we invite you to reflect, in the light of the practical suggestions contained within this guide, and see how being mindful of our impact on climate change will help us all to be more observant Muslims, and make our actions pleasing to Allah. Try these practical suggestions with your family and friends. Invite others to join with you and see how you can save energy, resources, time, money and most of all, save the precious balance in this world for your children and the generations to come, inshAllah.

**Hajj Amr Khaled**  
LifeMakers



# Letter from Fazlun Khalid - IFEES

The state of planet earth, our only home, is rapidly deteriorating. Authoritative reports follow in rapid succession, warning of the dire consequences of climate change and global warming caused by human activity. What is now urgently needed is a dramatic change in the way the human race conducts its affairs and Muslims, who constitute one fifth of the world's population, can make a big difference if only they take these warnings seriously and heed the teachings of their faith.

The Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES) has worked almost single handed for over twenty years to put the environmental message of Islam across to Muslims and it gives us particular pleasure to co-publish this valuable resource with UK LifeMakers, who independently produced the original draft. This resource systematically sets down a simple set of actions supported by Islamic teachings. If assiduously followed by every Muslim household in Britain, these could make a significant contribution to meeting government targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The UK LifeMakers team are to be commended for putting together this valuable and imaginative resource. IFEES helped to finalise the material.

The Qur'an (5:48) tells us to "compete" with each other in doing good actions. Thus every good action counts and my prayer is that we compete vigorously enough to leave the earth in a liveable state for our children.

**Hajj Fazlun Khalid**  
Founder Director  
Islamic Foundation for Ecology and  
Environmental Sciences



# What is Climate Change?

“ *Corruption has flourished on land and sea as a result of people’s actions and He will make them taste the consequences of some of their own actions so that they may turn back.* ” (Qur’an 30:41)

The Earth’s climate (weather) changes all the time, but most scientists say that it is now starting to change suddenly, drastically and unpredictably, in ways that may well result in catastrophic floods, droughts, storms, forest fires, heat-waves etc. We are already seeing an increase in the rate of such natural disasters around the world.

Many scientists agree that the most likely reason for these changes is a build-up of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere, due to human beings’ excessive burning of fossil fuels, such as oil, gas, and coal. This has increased the temperature of the earth by trapping heat from the sun (the ‘Greenhouse Effect’), causing ‘global warming’.

This is being seen in many places but in particular in the polar ice caps and glaciers, which are melting at an unprecedented rate. As the ice melts, another ‘greenhouse’ gas, methane, is released from trapped

bubbles and from the peat bogs that have been frozen for many centuries. Methane is highly flammable and contributes even more to global warming than carbon dioxide. Methane is also released in large quantities from animals and human beings as they digest their food.

As the ice melts, the rate of global warming increases even faster, as the ice no longer reflects the heat of the sun out into space.

Since human beings appear to have played an important part in upsetting the balance of the climate, people all over the world are being asked to find ways to cut their carbon emissions by abandoning fossil fuels and turning to renewable energy sources, such as the sun, wind, water, volcanic heat, and waves.

“ *Climate change is a far greater threat to the world than international terrorism* ”  
(UK Government chief scientific adviser Sir David King)

# Why is it important for Muslims to take action?

- Islam teaches Muslims to respect Allah’s creation and maintain the balance He created. Allah commands people, ‘Do not cause corruption on the earth’ (2:11).’
- Everyone in the world needs to help. Muslims make up at least one fifth of the world’s population.
- While most Muslim countries are poor and use far less fossil fuels than rich ones, many Muslims also live in the rich countries or lead wasteful lifestyles and need to play their part in reducing their consumption of fossil fuels.
- Many Muslim countries produce oil and so have a vested interest in maintaining the fossil fuel industry. Nevertheless, it’s in their interest to keep the price of oil high, to maximise their income from production, and to make the oil last longer before it is all used up.
- Higher oil prices would create incentives for people to switch to cleaner and more sustainable energy.
- Oil producing countries should therefore include sustainable energy industries in their long-term investment and diversification plans

“ *Those who squander are the brothers of Satan, and Satan is most ungrateful to his Lord* ”  
(Qur’an 17:27)

# Food & Cooking

“...Eat and drink the sustenance God has provided and do not act wrongfully in the land, causing corruption.”  
(Qur'an 2:60)

## What is the issue?

FACT: The UK spends £500m per year on organic food, but the effect is reduced as it's flown around the world. When organic products are imported by plane from New Zealand, the transport energy used is 235 times greater than the energy savings of organic production.

## How can my family help?

- Think before you buy. Demand local and organic and seasonal food.
- Getting produce out of season means either growing it using glasshouses or importing it, sometimes by air.
- Cook from fresh, as fresh is better for your health.
- Use a toaster rather than the grill to make toast - it will use less energy.
- Buy organic milk - it takes over three times as much energy to produce a litre of non-organic milk as organic.
- Buy in bulk for everyday items. As well as saving money, this avoids emissions produced in packaging individual items



### Benefits

Healthy living  
Saves energy  
Saves time  
Reduces harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.organic-food-for-everyone.co.uk/](http://www.organic-food-for-everyone.co.uk/)  
[www.farmersmarkets.net](http://www.farmersmarkets.net)

### TOP TIPS!

Buy local/organic food  
Buy in season  
Cook efficiently  
Buy in bulk

# Water Heating

“It is Allah who created the heavens and earth, who has sent down water from the sky and with it brought forth produce to nourish you; He has made ships useful to you, sailing the sea by His command, and the rivers too; He has made the sun and the moon useful to you...”  
(Qur'an 14:32-33)

## What is the issue?

Heating or cooling water in all its forms, whether for heating, cooking or air conditioning, uses large amounts of energy, and this contributes to climate change.

## How can my family help?

- If your boiler is over 10 years old, then you can save energy by changing the boiler for an efficient condensing boiler.
- Baths use more energy than an efficient shower, you will save water and energy by using showers to bathe.
- Older houses may let the cold air through windows, try installing double glazing to reduce your heating needs.
- If it's warm weather or you're going away for a few days switch off the central heating. Try turning down the thermostat.
- Air conditioning uses a lot of energy, more than almost all of your home appliances. Be aware before you install or use.

### Benefits

Saves money  
Saves time  
Reduces harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
0800 512012  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
08708 506 506

### TOP TIPS!

Use showers not baths  
Switch off the heating  
Fit double glazing



# Electricity

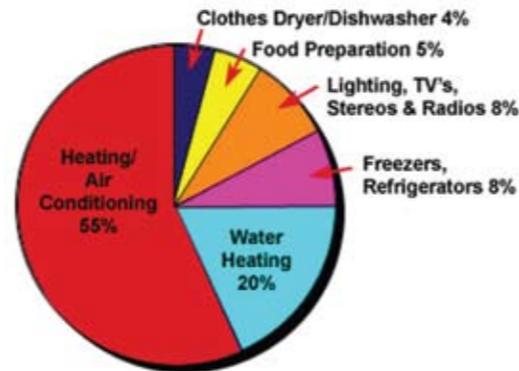
“ Do not squander your wealth wastefully ”  
(Qur'an 17:26)

## What is the issue?

Everyone now takes electricity for granted, but producing energy using fossil fuels like coal and gas contributes to climate change.

## How can my family help?

- Switch to a renewable energy supplier / tariff.
- Don't leave electrical appliances on standby, switch them off.
- Tumble dryers use a lot of energy, instead, air dry when possible.
- Buy appliances that are energy 'A' rated, and above, to save electricity.
- Switch off the TV and play in the park or garden with your family, you will enjoy it more and feel healthier for it.
- Use air conditioning sparingly



Typical domestic energy use



### Benefits

Saves money  
Get fitter and healthier  
Reduces harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.ecotricity.co.uk](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk)  
01453 756 111  
[www.greenenergy.uk.com](http://www.greenenergy.uk.com)  
0845 456 9550  
[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
0800 512012

### TOP TIPS!

Switch off avoid 'standby'  
Use energy efficient 'A' rated appliances  
Dispose of old items at recycle points

# Lighting

“ (Allah's Servants) are those who are neither wasteful nor niggardly when they spend, but keep to a just balance ”  
(Qur'an 25:67)

## What is the issue?

- The more electricity we use, the more harmful emissions are released into the atmosphere.
- Lighting is essential in our homes, the more lights we have, the more electricity we use.
- Up to 15% of your electricity bills are just from using lights around the house.

## How can my family help?

- Where possible, change your normal light bulbs for energy-efficient light bulbs.
- When you leave a room, switch the lights off. Get into this good habit and it will make a difference.
- Check the watts number on your lights, if they are more than 60 watts, ask if they can be changed for a lower power usage e.g. 40 watts, or better still change for energy-efficient bulbs.

### Benefits

Saves money  
Saves time  
Reduces harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
0800 512012  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
08708 506 506

### TOP TIPS!

Use low energy light bulbs  
Switch off lights  
Fit single instead of multiple light fittings  
Use more natural light if available



# Laundry

“ Clean your garments; keep away from all filth ”  
(Qur'an 74:4-5)

## What is the issue?

FACT: A recent study by Cambridge University's Institute of Manufacturing found that 60% of the energy associated with a piece of clothing is spent in washing and drying it.

## How can my family help?

- Wash your clothes in warm water instead of hot.
- Save up to launder a few big loads instead of many smaller ones.
- Use the most efficient machine you can find—newer ones can use as little as one-quarter of the energy of older machines.
- Separate clothes by material, some may last you longer by hand washing rather than washing by machine.
- When they're clean, dry your clothes the natural way, by hanging them on a line, airing rack, or radiator rather than loading them in a dryer.



### Benefits

Saves money  
Reduce the CO2 created by your laundry by up to 90%

### Contacts

The Global Warming  
Survival Guide  
[www.time.com](http://www.time.com)

### TOP TIPS!

Do large loads of laundry instead of smaller ones

Dry using a clothes line outside or a clothes rack inside

# Waste: Reduce

“ Do not be tight-fisted, nor so open-handed that you end up blamed and overwhelmed with regret ”  
(Qur'an 17:29)

## How can my family help?

- Buy only what you need and avoid wasting money on goods you won't use.
- Buy products that can be reused, plastic containers, glass jars and cloth shopping bags can be reused.
- Buy products with little packaging: the less packaging the less waste.
- Sell or give away unwanted items, someone else may well need them.
- Reduce paper waste by cancelling unwanted mail.
- Buy non-toxic products whenever possible, they are less harmful to the environment.
- Use water sparingly when performing wudhu or ghusl

### Benefits

Saves energy and resources  
Saves you money  
Reduces harmful gases  
Protects the environment

### Contacts

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)  
0845 3 313131

### TOP TIPS!

Waste reduction starts at the supermarket.

Use food in order of age, so that it doesn't rot.

Don't open another thing before you finish the first one.



## Waste: Reuse

“ ...It was He who brought you into being from the earth and made you inhabit it, ... ”  
(Qur'an 11:61)

### How can my family help?

- **Carrier bags and twist ties:** Carrier bags can be reused in the shops or as bin bags around the house.
- **Envelopes:** By sticking labels over the address you can reuse envelopes. Alternatively, old envelopes can be used as scrap paper to make notes.
- **Jars and pots:** By cleaning glass jars and small pots, you can use them as small containers to store odds and ends. You can make your own preserves (e.g. fruit, jam, pickles and sauces) and store them in used jars after sterilizing them with heat.
- **Newspaper, cardboard and bubble wrap:** Make useful packing material when sending parcels, moving house or storing items.
- **Old clothes, toys, household goods and books** can be made into other textile items such as cushion covers or stuffing or teapot cosies, or even paper. You can recycle them by taking them to charity shops. Other people can reuse your unwanted clothes and books when you donate them to charity shops.



#### Benefits

Saves water and energy  
Saves trees  
Reduces harmful gases  
Lower priced goods

#### Contacts

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)  
0845 3 313131  
[www.islamic-relief.com](http://www.islamic-relief.com)  
0121 605 5555

#### TOP TIPS!

Donate old electrical equipment to schools or community centres so that others can reuse them.  
Try fixing instead of disposing  
Refill spent printer cartridges

## Waste: Recycle

“ When the Earth throws out its burdens ...on that day it will tell all ”  
(Qur'an 99:2,4)

### How can my family help?

- **Recycling different materials:** Many materials can be recycled, such as paper, garden waste, wood, plastic, metal, and glass.
- **Buy products that can be recycled:** When shopping, buy products that can be recycled easily such as glass jars and bottles and tin cans.
- **Buy products that have been made from recycled material:** check by looking on the label.
- **Avoiding buying hazardous material:** It is difficult to recycle products like fluorescent lighting tubes that contain hazardous waste. They can only be disposed of safely via your local recycling centre.
- **Recycling bins:** Make sure you have a recycling bin in your home. Keep it in an obvious place so you won't forget to use it. Your local council should be able to provide you with a recycling bin that can be used for materials such as glass, paper, aluminium and plastic.
- **Use your local council recycling centre:** If you can get transport, take your waste to the local centre, or hire a skip.

#### Benefits

Reduces pollution  
Saves water and energy  
Saves trees  
Reduces harmful gases

#### Contacts

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)  
0845 331 3131

#### TOP TIPS!

Make sure you know what facilities your local council provides.  
Join with neighbours to collect and then drop off at recycling points  
Assist the elderly in your street



# Waste: The 3 'R's

“ When you ...remove stones, thorns and bones from the road, ...it counts for you as sadaqah ”  
(Hadith:Tirmidhi)

## What's the issue?

- An estimated 6.7 million tonnes of household food waste is produced each year in the UK, most of which could have been eaten. This wastes good food, costs us all money and adversely impacts on the environment..
- Rechargeable batteries can be reused many times before they need throwing away, normal batteries create unnecessary waste.
- 70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw wood pulp. Saving paper saves trees, which can then continue to absorb carbon dioxide.

## How can my family help?

- **Reduce:** what you buy and use it all up
- **Reuse:** reuse whatever you can.
- **Recycle:** when things are ready to be disposed of, see if they can be recycled.



### Benefits

Saves money  
Good for your garden  
Reduces harmful gases  
Up to 50% of waste in your bin can be used as compost

### Contacts

[www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)  
[www.communitycompost.org](http://www.communitycompost.org)  
0114 258 0483  
[www.recycleforlondon.org.uk](http://www.recycleforlondon.org.uk)  
0845 331 3131

### TOP TIPS!

Get into the habit of the 3 R's:  
Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle  
When you recycle, get the whole family involved

# Cars

“ There must be neither harm nor the imposition of harm ”  
(Hadith: Ibn-Majah)

## What's the issue?

- Cars produce a lot of polluting gases which make it hard to breathe and they hurt the environment.
- More people own cars, are driving further and engines are thirstier than ever before. A quarter of all car journeys in the UK are under 2 miles, that's a lot of short, polluting trips.

## How can my family help?

- For your next car try a smaller engine (1.0L or 1.3L), try a hybrid car or one that uses alternative fuels such as electricity, LPG, hydrogen fuel cell. All these pollute less than petrol.
- Try to walk or use a bike for journeys under 2 miles, over half of our journeys are short and don't need a car, try it and you will feel healthier, it will help you to lose weight as well as being great for the environment.

### Benefits

Saves you money  
Improves health and fitness  
Reduces harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.greencarsite.co.uk](http://www.greencarsite.co.uk)  
+ 44 (0)20 7193 4569

### TOP TIPS!

Walk more, use the car less  
Try smaller-engined cars, they're cleaner & cheaper  
Share your journeys  
Ride a bike when you can



# Air Travel

“ We made the sky a well-secured canopy—yet from its wonders they turn away ”  
(Qur'an 21:32)

## What's the issue?

- Air travel emits greenhouse gases which make the world hotter and hurt the environment .
- More people now travel by air more times every year: cheap airlines have made foreign travel easier.
- Alternative aviation fuels are being tested at the moment and may soon be in use.

## How can my family help?

- Take fewer holidays or trips requiring air travel, try taking holidays or trips inside the UK by train.
- When you travel by air, ask if the pollution of the journey can be balanced with a 'carbon offset'.
- The newer the airline' fleet of aircraft, the better the efficiency and clean technology of the engines.
- Ask yourself if you really need to make more than one Hajji or Umrah journey.



### Benefits

Reduces harmful gases  
Trains can cut your carbon emissions by up to 80%

### Contacts

[www.carbonbalanced.org](http://www.carbonbalanced.org)  
0845 054 4422

### TOP TIPS!

Try the train when you can  
Try UK holidays  
Try combining trips  
Can you use web video to talk instead of travelling?

# Cycling

“ [He created ...] horses, mules, and donkeys for you to ride and use for show, and other things you know nothing about ”  
(Qur'an 16:8)

## What's the issue?

- Most fossil fuel transportation is very polluting and harms the environment.
- The majority of journeys in cars, in the UK, average only 2 miles.
- People exercise less, so diabetes, obesity & high blood pressure are increasing.

## How can my family help?

- Look for opportunities to walk more or use a bicycle for shorter journeys.
- Cycling improves health and provides exercise.
- Cycling does not pollute the environment, as it has no exhaust fumes.
- Cycling is something people can enjoy as a family



### Benefits

Helps you stay fit  
Saves you money  
Reduces harmful gases  
Improves health

### Contacts

[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)  
0845 113 00 65  
[www.whycycle.co.uk](http://www.whycycle.co.uk)

### TOP TIPS!

Use a bike for shorter trips  
Enjoy cycling as a family  
Get into healthy habits  
Cycle to keep fit

# Grants

“ He has made the sun and the moon useful to you ”  
(Qur'an 14:33)

## What is the issue?

Helping the environment doesn't have to be expensive and you can find help from the government to improve your home and help your family live a green life.

## How can my family help?

- A simple and effective way of reducing the energy wasted in your home is by adding wall and loft insulation – there are insulation grants to help you do this.
- If you have children or vulnerable relatives in your house, you may be eligible for a grant to install an efficient boiler.
- If you're more ambitious and want to generate your own electricity, you can get grants for solar power systems.



### Benefits

Saves you money  
Save you time  
Reduce harmful gases

### Contacts

[www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)  
0800 085 2005  
[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)  
0800 512 012

### TOP TIPS!

Install loft insulation  
Replace your old boiler  
Install clean energy

# How green is my family?

- We grow our own food
- We buy locally grown organic food
- We donate unwanted items to schools/ others who can use them
- We take more showers than baths
- We turn down the thermostat to control the temperature
- We switch appliances off instead of using standby
- We use low energy bulbs for lighting
- We reduce, reuse and recycle items around the house
- We walk or cycle whenever we can instead of using the car
- We know where to access help, information and grants to assist us in becoming a more environment-friendly family



## General Information

WWF [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk) 01483 426333

OXFAM [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk) 0870 333 2700

Friends of the Earth [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk) 020 7490 1555

Greenpeace [www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk) 020 7865 8100

UK Environment Agency [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) 08708 506 506

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch) 0041 22 730 8066

UN Environmental Programme [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org) 00 254 20 7621234 (Nairobi, Kenya)

## Qur'an Translation

*Quotations from the Qur'an used in this booklet are taken from:*

*The Qur'an: a New Translation, by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem, Oxford University Press, 2005*





*“It is Allah who sends the winds, bearing good news of His coming grace, and when they have gathered up the heavy clouds, We drive them to a dead land where We cause rain to fall, bringing out all kinds of fruit”*  
(Qur'an 7:57)

*“We sent water down from the sky in due measure and lodged it in the earth— We have the power to take it all away if We so wish”*  
(Qur'an 23:18)