

Muslim Climate Action Report

2024



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Report summary

This report aims to identify the barriers to environmental action for Muslims, to provide recommendations to address these, and to identify opportunities for Muslim environmental action.

Whilst this report emphasises Muslims and the Islamic faith, we believe that the recommendations can apply to other minority groups and those working towards a greener and fairer future.

Key findings

1. Muslims are concerned about climate change:

93%

of respondents are concerned about climate change

2. More needs to be done to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change:

24%

of respondents believe climate change is priority for the Muslim community

3. There is a lack of Muslim representation for climate action:

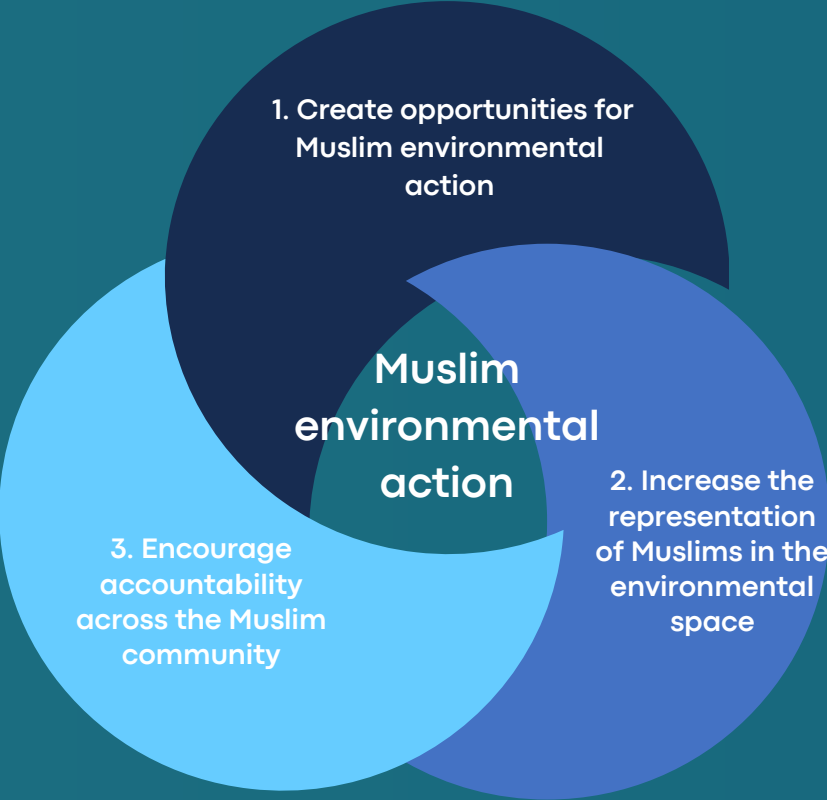
93%

of survey respondents believe there is insufficient Muslim representation in climate change discussions

Our recommendations

For each of the barriers, we believe the following groups are fundamental to driving change:

- Individuals: primarily refers to Muslims and allies, and is open to all those with an interest in Muslim environmental action
- Community groups: used to primarily describe Muslim and allied organisations
- Organisations: a broad term used to encompass any organisation, whether it's a corporate, an NGO, or a media outlet interested in becoming an ally for Muslim environmental action



Foreword

In an era where the effects of climate change are felt globally, it is imperative for us as Muslims to reflect on our responsibilities as stewards of the Earth and think about the actions we need to take to tackle this global issue. At the same time, it is important for community groups and organisations to support Muslims in addressing the barriers they face in engaging in climate change activations. This report delves into the attitudes of Muslims primarily in the UK towards environmental issues, uncovering a growing awareness and commitment to addressing climate change. It also shows the different barriers Muslims face and what actions they would be willing to take to combat this issue.

Our findings show that while there is a strong foundation of environmental consciousness within the Muslim community, there is also a need for increased education and action.

This report aims to bridge that gap by providing actionable steps. The recommendations presented here are designed to inspire and mobilise our community towards a more environmentally conscious future. They emphasise the importance of individual and collective action, from engaging with close friends and family to generate conversation about environmentalism to leading environmental initiatives in our mosques and community centres. By embracing these recommendations, we can lead by example, demonstrating that our commitment to faith includes a commitment to preserving the Earth.

I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to this report, I pray that this report brings benefit inshaAllah (God-Willing). Together, we can make a significant impact in the fight against climate change, ensuring a healthy and thriving planet for future generations.



Nazia Sultana
Founder of Sustainably Muslim
and Two Billion Strong

Foreword

As the global community grapples with the escalating impacts of climate change, the role of faith and ethics in shaping our collective response has never been more critical. Islam, with its profound teachings on stewardship (Khalifah), balance (mizan), and justice (adl), provides a compelling moral framework for addressing this urgent crisis. The Qur'an reminds us that the Earth and its resources are a sacred trust (amanah) given to humanity by the Creator, and it is our duty to protect and preserve this trust for future generations.

The Muslim Climate Action Report seeks to galvanize the Muslim community into meaningful and sustained action. Drawing upon the rich ethical teachings of Islam, it highlights how faith can inspire concrete efforts in the fight against climate change. The report addresses the environmental and social justice dimensions of the crisis and emphasizes the role of Muslim leadership, youth engagement, and community participation.

In particular, this report will allow Muslim youth to channel their transformative and creative energy into a noble cause—protecting and restoring the planet for the next generation. Rather than inheriting a weakened Earth, young Muslims are called to become leaders in the fight for environmental justice and sustainability. This proactive engagement will help ensure that future generations inherit a healthier, more vibrant world.

With nearly two billion Muslims worldwide, our collective potential to influence global environmental outcomes is immense. This report reflects our responsibility as stewards of the Earth and a call to action. It serves as a reminder that addressing climate change is not just a technical challenge but a moral imperative rooted in the core values of our faith. I hope that this report will inspire Muslims everywhere to take bold, decisive action in safeguarding our planet. We can build a more just, balanced, and sustainable future.



Professor Dr Ibrahim Özdemir
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About Sustainably Muslim and Two Billion Strong

Sustainably Muslim is a CIC that inspires Muslims to protect the environment and their community through events, workshops, volunteering opportunities and Two Billion Strong.

Two Billion Strong is an online platform that sits under the umbrella of Sustainably Muslim. It aims to amplify, connect and educate Muslim changemakers in the UK.



Context (1/2)

Faith: the unique driver with the ability to touch hearts like no other could be harnessed for environmental action.

Faith plays an important role for the majority of the world's population and is a key motivator for behavioural change. There are two billion followers of the Islamic faith. Actors such as governments and external organisations may not be seen as trustworthy or the most inclusive; whereas, faith-based environmental messaging has the potential to help motivate millions of people to take greater action.

Faith speaks to followers in a familiar language and motivates with a moral impulse they resonate with. However, faith-based messaging is often absent from the climate change discourse.

Climate change involves everybody. By incorporating faith-based messaging, there is opportunity to include more people in the discourse and empower everybody to act with the right tools.

Impacts: climate change impacts disproportionately affects Muslims, yet, Muslims are disproportionately under-represented in the climate change discourse.

Across the world, the effects of climate change are felt far more intensely in the Global South, in which, the majority of the world's Muslims reside.

However, Muslims voices are seldom heard when discussing climate action. The climate change discourse is dominated by voices in the Global North, who represent the country's most responsible for the effects of climate change. This schism in who we pay attention to must be addressed as this leads to a crisis of justice. We are at danger of ignoring those who feel the harmful effects of climate change, while we listen to the perpetrators of it.

Context (2/2)

The Quran: the Quran contains a strong environmental imperative.

The Quran is the holy book for Muslims and provides teachings for the followers of Islam. In the Quran, God establishes mankind's role on Earth as stewards, and proscribes us from excess and exceeding moral limits.

"Children of Adam, dress well whenever you are at worship, and eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: God does not like extravagant people." (7:31)

As part of the Islamic faith, Muslims follow the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). There are instances of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) displaying strong environmental ethics such as forbidding wastage of water, reducing economic inequality, and living frugally.

The Quran confirms the narrative that God has placed mankind on Earth to enjoy life, to be grateful for the blessings, and to live within the law which protects the environment and is oriented for sustainable enjoyment of the world.

Muslims: a call to climate action.

Muslim voices are part of the solution for climate change.

The exclusion of Muslim perspectives in climate change discussions not only represents a missed opportunity for inclusive dialogue but also overlooks the valuable insights and unique contributions that Muslim communities can offer.

By integrating Muslim voices, we enrich the global conversation on climate change with diverse solutions that are culturally resonant and spiritually motivated. In order to do this, we must speak to Muslims and discover how climate change impacts them, how Islam motivates them, and how they may play a role in shaping the sustainable and just future.

Findings overview

Our methodology

Survey

We published a an online, public-facing survey between February 2024 - April 2024, **we received 215 responses**.

Respondents shared several other personal characteristics, we captured responses from a range of backgrounds across ethnicity, gender and area of residence.

Research

We conducted a literature review and worked with experts to provide substance to our recommendations.

Key findings

1. Muslims are concerned about climate change:

93%

of respondents are concerned about climate change

2. More needs to be done to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change:

24%

of respondents believe Climate change is a priority for the Muslim community

3. There is a lack of Muslims representation for climate action:

93%

of survey respondents believe there is insufficient Muslim representation in climate change discussions

Research Findings (1/4)

Over
70%

feel that Muslims are not doing
enough in the climate action space

36%

believe 'lack of awareness and
education about climate change'
is a climate action barrier.

93%

of people are concerned about
climate change

Research Findings (2/4)

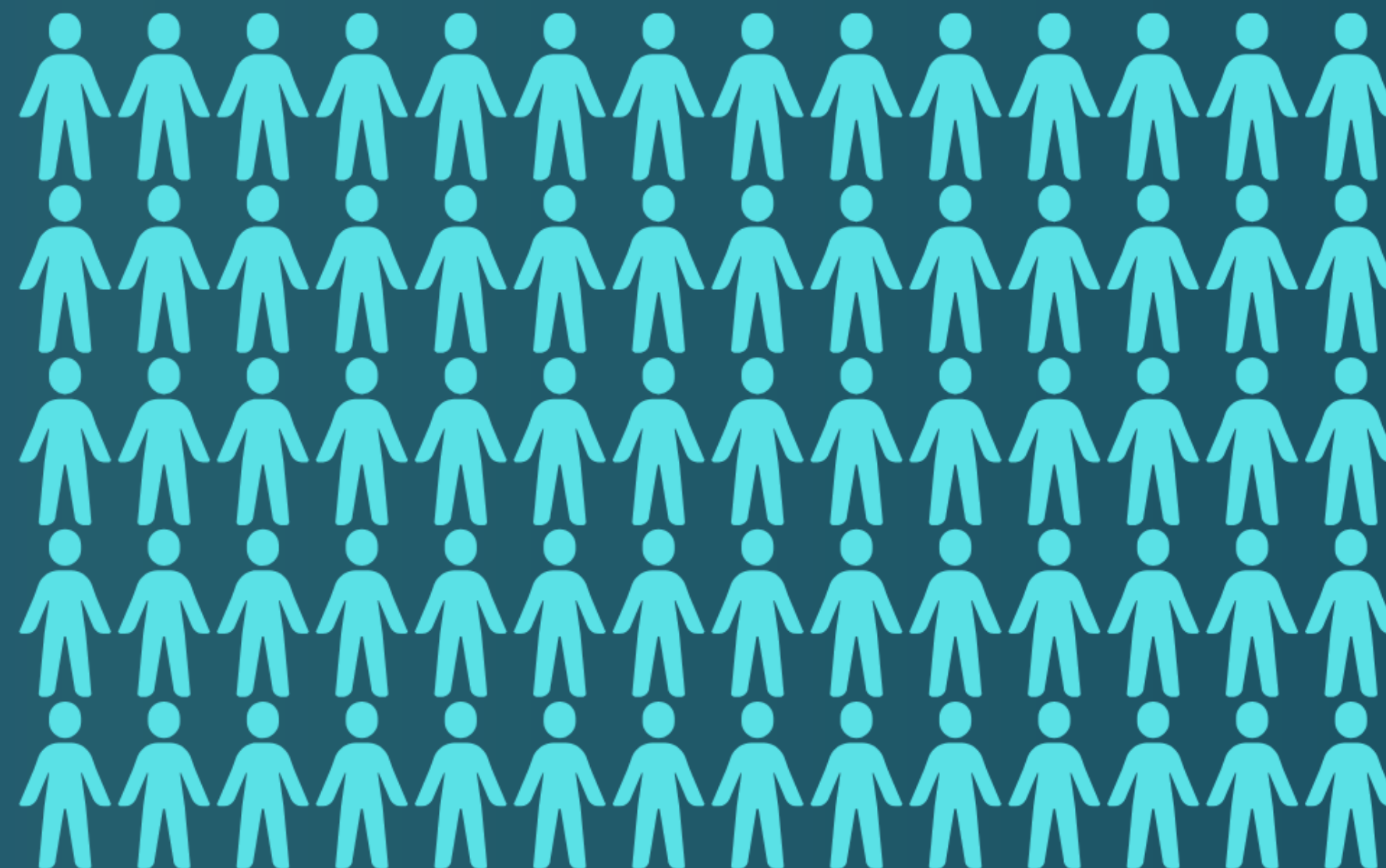
93%

believe there is insufficient Muslim representation in the climate change discussion.

The top 3 activities people are willing to engage in to promote climate action are:

1. Volunteering with local environmental organisations
2. Attending educational workshops or seminars
3. Engaging in discussions or dialogues within one's community or workplace

This shows that in-person activities and engagement in climate-related topics and events remain strong.



Research Findings (3/4)

What do you think we need to do more in promoting climate action within the Muslim community?

24% of respondents expressed desire for more collaborations with mosques and Islamic organisations on environmental initiatives.

The data highlights a clear opportunity for mosques and Islamic organisations, as key pillars of the Muslim community, to take a more active role in promoting climate action. There is a need for more structured partnerships between these institutions and environmental groups, such as workshops, sermons, and educational programmes that emphasise sustainability from an Islamic perspective. By leading climate initiatives and building stronger networks with NGOs, mosques can mobilise grassroots efforts, engage young people, and boost wider community participation in environmental efforts.



Research Findings (4/4)

Which of the following activities are you willing to engage with to promote climate action?

22% of respondents found engaging in discussion and dialogue to be the most appealing action.



21% of respondents found attending workshops to be the second most appealing action.



According to the survey, **20%** of respondents considered volunteering to be the third most appealing action.



Recommendations overview

The following recommendations have been developed as result of our findings to respond to the barriers identified and to encourage Muslim environmental action.

We identified and broadly grouped the barriers to Muslim environmental action:

1. There is a lack of awareness around Muslim environmental action, a lack of funding opportunities, and a lack of community for changemakers.

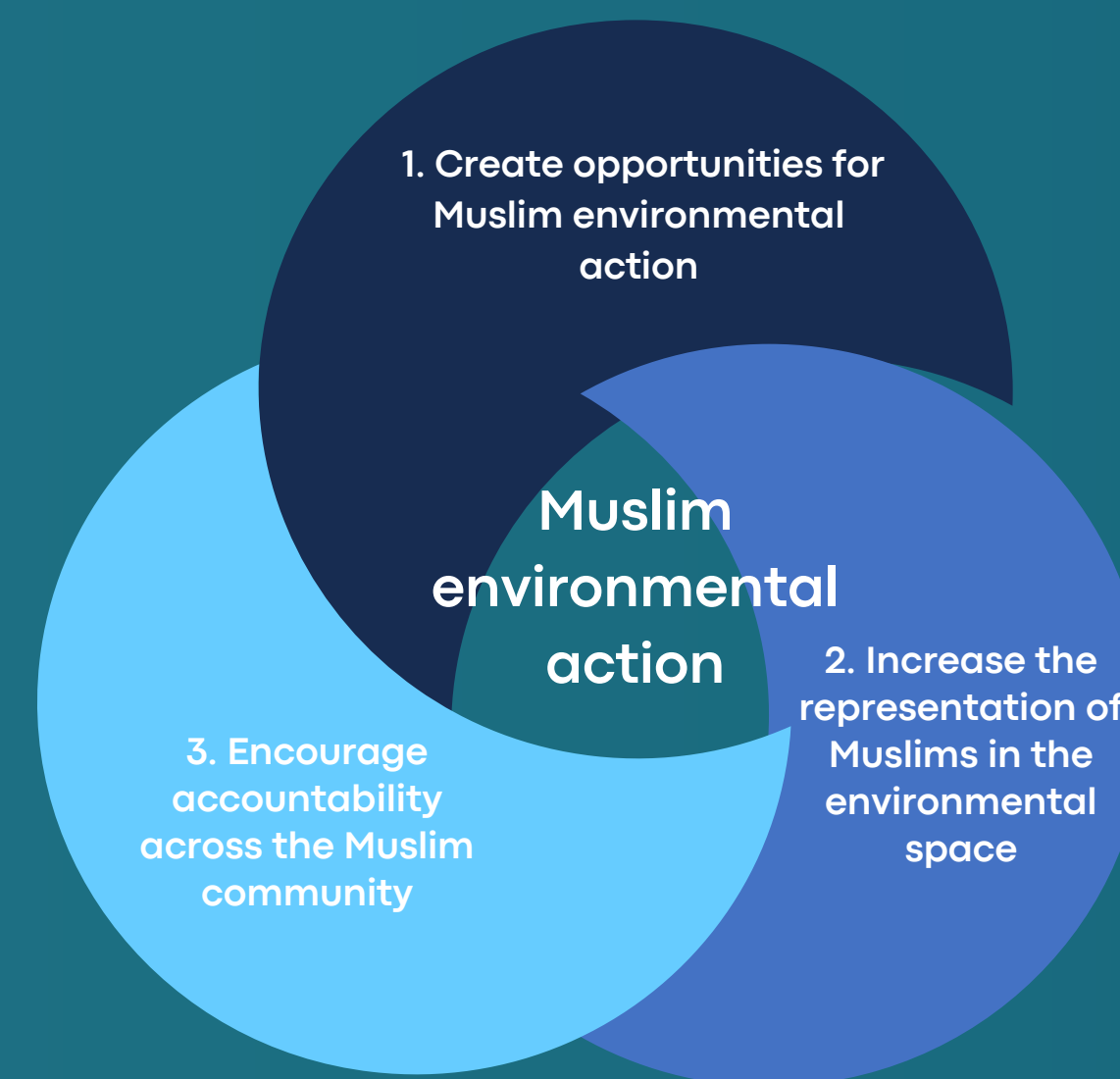
2. There is a lack of urgency to change behaviour.

3. There is a lack of Muslim voices and role models in the environmental space.

Our recommendations

For each of the barriers, we believe the following groups are fundamental to driving change:

- Individuals: primarily refers to Muslims and allies, and is open to all those with an interest in Muslim environmental action
- Community groups: used to primarily describe Muslim and allied organisations
- Organisations: a broad term used to encompass any organisation, whether it's a corporate, an NGO, or a media outlet interested in becoming an ally for Muslim environmental action



Recommendation 1: Create opportunities for Muslim environmental action

Barrier: there is a lack of awareness around Muslim environmental action, a lack of funding opportunities, and a lack of community for changemakers.

Individuals

A. Education and awareness

- i. Host Workshops and Seminars: Organise educational sessions with knowledgeable speakers discussing how Islamic teachings encourage the protection of the environment.
- ii. Share Information: Use social media platforms to share articles, videos, and infographics about Islamic environmental ethics and sustainable practices.

B. Personal action:

- i. Volunteer: Participate in or initiate local environmental clean-up drives, tree planting, and conservation projects.
- ii. Knowledge sharing: Learn how to implement eco-friendly habits in daily life, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and using sustainable products, and pass this on to others.

C. Networking:

- i. Join Environmental Groups: Become a member of existing environmental organisations to stay informed and involved in ongoing initiatives.
- ii. Utilise Online Communities: Establish or join social media groups focused on Muslim environmentalism to connect with like-minded individuals.

Recommendation 1: Create opportunities for Muslim environmental action

Barrier: there is a lack of awareness around Muslim environmental action, a lack of funding opportunities, and a lack of community for changemakers.

Community groups

A. Develop programmes and initiatives:

- i. Green Mosque Projects: Implement sustainable practices in mosques, such as using solar energy, recycling programs, and water conservation measures.
- ii. Environmental Campaigns: Launch community-wide campaigns to raise awareness about environmental issues and the Islamic perspective on environmental stewardship.

B. Collaboration and partnerships:

- i. Partner with Environmental NGOs: Collaborate with environmental organisations to co-host events, workshops, and projects.
- ii. Engage with Local Governments: Work with local authorities to support and promote environmental policies and initiatives within the community.

C. Funding and resources:

- i. Seek Grants and Donations: Apply for grants and seek donations to fund environmental projects and initiatives.
- ii. Resource Sharing: Create a platform for sharing resources, knowledge, and tools for environmental action within the community.

D. Youth engagement youth programmes:

- i. Establish youth-focused programs and clubs that encourage environmental activism and education.
- ii. School Initiatives: Integrate environmental education into Islamic school curriculums and extracurricular activities.

Recommendation 1: Create opportunities for Muslim environmental action

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Organisations

A. Inclusivity and representation:

- i. Diverse Programming: Ensure that programs and initiatives are inclusive and representative of diverse communities, including Muslims.
- ii. Cultural Sensitivity Training: Provide training for staff and volunteers on cultural sensitivity and the importance of engaging with Muslim communities respectfully.
- iii. Highlight Muslim Environmental Action: Use platforms and networks to highlight successful environmental projects led by Muslim communities.

B. Outreach and collaboration: Engage with Muslim Leaders:

- i. Build relationships with Muslim community leaders and organisations to co-create environmental initiatives.
- ii. Joint Projects: Develop and promote joint environmental projects that involve both Muslim and non-Muslim participants.
- iii. Educational Materials: Develop and distribute materials that explain the connections between Islamic teachings and environmental sustainability.

C. Funding and support:

- i. Provide Grants: Create specific funding opportunities for Muslim-led environmental projects and initiatives.
- ii. Capacity Building: Offer training and support for Muslim community groups to build their capacity for environmental action.

Recommendation 2: Increase the representation of Muslims in the environmental space

Barrier: there is a lack of Muslim voices and role models in the environmental space.

Individuals

A. Amplify voices:

- i. Share Stories: Use social media and other platforms to share stories of Muslim environmentalists and their work. Highlight their achievements and impact.
- ii. Public Speaking: Take opportunities to speak or recommend others to speak at environmental events, conferences, and community gatherings to represent Muslim perspectives on environmental issues.

B. Mentorship:

- i. Become a Mentor: Offer guidance and support to younger Muslims interested in environmental careers or activism
- ii. Seek Mentorship: Connect with established environmentalists for mentorship and advice to build a career or impactful work in this field.

C. Networking:

- i. Join Environmental Networks: Become active members of environmental organisations and networks to build connections and increase visibility.
- ii. Attend Events: Participate in environmental events, workshops, and conferences to build relationships and increase presence in the environmental community.

Recommendation 2: Increase the representation of Muslims in the environmental space

Barrier: there is a lack of Muslim voices and role models in the environmental space.

Community groups

A. Highlight role models:

- i. Showcase Achievements: Regularly feature stories of Muslim environmentalists in community newsletters, websites, and social media.
- ii. Host Speaker Series: Organise events where successful Muslim environmentalists can share their experiences and inspire others.

B. Capacity building:

- i. Training Programs: Develop training programs to equip members with the skills and knowledge to take on leadership roles in environmental initiatives.
- ii. Leadership Development: Encourage and support community members to take on leadership roles within environmental organisations and projects.

C. Media and outreach:

- i. Engage with Media: Work with local and national media to highlight Muslim environmental initiatives and leaders.
- ii. Create Content: Produce content such as articles, videos, and podcasts that feature Muslim perspectives on environmental issues.

Recommendation 2: Increase the representation of Muslims in the environmental space

Barrier: there is a lack of Muslim voices and role models in the environmental space.

Organisations

A. Inclusive representation:

- i. Diverse Panels and Speakers: Ensure that panels, conferences, and events include Muslim speakers and representatives.
- ii. Highlight Contributions: Actively seek out and highlight the contributions of Muslim environmentalists in publications and campaigns.

B. Partnerships and collaboration:

- i. Collaborate with Muslim Groups: Partner with Muslim community organisations on projects and initiatives to ensure their voices are included.
- ii. Joint Initiatives: Develop joint initiatives that specifically aim to increase the visibility of Muslim contributions to environmentalism.

C. Capacity building and support:

- i. Provide Platforms: Offer platforms for Muslim environmentalists to share their work and perspectives, such as blog features, social media takeovers, and guest speaking opportunities.
- ii. Support Development: Provide support and resources to help Muslim community groups develop their own environmental programs and leadership.

D. Advocacy and policy:

- i. Inclusive Policies: Advocate for policies that promote diversity and inclusion within the environmental sector, ensuring Muslim voices are represented.
- ii. Advisory Councils: Establish advisory councils that include Muslim environmentalists to guide organisational strategies and initiatives.

Recommendation 3: Encourage accountability across the Muslim community

Barrier: there is a lack of urgency to change behaviour

Individuals

A. Personal accountability:

- i. Set Personal Goals: Establish clear, measurable environmental goals for yourself and track progress regularly.
- ii. Public Commitments: Share your environmental commitments with family, friends, and online communities to hold yourself accountable.

B. Education and awareness:

- i. Continuous Learning: Stay informed about environmental issues and how Islamic teachings support sustainable practices.
- ii. Lead by Example: Demonstrate environmentally friendly behaviour in your daily life to inspire others to follow suit.

C. Peer accountability:

- i. Accountability Groups: Form or join groups with like-minded individuals to discuss progress, share tips, and encourage each other to maintain sustainable practices.
- ii. Regular Check-ins: Have regular check-ins with peers to discuss successes, challenges, and ways to improve.

Recommendation 3: Encourage accountability across the Muslim community

Barrier: there is a lack of urgency to change behaviour

Community groups

A. Community pledges:

- i. Environmental Pledges: Encourage community members to make environmental pledges and commitments, and provide platforms to track and celebrate progress.
- ii. Public Declarations: Make public declarations of the community’s commitment to environmental stewardship and regularly report on achievements.

B. Programmes and initiatives:

- i. Sustainable Practices: Implement and enforce sustainable practices within mosques and community centres, such as recycling, energy conservation, and reducing waste.
- ii. Educational Campaigns: Run educational campaigns that connect Islamic teachings with practical environmental actions, emphasizing accountability.

C. Monitoring and reporting:

- i. Environmental Audits: Conduct regular environmental audits of community facilities and activities to ensure compliance with sustainability goals.
- ii. Transparent Reporting: Share audit results and progress reports with the community to maintain transparency and accountability.

D. Leadership and role models:

- i. Empower Leaders: Train and support community leaders to become champions of environmental sustainability, holding them accountable for driving change.
- ii. Recognise Efforts: Publicly recognise and reward individuals and groups within the community who make significant contributions to environmental sustainability.

Recommendation 3: Encourage accountability across the Muslim community

Barrier: there is a lack of urgency to change behaviour

Organisations

A. Support and resources:

- i. Provide Tools: Offer tools and resources to Muslim community groups to help them set, track, and achieve their environmental goals.
- ii. Training Programs: Develop training programs focused on accountability and sustainable practices tailored to the needs of Muslim communities.

B. Partnership and collaboration:

- i. Joint Accountability Initiatives: Develop joint initiatives that emphasise mutual accountability between Muslim and non-Muslim organisations.
- ii. Mentorship Programs: Establish mentorship programs where experienced environmentalists guide and support Muslim community leaders in embedding accountability.

C. Inclusive policies:

- i. Policy Development: Advocate for policies that require accountability in environmental practices, ensuring these policies are inclusive of diverse communities, including Muslims.
- ii. Regular Assessments: Conduct regular assessments of joint projects and initiatives to ensure accountability and progress towards sustainability goals.

D. Awareness and advocacy:

- i. Highlight Successes: Use media and communication channels to highlight successful examples of accountability in Muslim environmental initiatives.
- ii. Advocate for Change: Advocate for greater accountability in environmental practices across all communities, emphasizing the role of Islamic teachings in promoting sustainability.



Conclusion

Climate change is exacerbating existing inequalities, particularly impacting the global Muslim population. With nearly 2 billion Muslims worldwide, it is crucial for every Muslim to embrace their duty as stewards of the earth. By harnessing faith as a driving force, Muslims can be at the forefront of ending the climate crisis.

To enable effective Muslim environmental action, there must be the creation of opportunities, an increase in Muslim representation, and accountability within the Muslim community. Encouraging Muslim environmental action is essential to achieving a fairer, more equitable, and just world.

It is imperative for Muslims to step forward and take an active role in combating climate change. Let us unite to create a sustainable future, reflecting the values of justice, stewardship, and equity that are integral to our faith. This is a call to action for every Muslim to contribute to preserving the planet for future generations and to act upon spreading a key component our religion asks us to uphold.

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Sustainably Muslim

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Two Billion Strong

 [Website](#)

 [Instagram](#)

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The image features two large circles on a dark blue background. The left circle is orange and contains the text 'sustainably muslim' in white. The right circle is black and contains the text 'TWO BILLION STRONG' in white.

**sustainably
muslim**

**TWO BILLION
STRONG**

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