



LIVING THE CHANGE

Faithful choices for a flourishing world



Why faith communities?

With **84% of the world's population** identifying itself as belonging to a faith, and with **houses of worship** existing in nearly every town or municipality on the planet, there is no other sector of society with greater **potential for leadership** in **transforming individual and communal consumption habits** than the faith sector.



"Earth is a blessing. She supports life and is the basis of all our economies. She conveys beauty and evokes our recognition of something greater than ourselves. She is our temple, our mosque, our sanctuary, our cathedral. Our Home."

Walk on Earth Gently
Interfaith Statement at COP23





Implementing Faith Institutions/FBOs



value- driven, well-connected, far-reaching, grass-rooted, diverse



Our approach to change

- Action I:** Religious and spiritual leaders who are committed and involved
- Action II:** Narratives and communication that position sustainable living as an embodiment of values and a moral response to a crisis
- Action III:** Faith and spiritual community activities and education that promote sustainable lifestyles
- Action IV:** Peer-to-peer coaching
- Action V:** Public celebration
- Action VI:** Mobilizing people of faith for climate justice advocacy



What motivates people of faith for sustainable behaviour?

1. „Our Prophet (peace upon him) is a model of simplicity. One cannot claim to be a true follower if one does not strive to emulate his simplicity in living and doing without much. „
Imam Zaid Shakir, USA
2. „Every thought, word and action of mine has an impact on myself, other people and the world. Understanding the law of ‘karma’ (action and reaction), I aspire to give more than I take. „
Sister Jayanti, European Director of Brahma Kumaris, UK/India
3. „In a society that glorifies excess and fears inconvenience, eating a plant-based diet is a simple discipline that keeps me grounded and reminds me to keep making choices that respond to the urgent cries of our Earth, our common home.“
Sister Christina Tomy, Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, USA
4. „As human beings we are not the most important creature, what we have is the greatest responsibility to take care of this beautiful common home.“
Rev Milton Mejía, Presbyterian Church of Colombia, Colombia
5. „It also helps to be aware that I am part of a larger movement towards positive change, and that change may take more than my lifetime to ever be accomplished. I am sharing this journey with faith-based and other change-makers, most of us working on different threads of action, all based in love.“
Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary of the Quakers, USA
6. „As a Muslim, we believe that the Koran says that we have to walk gently upon the Earth.“
Nana Firman, Co-founder of the Global Muslim Climate Network, Indonesia





Core principles across faiths

Research by *Climate Outreach*, 2018





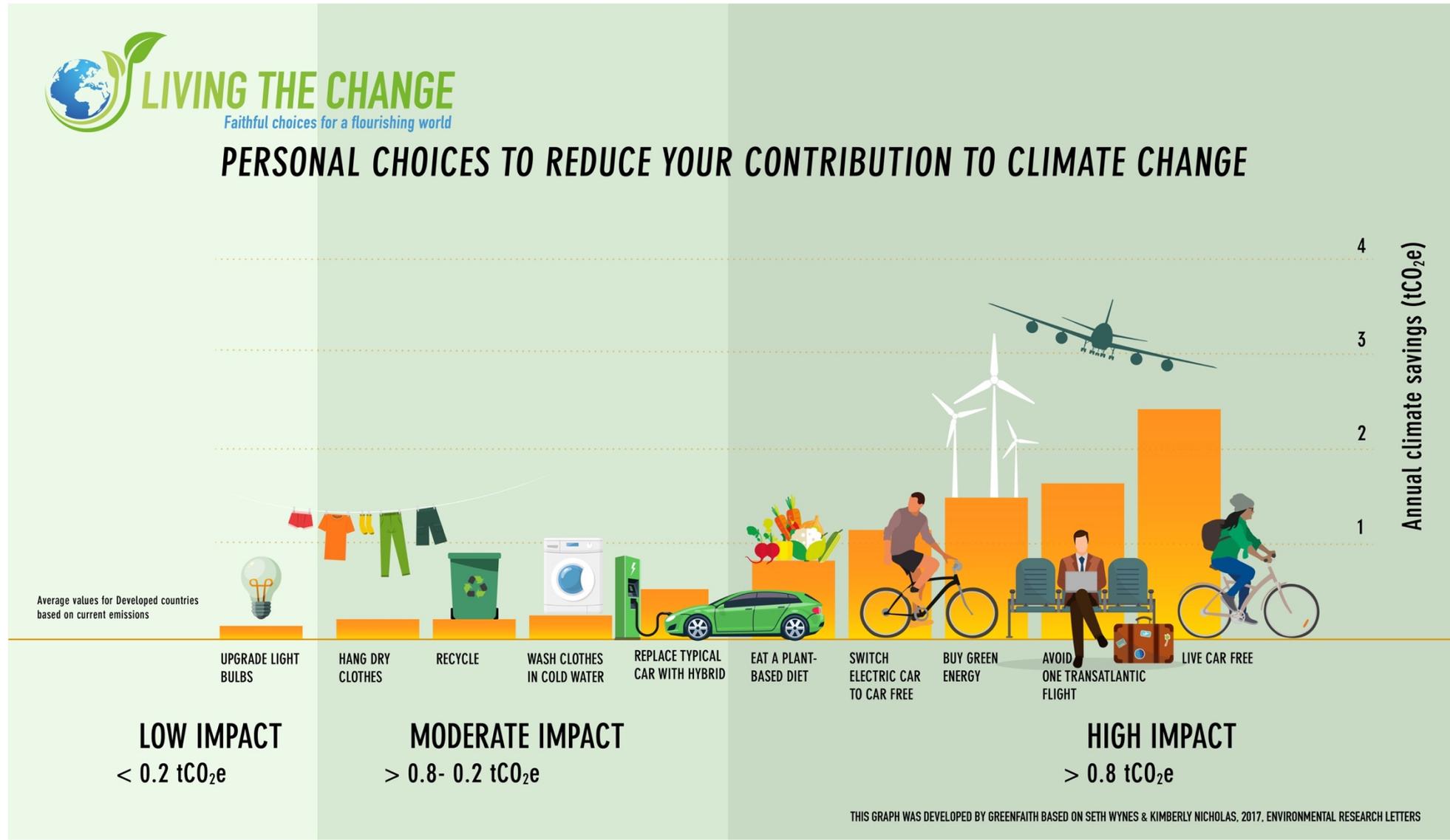
Communicating sustainable living to people of faith

- Our actions are a reinforcement and assertion of religious identity
- faith principles as the grounding for behaviour
- waste/damage to the environment/harm to others is fundamentally wrong.
- gratitude for what we have and a sense of sufficiency.
- cooperation and coming together
- relationship between parents and children (and generations)
- Actions that are “difficult”, worth-while and reflecting this as a struggle
- Faith meeting place as a central focus

Research by *Climate Outreach*, 2018



Focusing on changing high-impact and carbon-intensive behaviors





Key events in 2018

12-14 September

Interfaith Worship Service at the **Global Climate Action Summit**, California and first announcement of thousands of pledges during the summit

7-14 October

Global Week of Living the Change in 100+ globally distributed events in faith communities around the world. This will be a joyous occasion to come together as the world's faith communities and celebrate the changes we are all living.

3-8 November

Parliament of World Religions with 10.000+ religious leaders and actors meeting in Toronto, Canada will also focus on Climate Change.



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