

Islamic Perspective on Climate Change and the Environment

Presentation at Albert Road Islamic Centre, RFF Multi-Faith Walk on 18 10 15

Welcome to Albert Road Islamic Centre. We are pleased to see you.

We young people from our Madrassah have been thinking about how we can care more for the earth. We talked about how our Muslim faith inspires us to care for creation. I will share with you what we said

- God has gifted us with life and a place to live. To abuse the earth is unbecoming of a Muslim.
- We treat the Qur'an with respect and the Qur'an tells us to treat the earth with respect
- We are conscious of Muslims and all people suffering from poverty around the world. We want to reduce poverty but our actions in the UK are making things worse for the poorest
- Everything is created by God, so everything needs to be cared for
- We need to practice ourselves what we expect others to do. We shouldn't be hypocrites
- We can act together rather than thinking on our own as this way we can make a difference
- We are all one so we can help each other
- Islam teaches us to preserve water
- The Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) set an example in his life of caring for the earth. As Muslims we want to follow his example
- Everything we do has an impact on others, and also the earth (an example is smoking, which harms us, others and the air we breathe).
- Islamic teaching is about not doing harm, so we must care for the environment, for example we can use cloth bags for shopping rather than plastic ones.
- And remember every person can make a difference

Here are some Hadith about caring for creation

Planting

The Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) said:

“Never does a Muslim plant a tree or sow a crop and a bird, human being, or beast eats from it without earning the reward of charity.”

Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

“If the Hour (the day of Resurrection) is about to be established and one of you was holding a palm shoot, let him take advantage of even one second before the Hour is established to plant it.”

Caring for animals

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (may peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"A man felt very thirsty while he was on the way, there he came across a well. He went down the well, quenched his thirst and came out. Meanwhile he saw a dog panting and licking mud because of excessive thirst. He said to himself, "This dog is suffering from thirst as I did." So, he went down the well again, filled his shoe with water, held it with his mouth and watered the dog. Allah appreciated him for that deed and forgave him." The Companions said, "O Allah's Messenger! Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?" He replied: "There is a reward for serving any living being."

Caring for the environment

Mu`adh (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) warned,

"Beware of the three acts that cause you to be cursed: relieving yourselves in shaded places (that people utilize), in a walkway or in a watering place."

Abu Zarr Al-Ghafari (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"Removing harmful things from the road is an act of charity (sadaqah)."

Things we can do

There are different ways we can care for creation and help to stop climate change

- We can make changes ourselves and with our families
- We can make changes at the Mosque
- We can make changes in our schools
- We can ask local and national government and international agencies to make changes

Like a puzzle, which needs all the pieces to complete, we need to do things in all these areas if we want to make a change. At our workshop we wrote ideas for what we can do on each of the puzzle pieces.

You can see our Puzzle over there - displayed on a board

Please take a look at the puzzle and at the exhibition when you have your cup of tea

We are already doing some things at the Mosque to care more for creation, like using Taps that have sensors so that we don't waste water when doing ablutions and planting hanging baskets and a garden to enjoy the flowers and attract bees. We also recycle clothes which go to people in other countries

Muslims internationally have launched a statement earlier this year in Istanbul, which makes a strong call for us to do all we can to prevent Climate Change.

The Hadith we heard earlier encourages us to plant a sapling so today we are going to invite you to do that.

At our workshop we re-cycled juice and milk bottles and planted seeds in them.

Youtube clips on Islamic perspective and climate change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38eBcQQ0Fmk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuN4mQ0-hB0>