
THE ROLE OF FAITH LEADERS & HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE FROM CLIMATE IMPACTS

Faith leaders can connect climate adaptation to shared faith values and invite their communities to take practical steps together. They can use places of worship as shelters during heatwaves or storms, share clear guidance on preparing for floods and extreme weather, and organize neighbors to respond collectively. They also provide emotional and spiritual support, advocate for the most vulnerable, and help communities find meaning and resilience in the face of climate crisis. Through education, collaboration, and care, faith leaders are vital in building hope, trust, and action during times of environmental emergency.

SPIRITUAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- Being calm, candid, and realistic
- Helping congregants find meaning in chaotic times
- Mentoring the community
- Providing Earth-centered religious practice
- Supporting climate grief groups / mental health
- Providing intergenerational support

DIRECT SUPPORT & SERVICES

- Caring for the most vulnerable
- Procuring essential supplies, like fans, water, and air conditioning for Houses of Worship
- Connecting people to resources they may not be aware of
- Supporting climate refugees
- Building economic self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities

COMMUNITY BUILDING & ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthening relationships, trust, and community
- Hosting community meetings
- Running a climate book group
- Opening and maintaining Houses of Worship as common spaces
- Supporting working groups in their communities
- Public interfaith/ecumenical work (especially around climate)

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

- Educating their congregation and the wider community
- Translating messaging into communities' values and languages
- Translating language to make it more accessible to communities
- Empowering communities to understand they can make a difference
- Amplifying community stories of climate disaster

ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

- Advocating to government and stakeholders on behalf of community needs
- Delegating tasks / triage to advance community goals or needs
- Leveraging congregants' personal networks to work across different sectors