



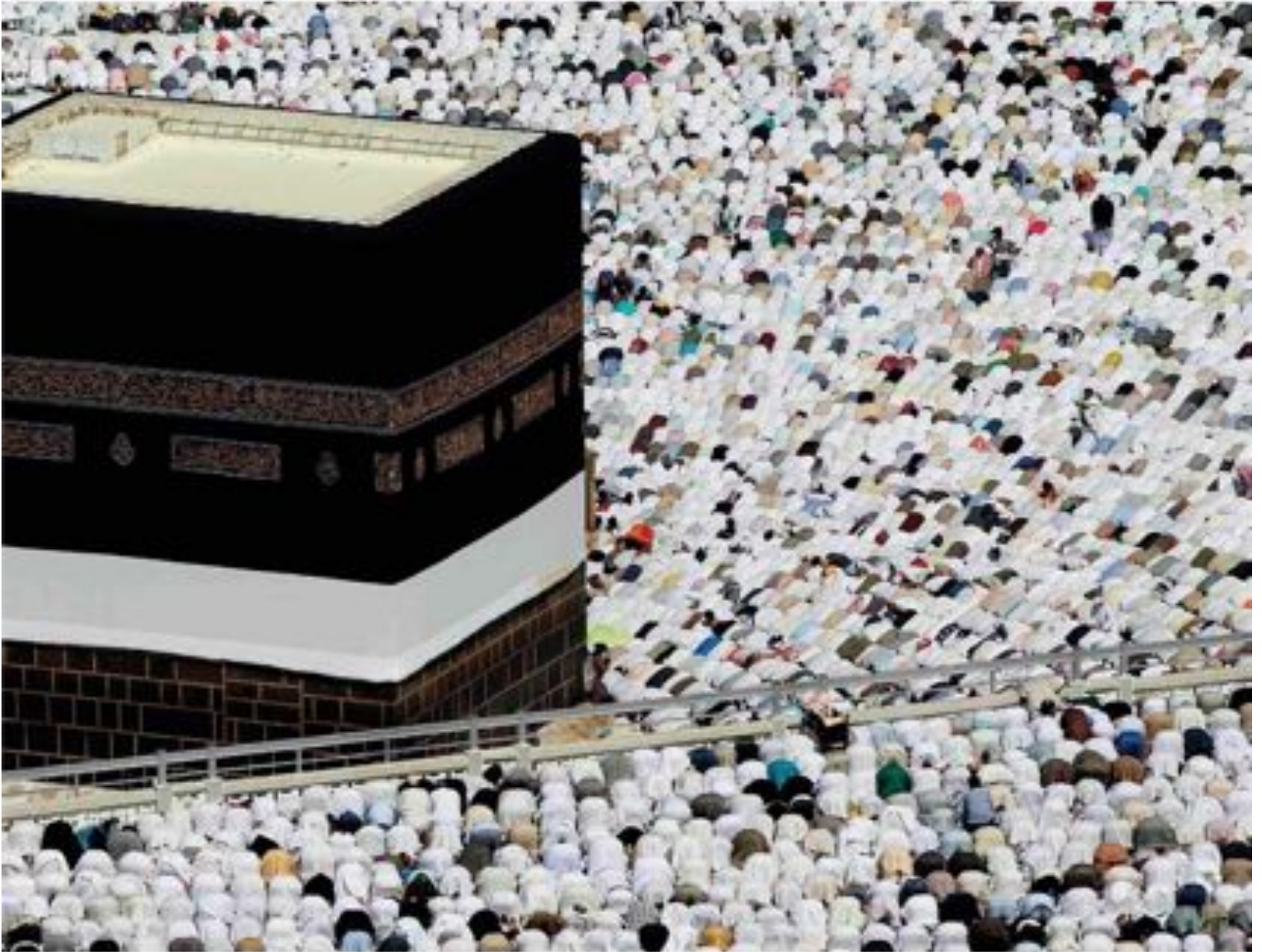
the green guide for hajj

Alliance of Religions and Conservation

Eco Muslim

Global One 2015

UNDP



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## 2 Preface

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In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

All praise is due to Allah (SWT) the Creator and Lord of the worlds. Peace and blessings be upon all the prophets of Allah, His Last Messenger, Muhammad (SAS), his family and companions.

This is a brief guide about the teachings of Islam concerning the conservation of the environment by those who intend to perform Hajj and Umrah. The Guide also provides recommendations for Governments and Institutions to enable a “Greener Hajj and Umrah”.

*Allah (SWT) says concerning His servants who receive success in this world and the hereafter, “ Surely man is indeed in (sheer) loss,, Except the ones who have believed, and done deeds of righteousness, and enjoin each other to the Truth, and enjoin each other to patience.” [Quran 103: 2-3]*

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) commissioned Global One 2015 and EcoMuslim to prepare a Green Guide for the Hajj. This is part of the Muslim Seven Year Action Plan on Climate Change that was developed in coordination with ARC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which was launched at Windsor in 2009. ARC assists the major religions of the world to develop their own environmental programmes and helps them create alliances with conservation groups.

We hope you will read this Guide long before you embark on Hajj and Umrah and we hope it ensures effective preparation for your Hajj and Umrah. We ask Allah (SWT) to accept from all of us our Hajj and Umrah, our striving and our good deeds.

**Dr Husna Ahmad OBE and Omar Faruk MBA**







### 3 Foreword by Grand Mufti of Egypt

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As salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullah

“The issue of the environment has become on the top of the humanities challenges and international concerns. The question of how to utilize religious teachings to solve environment-related problems has become an urgent one. In this context Islamic teachings and rules are extremely rich. The Qur’an states “... *do not cause corruption on the earth after it has been set in order: this is better for you, if you are believers.*” [Qur’an 7:85]

Furthermore, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), taught that “*Those who plant a tree and patiently tend to it until it bears fruit will have the reward of charity from God*”. I am sure that all the religions have similar teachings and values.

It is a religious duty to safeguard our environment and advocate the importance of preserving it. Pollution and global warming pose an even greater threat than war and the fight to preserve the environment could be the most positive way of bringing humanity together. Environment-related issues ought to be a significant component of educational curricula. It is the duty of all religious scholars to acquaint themselves with the environmental crisis we are facing.

According to the Islamic Paradigm, human beings are the vice regents of God on earth and will be judged in the hereafter for their actions and held accountable for the way they handled the environment. Humankind is not free to consume or pollute carelessly. Preserving nature and preventing corruption on earth is one of the core responsibilities of all believers. The Qur’an changed the hearts and minds of its hearers when it dawned on the Arabian Peninsula, enriching humankind and providing a vivid lens through which we can look at nature. Today, at a time of environmental crisis, religious teachings can once again play a pivotal role and provide us with a fresh perspective and consciousness of nature.”

**Sheikh Ali Goma’a**

The Grand Mufti of Egypt at ARC’s Windsor Celebration, November 2, 2009









## 4 Introduction

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أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

*Ashhadu allaa ilaha illallahu, wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan a'abduhu wa-Rasuluhu.*

I declare that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

The Shahadah is the first pillar of Islam - it is the declaration of faith and belief in the oneness of Allah. From the Shahadah stems the other four pillars of Islam which are salah (prayer), sawm (fasting), zakah (giving in charity) and the Hajj (pilgrimage) which is the final pillar of Islam.

As you are about to embark on the Hajj, the journey of a lifetime, all kinds of emotions and thoughts will be running through your mind. Why is the Hajj so important – for many it is the culmination of years of spiritual development, for others it is the opportunity to complete a fundamental duty as a Muslim.

Being on Hajj enables greater alignment with our physical, spiritual and moral being. From the moment we make our intention (niyyah) to perform the Hajj our actions need to reflect our connection to Allah through our prayers and how we treat other human beings and nature. If we do not take care of our world who will? Every Muslim has a duty to care for their environment, for the world around them and for animal and plant life. What better time to begin this duty and commitment than when you are about to commence your most beautiful spiritual journey?

This will be your chance to contemplate, to connect, to spend time on meditation and prayer; it is a time for patience and thoughtfulness towards other pilgrims. It is a time to understand your place in relation, not to your immediate family or your status in society, but your place in relation to the Universe. We are just small players in Allah's plan; we are insignificant and small and yet Allah has placed humankind in the highest position in comparison to all His creation.







When you are at the Kaaba you will be away from your home but you are a guest at the House of Allah. The House of Allah is before you and you cannot deny the great rush of emotions and elation that arises within your heart from this proximity to your Lord.

Imagine for a moment standing on the cold marble floors of the Kaaba beneath the heavens with brothers and sisters who you have never met. All of you stand together with only one purpose – to worship Allah and seek His forgiveness and mercy. All of you stand as equals here, with no distinction between the rich and the poor, the King and pauper – you all stand together, humbled before your Lord. All of humankind is equal in the sight of Allah – our colour; race, gender and status in life are all immaterial. Only your love for Allah and your spiritual quest binds you to the other pilgrims.

Here we are, one Ummah, and each and every one of us can endeavour to make small changes to our own behaviour, on what may appear at first to be trivial matters, but which collectively can make a difference. In 2010, 2.5 million pilgrims performed the Hajj and an estimated 100 million plastic bottles were left behind on Hajj sites. Imagine what a difference can be made if all 2.5 million pilgrims were aware of how they can make a positive contribution to combating climate change and helping to conserve the environment through individual efforts. You as an individual can make a difference and you need to realise that this is your duty as a Muslim.

*This Guide provides you with simple instructions on how to implement a greener Hajj, how you can improve your Hajj experience by taking into account the environment around you, and on simple decisions that you can make, which have an impact on your carbon footprint.*

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has said: “*The earth is green and beautiful and Allah has appointed you, his stewards, over it.*”

This brief Guide explains the values and principles of Islam to conserve the environment before, during and after pilgrimage. The Guide will enable you as the pilgrim (muh'rem) and ‘steward of the earth’ to prepare for and implement a “Green Hajj and Umrah” by:

- Asking you to purchase environmentally-friendly products and services
- Encouraging you to reduce waste and consumption
- Advising you to live environmentally-friendly lifestyles after the pilgrimage







The duty of stewardship obliges all Muslims to conserve our planet, the ecosystems and all living things. We have to act urgently to lessen the negative impact of our activities on the environment, to preserve the world for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. Hajj presents an ideal opportunity of interaction between the created and the Creator. *Hajj presents an ideal opportunity of interaction between the created and the Creator.*

Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to the city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia. It is the fifth pillar of Islam, and a religious duty that must be carried out at least once in the lifetime by every able bodied Muslim who can afford to do so. Hajj occurs from the 8th to 12th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th and last month of the Islamic calendar. Umrah is a smaller pilgrimage which can be performed at any other time.

*The rituals that you as a pilgrim will undertake include:*

- Performing the circular walk (Tawaf) around the Kaaba
- Running or brisk walking between the Al-Safa and Al-Marwah Hills seven times
- Drinking of water from the Well of Zamzam
- Performing the vigil on the plains of Mount Arafat
- Performing the symbolic stoning of the Satan
- Shaving off or cutting of hair
- Performing an animal sacrifice

Hajj (and Umrah) is a spiritual undertaking, a wonderful opportunity to move away from the “material culture” and waste it leaves behind. It is the ideal time to put into practice Islamic teachings to care for the Earth and all its creations. Through your contribution as a pilgrim, the Hajj can become a model of environmental best practice.

*The Guide identifies simple steps you as the pilgrim can take to reduce your environmental impact whilst performing the Hajj. It will inform you of ways to allow you to reduce your carbon footprint.*









## 5 Values and Principles of Islam: Conservation of the Environment

“You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah [...]” [Quran 3:110]

This section provides you with the theological foundation to your position as a Muslim and the environment and its conservation. The principles we will focus on here are:

- 5.1 Submission to Allah
- 5.2 Vicegerency on earth
- 5.3 A Balanced Approach to life
- 5.4 In Transit on this earth
- 5.5 Accountability for our actions

As the *khalifahs* (vicegerents/representatives), we are instructed to care for the Earth and all that live on it that belong to Allah. Many Islamic values and principles not only encourage us to conserve our environment, but tell us that it is our duty to do so.

### 5.1. SUBMISSION TO ALLAH

Everything belongs to Allah (SWT) as He is the creator of this earth and humankind and all creation.

“Seest thou not that To Allah prostrate  
All things that are in the heavens and on earth  
The sun, the moon, the stars; the hills, the trees, the animals;  
And a great number among Mankind [...]” [Quran 22:18]







All creation prostrates to Allah, all creation must be respected, and Muslims must protect Allah's creation – Allah's environment and ecosystems.

*"There is not an animal (that lives) on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like you. Nothing have We omitted from the Book, and they (all) shall be gathered to their Lord in the end."* [Quran 6:38]

### 5.2. *VICEGERENCY*

Prudent living is about respecting the world that Allah has entrusted to us: *"For He it is who has appointed you vicegerent over the earth [...]"* [Quran 6:165]

Allah SWT made us Khalifas (vicegerents and custodians) of the earth and as such we are instructed to care for the Earth. *"We did indeed offer the Trust to the Heavens and the Earth, and the Mountains But they refused to undertake it being afraid thereof but man undertook it: He was indeed unjust And foolish"* [Quran 33:72]

The acceptance of the above undertaking by humans includes the responsibility for and custody of the environment.

*"Behold, thy Lord said to the angels; 'I will create a vicegerent on earth'. They said: 'Wilt Thou place therein one who will make Mischief therein and shed blood? – Whilst we do celebrate Thy praises and glorify Thy holy (name)? – He said: 'I know what ye know not'"* [Quran 2:30]

### 5.3. *A BALANCED APPROACH*

Allah has created a balanced system in the Universe but the actions of humankind have resulted in destruction of the wonderful and delicate balance between humankind and nature. All living things were created with different functions which were carefully measured and meticulously balanced by the Almighty Creator.

Like us, Allah's other creatures form communities which should not be exploited.





*And the Firmament has He Raised high, and He has set up The Balance (of Justice), In order that ye may Not transgress (due) balance. So establish weight with justice, and fall not short in the balance.” [Quran 55:7-9]*

We must strive within our power and capacity to conserve this balance to the best of our ability.

#### **5.4. IN TRANSIT ON THIS EARTH**

We need to remember that our life and experience on this Earth is temporary, we are just in transit towards the Hereafter. During this transitory phase, the Earth is an amanah (trust) of which we will be tested as guardians. Everything on Earth was created for the benefit of humankind. This creation was Allah’s gift (nimah) to us.

We need to make the best of our time on Earth and all our good deeds will weigh in our favour on the Day of Judgement. Positive actions to conserve the environment and Allah’s amanah will only bring you closer to your Lord.

#### **5.5. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS**

Islam reminds us that we alone are accountable for our actions and our intentions behind each action are of vital importance. The environmental crisis and climate change is a result of humankind’s actions and so we are all to blame for the crisis we are facing.

*But seek with the (wealth) Which Allah has bestowed on thee, the Home of the Hereafter, Nor forget thy portion in this World: but do thou good, As Allah has been good To thee and seek (Occasions for) mischief in the land, For Allah loves not those who create mischief. [Quran 28:77]* The word ‘Mischief’ can be interpreted as meaning the extravagance and materialism of humans which leads to pollution and waste.

*This Guide attempts to remind you that during your Hajj you should incorporate your duties to the environment and thereby gain Allah’s pleasure.*











## 6 Preparing for a “Green Hajj”: Faith Consistent Purchasing

In this section we explore some simple ways in which you can prepare for a green Hajj. From the moment you have made your intention (niyyah) you need to prepare mentally and physically for the Hajj. The Hajj is a very personal event as it is a spiritual awakening for the individual and yet you are performing the Hajj among millions of people from all walks of life whom you have never met before. Just as there will be a spiritual awakening within you, you also need to ignite an environmental awakening. So your actions need to reflect this through some simple steps as discussed below:

- 6.1 Prepare mindfully for your pilgrimage
- 6.2 Walk lightly and travel responsibly in the spirit of Islam
- 6.3 Buy environmentally-friendly products
- 6.4 Choose sustainable tourist agencies
- 6.5 Do not purchase plastic bags or bottles to bring to Hajj
- 6.6 Purchase Fairtrade or organic products

### ***6.1. PREPARE MINDFULLY FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE***

Take time out of your day to day activities to prepare for your Hajj. Performing the Hajj puts a strain on your physical and spiritual self. The Quran calls upon us to pay much attention to ourselves so that we can gain a consciousness of the relationship between our body and soul. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the physical body is kept healthy so that the soul and spirit may also remain healthy, thus in turn aiding the believer in the preparation for the Hajj. Also, start thinking about the impact of climate change and how you should make your small contribution to tackling environmental degradation and climate change.

### ***6.2. WALK LIGHTLY AND TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY IN THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM***

*Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful. [Quran 17: 27]*





Move away from a consumption focused life to a life of moderation. When you are performing the Hajj you will be living with only most basic necessities and yet in your day-to-day life you cannot make do without your luxuries. This is the time to reflect on your wants and what you really need to live a peaceful life on this earth.

The next section considers travel; an interesting point to be made here is that in 2010, two young South African Muslims made the voyage from Cape Town to Makkah for Hajj in an entirely sustainable way – by bicycle. Nathim Cairncross and Imtiyaz Ahmad Haron cycled almost 11,000 km over the course of nine months. If you do have time to spare, as Nathim and Imtiyaz did, then you might wish to consider travel by sea or train instead of by air. This is because the carbon emissions through air travel are enormous.

If you do travel by air, you could fund a local environmental charity or project to offset your air travel carbon miles. The simple act of planting a tree would also help you counter those carbon miles.

### ***6.3. BUY ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS***

As a consumer you have a power which can be yielded to benefit the environment. Make a conscious decision to purchase environmentally-friendly products and services, and from the moment you make your niyyah (intention) to go on the Hajj, this would be is a wonderful introduction to conserving the environment.

Just imagine the impact that millions of individuals can make. By making the conscious choice to protect the environment and combat pollution by only purchasing items that are environmentally-friendly, you are sending a clear message and this will have a ripple effect on your family and communities.

### ***6.4. CHOOSE SUSTAINABLE TOURIST AGENCIES***

You have the choice to decide with whom to travel, so ask searching questions and challenge your travel agents and tourist agencies about what they are doing for the environment. As there are many agencies dedicated to Hajj travellers they have to listen to you when you start raising concerns about the impact of the aircrafts on the environment and the carbon footprint that is being left by you.









Agencies can also liaise with the hotels to ascertain how environmentally friendly their services are and where they source their food from.

Here are a few points to consider when choosing a tourism agency:

- ✎ What is their environmental policy?
- ✎ Do they offer carbon off-setting for flights?
- ✎ Are the hotels on offer environmentally friendly?
- ✎ Is the business certified (i.e. do they have eco-label ratings, or have they won eco-awards?)
- ✎ Do they support any projects to benefit the local community?

#### ***6.5. DO NOT PURCHASE PLASTIC BAGS OR BOTTLES TO BRING TO HAJJ***

Plastic bags and bottles are very harmful to the planet and therefore find alternatives such as jute or cloth bags and reusable bottles. They do not biodegrade, light breaks them down into smaller and smaller particles that contaminate the soil and water and are expensive and difficult to remove.

In 2010, about 100 million plastic bottles were left on Hajj sites which could have been easily avoided. Our simple small actions taken together can make a huge positive environmental difference to the Hajj.

#### ***6.6. PURCHASE FAIRTRADE OR ORGANIC PRODUCTS***

In Surah Al-Araf (The Heights), Allah says “*And eat and drink, but waste not by excess, For Allah loveth not the wasters*”. [Quran 7:31], warning Muslims not to over indulge in the food they have been blessed with and to avoid gluttony. There is a clearly defined relationship between food and the believer in Islam which covers everything from etiquettes to spiritual benefits.







The importance of healthy eating and a balanced diet is emphasised in Islam and can be understood in light of the Quran. Allah says: *“O ye who believe! Eat of the good things. That We have provided for you. And be grateful to Allah, If it is Him ye worship.”* [Quran 2:172]

It is also narrated that the Prophet Muhammad said that *“The stomach is the tank of the body and the veins go down to it. When the stomach is healthy the veins come back in a healthy condition, but when it is in a bad condition, they return diseased.”*

When purchasing food, do consider organic products as they are produced using environmentally sound methods. Organic food is free of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and do not contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The methods involved are also free from irradiation, industrial solvents, or chemical food additives, making organic purchases a more natural and healthy option.

Also you may want to consider Fairtrade products, which ensure greater equity for the producers. Fairtrade products enable producers in developing countries to create better trading conditions and promote sustainability. Fairtrade enables the payment of an equitable price to producers as well as ensuring higher social and environmental standards.











## 7 Walking Gently on the Earth:

### Reducing your carbon footprint during Hajj and Living Green beyond the Hajj

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This section advises you on how to reduce your carbon footprint during Hajj and continue doing so after the Hajj. In the previous section we suggested how you as a consumer can make the right choices which have a positive impact on the environment.

Your carbon footprint is the measure of the impact your activities have on the environment, especially on climate change. It relates to the amount of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide) produced in your day-to-day life through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating and transportation, etc. It is calculated with units of tons or kg of carbon dioxide equivalent.

A carbon footprint is made up of two parts: your direct carbon footprint, the things you do directly like drive a car, and your indirect carbon footprint, things like the energy used in shipping goods to your home.

Muslim Scholar, Ibn Kathir stated: *“The Mu'min are a people who have been prevented through the Qur'an from indulging in the pleasures of this world; it comes between them and what might destroy them. The Mu'min is like a prisoner in this world, who tries to free himself from its shackles and chains, placing his trust in nothing in it, until the day he meets his Creator. He knows full well that he is accountable for everything that he hears, sees and says, and for everything that he does with his body.”*

“Then, for such as had transgressed all bounds, And had preferred the life of this world, The Abode will be Hell-Fire; And for such as had entertained the fear of standing before their Lord's (tribunal) and had restrained (their) soul from lower desires, Their abode will be the Garden”. [Quran 79: 37-41]









In our lives we need to shed ourselves of materialistic desires and from permitting a culture of consumption to permeate every level of our societies. The Hajj gives us an opportunity to reflect on our actions and control our desire to always please our nafs.

Every year millions of Muslims make the journey of their lifetime to the sacred city of Makkah to perform the pilgrimage of Hajj. With millions of people gathering for the pilgrimage, there is bound to be increased litter and wastage leading to an increased carbon footprint. However, as you are about to embark on this journey, you can take small steps to reduce your carbon footprint during Hajj, thus fulfilling your duty to conserve the environment and make Hajj a greener event.

Remember you are an example and in order to set a good example of a Green pilgrim there are some activities you need to undertake in the following areas:

- 7.1 Energy consumption
- 7.2 Food and drink
- 7.3 Travel
- 7.4 Advocacy

The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load, whereas newer, high-efficiency washing machine models use less than 28 gallons of water per load

### ***7.1. ENERGY CONSUMPTION***

As a Muslim, you need to start good work from your home. So try doing the following to conserve energy consumption:

- Turn off the light
- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Increase green space – plant trees

*Nafs (pl. Anfus or Nufus) lexically means soul, the psyche, the ego, self, life, person, heart or mind.*









- Purchase energy efficient light bulbs and appliances
- Save your rainwater – for example, for use in the garden
- If possible fix, do not buy new – avoid adding rubbish to the dumps
- Purchase products that have the least amount of packaging or with biodegradable materials such as biodegradable plastic containers
- Use renewable energy – solar, wind powered and other alternatives
- Buy products with a low carbon footprint, buy local home grown produce.
- 🌱 The average washing machine uses about 41 gallons of water per load, whereas newer, high-efficiency washing machine models use less than 28 gallons of water per load
- 🌱 Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are an energy-saving alternative to incandescent bulbs. CFLs produce the same amount of light, use one third of the electricity and last up to ten times longer.
- Make eco-friendly choices every day

## 7.2. FOOD AND DRINK

“Eat and drink, But waste not by excess, For Allah loveth not the wasters” [Quran 7: 31]

The Quran teaches us to eat in a healthy way and not to be extravagant in eating.





Excess eating is a very bad habit that causes many medical problems.

- ✦ Eat and drink sustainably and ethically (buy organic and Fairtrade products)
- ✦ Minimise water use
- ✦ Dispose of rubbish and pick up after others
- ✦ Recycle where there are facilities
- ✦ Consider eating less meat in your diet - more energy is needed to raise animals for meat than to grow plants
- ✦ Buy locally produced fruit and vegetables - or even better grow your own
- ✦ Use a compost – food waste is the second largest component of discarded waste, after yard waste

### 7.3. TRAVEL

“And He has set up, On the earth mountains, Standing firm, lest it should, Shake with you: and rivers, And ways: that ye, May guide yourselves” [Quran 16:15]

Consider performing the Hajj only once as it is instructed to be a *“once in a lifetime journey”*. The Prophet (pbuh) performed the Hajj only once. Rather than performing Hajj more than once, funds to be used for another Hajj could be better used helping other Muslims make the journey or to tackle poverty in the world. Remember that for every second, third or fourth Hajj a person undertakes, this means another person is denied the opportunity to go on Hajj for their first time.

On arrival in Saudi Arabia, the most common form of transport is cars and buses. We suggest you also consider the Makkah Metro, also known as the Al Mashaaer Al Muqaddassah Metro, which is a fast train that was launched in November 2010. Using the Makkah Metro will help to reduce congestion and pollution.







### The Makkah Metro:

- ✦ Is designed to annually transport the 2.5 million Muslims who make the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah
- ✦ Allows transport between Mina, Muzdalifa and Arafat
- ✦ Enables greater cross-cultural ties between the pilgrims who come from all over the world

In general, use modes of transportation that emit less carbon dioxide such as the train, metro, bus or electric/hybrid cars - avoid luxury or gas guzzling cars.

Remember that travelling by plane emits the largest carbon footprint. Try to reduce travelling by plane and opt to travel by boat or train instead whenever possible. If you do travel by plane, choose carriers that have effective environmental and carbon offset policies.

### 7.4. *ADVOCACY*

As mentioned throughout this Green Guide, you are a custodian and vicegerent of this earth and as such should be a shining example of how to lead a low carbon lifestyle by avoiding excess consumption. The habits you instil when you go on the Hajj should continue when you return to your daily routines and practical life.

You should become an advocate to your family and friends, and thereby become a catalyst for change to conserve the environment and our beautiful planet. You can do this by:

- Raising awareness by circulating this Green Hajj Guide to friends and family
- Encouraging more environmentally-friendly practices at your local mosque, your local community, your government and at your workplace
- Supporting a fund to green your local towns and cities or supporting environmental projects









## 8 Conclusions and Recommendations for Governments and Institutions to enable a Greener Hajj

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*“It is He Who hath made You the inheritors  
Of the earth: He hath raised You in ranks, some above  
Others: that He may try you In the gifts He hath given you:  
For thy Lord is quick In punishment: yet He is indeed Oft-forgiving  
Most Merciful” [Quran, 6:165]*

In this concluding section, we provide some tangible recommendations to the governments of the Muslim world to encourage and provoke some actions on their part which will help to build a future where all pilgrimages to the House of Allah are green.

We wish you an inspiring and blessed Hajj with many wonderful memories and reflections. We hope you have found this Guide helpful and provided the direction of travel which is aligned to that of our Lord and Creator.

We need to remember that we are on earth for a short period of time and that if we can leave the environment and ecosystem in a balanced state for future generations we would have accomplished our duties of khalif. Too many of us fail to recall our personal contributions to the big issues of today and leave things for others to take up. Now is the time for us to take responsibility and make ourselves accountable for our actions. Now is the time to act, to conserve and to tackle the issues of climate change and environmental degradation.





Governments in the Muslim countries and particularly Hajj Ministries throughout the world have an excellent opportunity to show leadership by promoting a Green Hajj. They may be reminded of the objectives of Shariah on the protection of five areas for Islam to flourish, these are protection of:

1. Life
2. Deen (faith)
3. Offspring
4. Intellect
5. Property

Scholars now include protection of the environment as a sixth area requiring protection. Existence of the environment is a necessity for all the five afore-mentioned areas of specific protection.

Muslims should remember that:

- 🌿 The environment is Allah's creation and must be respected
- 🌿 All creation is in a state of submission to Allah and has a relationship with Allah
- 🌿 All of nature is a sign from Allah and humans are stewards of the planet and have a custodial relationship with the environment
- 🌿 All forms of life possess rights and duties

While individuals can take small steps to a greener Hajj and a greener future, Governments and Institutions can play a much larger role in conserving the environment and tackling climate change. This final section lays out recommendations and suggestions for Governments and Institutions to incorporate environmentally friendly practices.







These are:

#### Reduce Waste

- 🌱 Decreasing the number of plastic bottles and waste at pilgrimage sites – plastic does not biodegrade, light breaks it down into smaller and smaller particles that contaminate the soil and water and are expensive and difficult to remove
- 🌱 Eliminating plastic bags for: misbahah (Dhikr Beads) and sajjadah (prayer rug)
- 🌱 Installing sensors for water taps to limit flow and waste at Hajj wudu facilities

#### Go Solar

- 🌱 on tents in Mina for lighting and air conditioning
- 🌱 on the Masjid al-Haram mosque and its air-conditioned tunnels
- 🌱 on accommodation (hotels) for the pilgrims

#### Travel

- 🌱 Reducing exhaust emissions for public transport by extending the fast train
- 🌱 Encouraging the use of greener methods of transportation.

#### Advocate

- 🌱 Holding workshops to discuss the connection between environmentalism and Islamic teachings
- 🌱 Promoting awareness of the environment and climate change at the pilgrimage
- 🌱 Promoting education of environment conservation and the causes/effects of climate change in schools





## Green Buildings, Mosques, Cities and Festivals

- 🌱 Greening public buildings and faith institutions such as mosques and madrassah's
- 🌱 Bringing faith communities and local authorities together to create sustainable cities
- 🌱 Installing solar panels for lighting and air-conditioning
- 🌱 Publishing the Holy Quran with paper from sustainable forests

These recommendations are not easy to accomplish and will take time, but they must be pursued if we are to achieve real progress on tackling environmental issues and climate change. We urge Governments in the Muslim world to think deeply and work holistically to address the deep crisis that the world is facing today.

We are as always available to support those wishing to achieve change and betterment.

*Allah says:*

*"Verily never*

*Will Allah change the condition,*

*Of a people until they,*

*Change what is in themselves"*

*[Quran 13:11]*







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