

Climate Action and the Need for Transformation

In the fourth webinar in the series of Climate Talks hosted by The Centre For Applied Buddhism and SGI-UK, we hear from five representatives of different faith communities around the U.K, speaking on the topic of 'Transformation' in relation to the climate emergency, and what they are doing as part of their communities in order to address this issue.

Olivia Fuchs is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Buddhism, the project coordinator of the Eco Dharma Network, on the steering committee of Faith for the Climate and a member of the COP Faith Task group.

Olivia is Emcee for this event, giving a detailed outline of the topic and purpose of these webinars, before introducing the speakers.

Talia Chain is a trustee for Faith for the Climate and the CEO of Sadeh Farm, a UK based Jewish farm and environmental retreat centre.

Talia takes us on a journey of the relationship between Judaism and Agriculture, and outlines stories from the Torah which have influenced and inspired the formation of Sadeh Farm, and their valuable regenerative work to insure that future generations will inherit a healthy and cared-for planet.

Amandeep Kaur Maan is the lead for Eco Sikh UK.

Amandeep shares how, responding to teachings within the Sikh tradition of protecting and serving the vulnerable and the importance of protecting the planet, Eco Sikh UK has engaged local communities in activities which raise awareness and encourage new thinking around protecting the Planet.

Kamran Shezad is the Sustainability Lead for The Bahu Trust and climate change advisor to the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board in The UK.

Kamran has been promoting climate-friendly worship and living, holding workshops with Imams and finding new ways to encourage more sustainable and eco-friendly activities within communities, and he talks about his work with the Bahu Trust, implementing, for example, fresh approaches to eco-friendly Iftar during Ramadan, such as introducing biodegradables and converting Mosques to green energy.

Devena Chouhan is a Youth Outreach Coordinator at Hindu Climate Action and a recent economics and politics graduate.

Devena outlines the work of Hindu Climate Action through 3 areas: Education, Inspiration and Action. Hindu Climate Action have held discussions with groups such as Greenpeace, workshops and talks at Mandirs (Temples) as well as at universities, explaining why protecting the environment is so important and offering ways in which people can take action to reduce their carbon footprint.

Jamie Cresswell is the Director of The Centre for Applied Buddhism, and works within many intra-Buddhist and Multi-faith environments.

Jamie talks about his work within Intra-Buddhist and interfaith gatherings, sharing ideas and proposals they've taken towards climate action. Jamie shares how Buddhists view the interconnectedness of all these issues surrounding the climate emergency, and how an inner transformation on the individual level can lead to a dramatic, positive change in the environment, and that it is so important to change the narrative of powerlessness around these issues into having a profound awareness of our own power, which comes through dialogue and mutual encouragement.

At the end of the talk, Olivia shares with the speakers questions that have come through from those watching at home, and the discussion around faith groups and climate action is further explored and expanded.