



Sustainable development and UK faith groups: Two sides of the same coin?

A survey of UK faith communities' sustainable development activities and next steps for the future

A report from

WWF-UK and the SDC

- Bearing witness and personal responsibility
- Social justice and an ethic of "fair shares"

These common issues are outlined in more detail below.

Non-materialistic values and ethics

"Despair and fear are natural human responses in the face of overwhelming destruction. Nevertheless we can be set free in the Spirit to live our lives in radically different ways that challenge consumer culture. For many this is hard, and can only involve small steps, but even small steps lead to other steps, and to empowerment, overcoming despair. Quaker's 2001 Call to Action

In an increasingly materialistic society that appears to prioritise personal consumption and financial profit, faith groups espouse an alternative set of

Jewish ethics and sustainability

U.S. organic farmer Daron Joffe contends that three Jewish ethics point to environmental stewardship. *Bal tash'hit* states that when an enemy city is besieged, fruit-bearing trees must not be cut down. This injunction may be irrelevant to many in its literal form, but for Joffe, the law translates easily into the modern axioms of conservation: reduce, reuse, and recycle. *Tikkun olam* enjoins Jews to "heal the earth." Finally, Joffe views the ancient practice of Kosher eating as a mandate for supporting "modern issues of sustainability, labor rights, and agricultural integrity."

