Connecting Islamic Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability

5:30 pm, Monday, June 18, 2018 Hartford Seminary 77 Sherman St., Hartford, CT 06105

Huda Alkaff Founder and Director Wisconsin Green Muslims



Outline

- Introduction: Wisconsin Green Muslims
- Some Basic Islamic Environmental Teachings
- Environmental Justice
- We Stand with Pope Francis on Climate Change

- Unifying power of solar and water
- Our Sacred Water
- How Can the Unifying Power of Solar Help Overcome Islamophobia in Wisconsin
- Active Hope: Faith and Equitable Solar



Wisconsin Green Muslims

13

Years

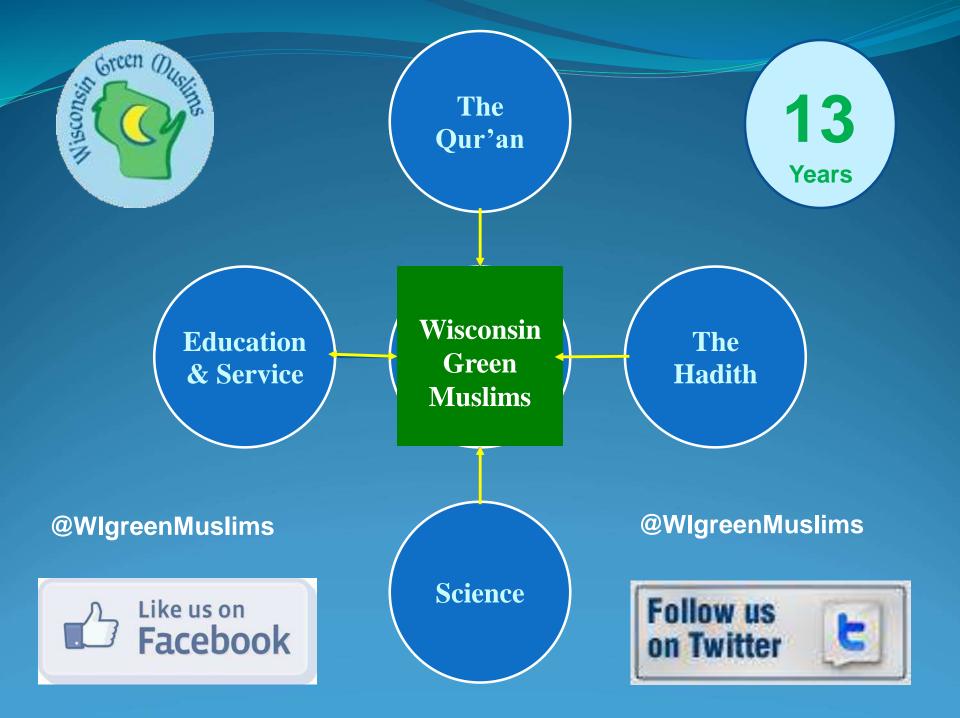
Connecting Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability through Education and Service

Volunteer Environmental Justice Group Formed in 2005

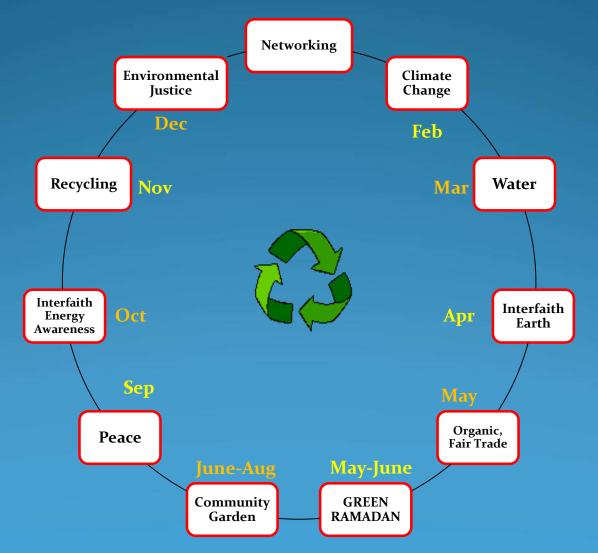
Intends to educate its members, the Muslim community and the general public about the Islamic environmental teachings, to apply these teachings in daily life and to collaborate with others working toward a just, healthy, peaceful and sustainable future.

<u>https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/</u>

@WIgreenMuslims



Wisconsin Green Muslims https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/ info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org





"It is God who has made you viceroys on Earth."

"And the earth We have spread out; set thereon mountains firm and immovable; and produced therein all kinds of things in due balance" (The Qur'an 15:19)

The Earth is mentioned more than 450 times in the Qur'an



(The Qur'an 6:165)

Some Chapter Titles of the Qur'an

- The Cow
- The Bees
- The Light
- The Ants
- The Spider
- The Star
- The Iron
- The People

- The Pen
- The Dawn
- The Sun
- The Moon
- The Night
- The Day
- The Fig
- The Elephant







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The Earth is mentioned more than 450 times in the Qur'an



(The Qur'an 6:165)

"O Children of Adam!... Eat and drink: **But waste not** by excess, for **God loveth not** the wasters." (The Qur'an 7:31)

"Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is reported to have said: If doomsday is about to take place while anyone of you has a tree sapling in your hand, which you can cultivate, then cultivate it for you will be rewarded.



"...and God 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: It is God Who has spread out the earth for all God's creatures" (The Qur'an 55:7-10)

"These are the Signs of God: We rehearse them to thee in Truth: And God means no injustice to any of God's creatures" (The Qur'an 3:108)



sus.tain'abil'i.ty:

n., the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Basic principles of Environmental Justice are to: (1) Ensure public involvement of low income and minority groups in decision making; (2) Prevent "disproportionately high and adverse" impacts of decisions on low-income and minority groups; and (3) Assure low-income and minority groups receive proportionate share of benefits.

The Jemez Principles

1. Be Inclusive

2. Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing

> 3. Let People Speak for Themselves

4. Work Together In Solidarity and Mutuality

5. Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves

6. Commitment to Self-Transformation

We Stand with Pope Francis on Climate Change

We Stand with Pope Francis on Climate Change

#AllAreCalled

Many faiths, one Earth. All are called to respond to climate change.



Interfaith Power & Light

Hearing the Cry of Earth & the Poor

"There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face." *Pope Francis, Paragraph* 233, *Ecology Encyclical*.. with the following footnote:

"There is a subtle mystery in each of the movements and sounds of this world.." "The initiate will capture what is being said when the wind blows, the trees sway, water flows, flies buzz, doors creak, birds sing, or in the sound of strings or flutes, the sighs of the sick, the groans of the afflicted..." Shaykh Ali al-Khawas, a 16th century Muslim Sufi poet, teacher & mystic

International Islamic Climate Change Symposium

Muslims4Climate

We call on the people of all nations and their leaders to aim to phase out greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible

ration on Global Ctimate Change

ISLAMIC DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: "We call upon CORPORATIONS, FINANCE, and the BUSINESS SECTOR to ... assist in the **DIVESTMENT** from the FOSSIL FUEL driven economy and the scaling up of **RENEWABLE ENERGY** and other **ECOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES**²



More than 37 Mosques!

In 17 States!! CA, CT, IA, IL, IN, MA, MI, NJ, NV, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, WA, WI, WV and more. Energy Efficiency; Food and Water Conservation; Using Green Items; Waste Reduction; Green Khutbah!

*37 Pioneer Organizations' who participated in the National ISNA Green Ramadan Campaign 2015

Islamic Society of Western Massachusett, MA Islamic Assoc Greater Hartford, CT Mohammad Islamic Ctr, CT Islamic Ctr 5, Jersey, NJ Inlamic Society Central Jersey, NJ New Brunswick Islamic Ctr.NJ Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, NY Masjid Al Iman, NY Islamic Community Ctr. PA Islamic Ctr of Morgantown, WV Muslim Community of Knonville, TN Muslim Assoc Cleveland East, OH Islamic Ctr of Greater Cincinnati, OH Dayton Mercy Ctr. OH IORA Center, IN Manuel al-Fair, IN Muslim Community Ctr. IN-NW Indiana Islamic Ctr, IN Masuel Noor ul-Islam, IN

Islamic Ctr of Evansville, IN Muslim Community Assoc. MI Islamic Ctr East Lansing, MI Itlamic Ctr Cedar Rapidt, IA Milwankee Islamic Dava Ctr. WI Masud Al Ouran, WI Islamic Society of Milwankee, WI Islamic Ctr of Madison, WI American Islamic Assoc. IL Spokane Islamic Ctr, WA Islamic Assoc Carroliton, TX Islamic Assoc N. Tenas, TX. Masjid as-Sabur, NV Islamic Ctr Perrit, CA Medina Education Center, CA SALAM CA Islamic Ctr of Federal Way, WA Green Deen TnT, Trinadad & Tabago

'Each community received a Tree Sapling gift from the Pen and Inkpot Foundation in recognition of each Masjid's participation in the ISNA Green Ramadan Campaign



Largest Muslim Organization in the U.S. Divests from Fossil Fuels

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Divest

Pray for Environmental Justice for All



Solar Energy for All is a Faith and Environmental Justice Issue.



https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaithSolar/

contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org



How solar energy can bring people of faith together to care for Earth -our common home- and save money to reinvest in their missions.







Faithful Rainwater Harvesting

Social Financial Spiritual

Green

Nisconstin

1511m

How harvesting rainwater can bring people of faith together to celebrate caring for Earth -our common home-

FaRaH

Wisconsin

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaRaH/

Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / Text: 262-365-4532

Wisconsin Green Muslims

An environmental justice group formed in 2005. Connecting Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability through Education and Service. Facebook, Twitter & Skype: @WIgreenMuslims



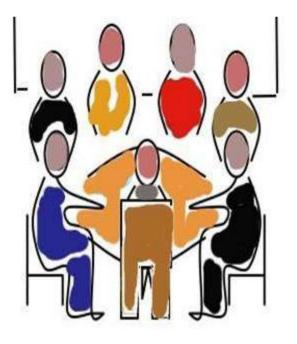
Environmental Justice Wisconsin

Over 60 Events



https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaithSolar/ Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / @WIgreenMuslims

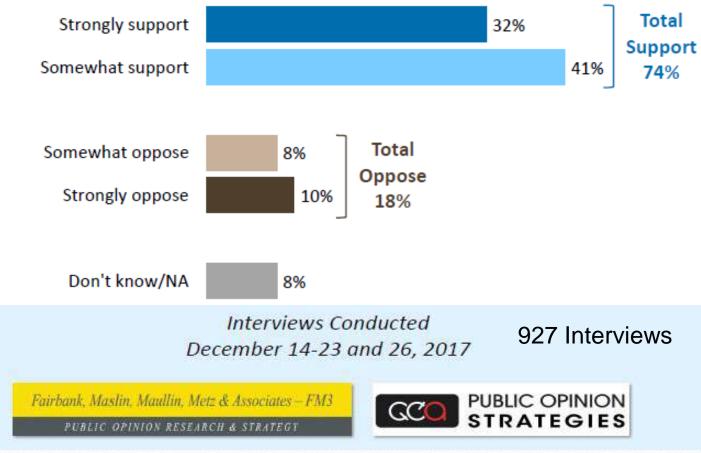




Baha'i, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, **Episcopalian**, Evangelical Christian, Friends/Quaker, Hindu, Jewish, Latter-day Saints/Mormon, Lutheran, Methodist, Muslim, Native American, Presbyterian, Sikh, Spiritual, United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist, and more

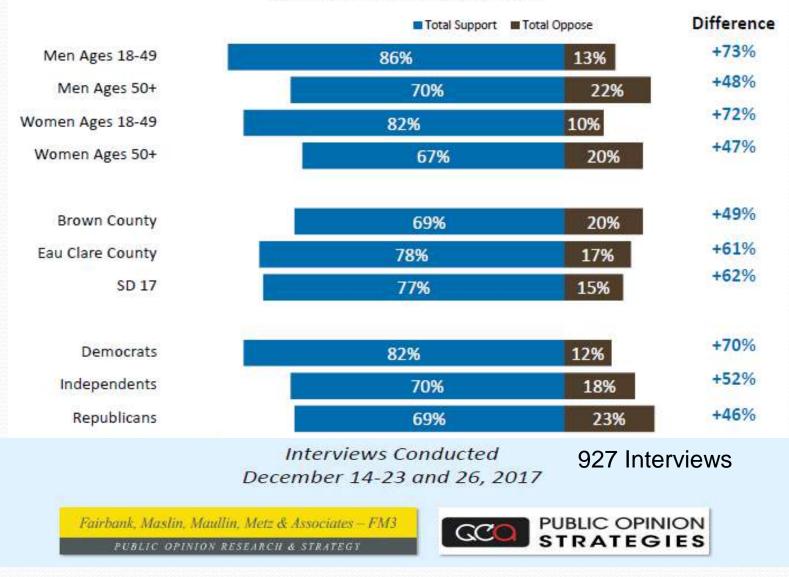
Three-quarters support the Faith and Solar Program.

Now let me ask you about a different program, this one run by a nonprofit organization. Solar energy cuts air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities – which is why the Wisconsin Faith and Solar Program is helping faith communities install solar panels on their places of worship, like churches, synagogues, and mosques. They are also helping people of faith install solar panels on their own homes, with more than 1,000 people of 18 different religions or faiths provided solar education or assessment so far.



Support is strong across major demographics.

Opinion of Faith and Solar Program





How solar energy can bring people of faith together to care for Earth -our common home- and save money to reinvest in their missions.







Solar for Non-Profits: A Wisconsin Social, Financial and Spiritual Initiative

Social	Financial	Spiritual
• Peer- Learning Circle	 Free / Discounted Solar Assessments Solar Array Support Grants 	 Sacredness of Light The Commons Interfaith Connections







Good News!

This faith-based organization is a Solar-Promising Site!!!

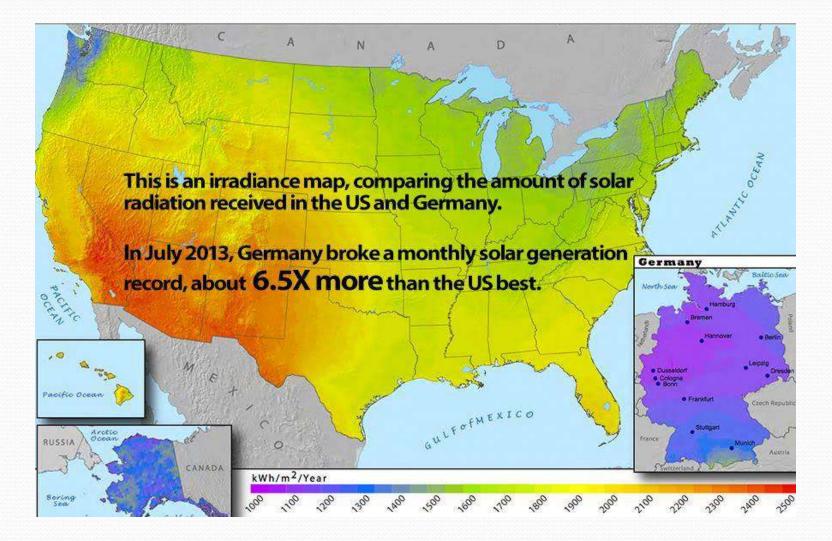
FREE or Discounted

- Desktop Solar Analysis,
- Remote
 Computerized Solar

Assessment,

 On-Site Solar Assessment

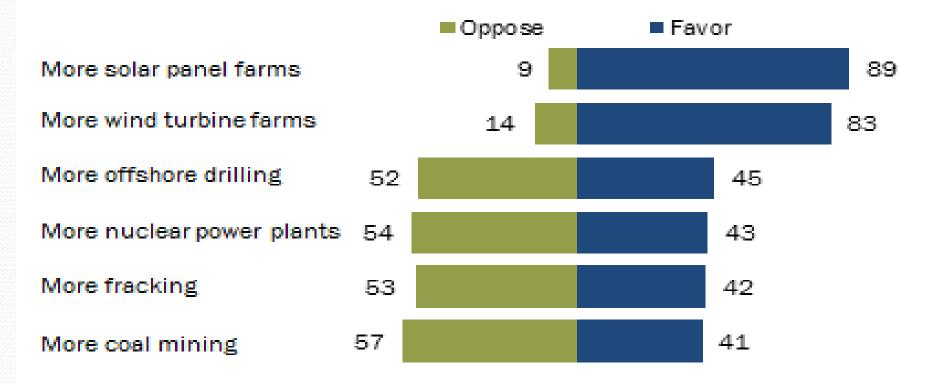
Do we get enough sun? Yes!



Slide courtesy of MREA

Strong public support for expanding wind, solar power

% of U.S. adults who say they favor or oppose ...



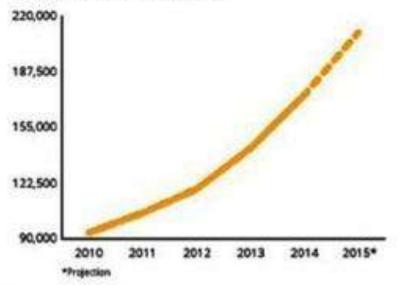
Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted May 10-June 6, 2016. "The Politics of Climate"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Partnering with the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, SOLARacine will provide job training to young people in the rapidly growing field of solar energy installation.

Total solar industry jobs





SOLARacine, Great Lakes CCC, Current Electric Partnership 2016

Faithful Rainwater Harvesting

Social Financial Spiritual

Green

Nisconstin

1511m

How harvesting rainwater can bring people of faith together to celebrate caring for Earth -our common home-

FaRaH

Wisconsin

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaRaH/

Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / Text: 262-365-4532

Wisconsin Green Muslims

An environmental justice group formed in 2005. Connecting Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability through Education and Service. Facebook, Twitter & Skype: @WIgreenMuslims



Wisconsin Green Muslims is recognized as the first faith community/group in Wisconsin to earn the national GreenFaith -an interfaith environmental organization- Water Shield <u>certificate</u>. This certification signifies that Wisconsin Green Muslims has taken educational, spiritual and practical steps to conserve water, protect water quality, and mobilize its members and community to do the same at home.



2015 ater

UDW, Banana Filter Tree free Parchmo

Huta Khut

> Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin [Wisconsin Green Muslims]

Conserve Water

And We send down blessed water (rain) from the sky, then We produce therewith gardens and grain (every kind of harvest) that are reaped.

(Qur'an 50:9)



Practicing Eco-Wudu (two-handfuls of water) "Do not waste water even if you were at a running stream."

> ~ Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

We made from water every living thing. Will they not then believe? (The Holy Quran: 21:30) "And God has sent down water from the sky and therewith gives life to the earth after its death." (The Qur'an 16:65)

"It is God Who has created human from water.." (The Qur'an 25:54)

"God has created every animal out of water" (The Qur'an 24:45)

"And We send down pure water from the sky." (The Qur'an 25:48) "And We sent down from the sky water (rain) in (due) measure, and We gave it lodging in the earth, and verily, We are Able to take it away." (The Qur'an 23:18)

"O Children of AdamI. . . Eat and drink: But waste not by excess, for God loveth not the wasters." (The Qur'an 7:31)

Celebrating World Water Day, March 22nd



Celebrating World Water Day,









Green Infrastructure to Alleviate Flooding





• 4,987 sq. ft. Green **Roof, Islamic Society** of Milwaukee. To improve water quality and reduce the volume, rate and temperature of stormwater runoff within Wilson Park **Creek and the Kinnickinnic River.**

Green Infrastructure to Alleviate Flooding



30,000 sq. ft. were converted from asphalt to green space in the parking lot Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) forbade a person to waste water even in washing for prayer on the bank of an abundantly flowing river.





Water Bottle Refill Fountain





BANISH THE BAGS



NO PLASTIC BAGS















River Clean Up



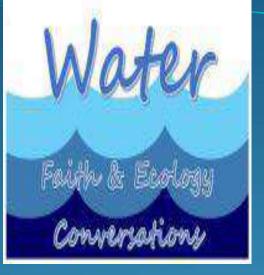






https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / @WIgreenMuslims

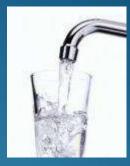


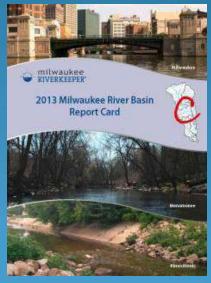




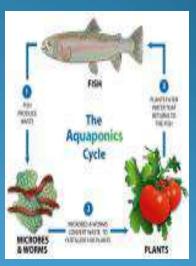
TeleSeminars

Bottled Water Impacts Communities: Take Back The Tap









Water Issues in Wisconsin

Yahara 2070 Scenarios: Future of Water & People

TeleSeminar 12-1 pm CT Wednesday, March 1, 2017 RSVP at: https://goo.gl/forms/7VgzMWsVHOyNecHX2

Presenter: Jenny Seifert, Science Writer / Outreach Coordinator, Water Sustainability and Climate Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / 262-365-4532

The Back 40 Mine

TeleSeminar 12-1 pm CT Monday, April 3, 2017

RSVP at: https://goo.gl/forms/A3jhRqEwFEcS3GSq2

Presenter: Anahkwet (Guy Reiter) Menominee organizer, activist, author and lecturer

TeleSeminar Sponsor: Wisconsin Green Muslims

Frac Sand Mining in





TeleSeminar

Monday, February 20, 2017 1-2 pm RSVP at: <u>https://goo.gl/forms/5obuBjb5gfq0RTXI2</u> Presenter: Patricia Popple, Producer of the homegrown newsletter Frac Sand Sentinel

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / 262-365-4532

TeleSeminar | Rain Check: Helping Residents Manage Stormwater

> 12-1 pm CT Wednesday, July 26, 2017

RSVP at: https://qoo.ql/forms/kFwowFQncGVJE8Cv

Presenter: Kate Morgan Outreach Program Coordinator Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)



TeleSeminar Sponsor: Wisconsin Green Muslims Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / 262-365-4532

Green Ramadan

Green Dustins

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/

Contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org





use & dispose.'

Green Ramadan

Turn the water off when not in use.

Perform Eco-Wudu (eco-ablution) with *less than* a full glass of water.

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/

contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/

contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org

Green Ramadan

- Think prayerfully about how we are using up our resources at an unsustainable rate.
- · Pray for a sustainable Earth for all.

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/ contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org

Green Due

Green Ramadan

 Find a spot outdoors. Observe, listen and contemplate the wonders of creation.
 Do Tasbih.

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/Green-Ramadan/ contact: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org



Towards a GREEN RAMADAN and a Greener Eid!



Ramadan Kareem! Each day in this blessed month of Ramadan:

3				C.	
Find the most environ-	Use sunlight to brighten	Unbottle Water! Join	Think prayerfully	Listen. Find a spot	Go meat-free today.
mentally friendly way	the indoors.	the <u>Islamic</u>	about how we are	outdoors. Observe, and	More carbon is used to
you can to get to	Switch off the lights and	<u>Environmental Group</u> 's	using up our	contemplate the	produce meat than
the Masjid today (walk,	conserve energy.	campaign for a plastic	resources at an	wonders of creation.	growing grains,
bike, bus or car share).	Switch on solar energy!	bottle-free Ramadan.	unsustainable rate.	Do Tasabeeh.	vegetables, and fruits.
Turn the water off	Bring your own washable	Reduce, re-use, re-	Plant a tree.	Support and look for	Power Down.
while brushing your	plate, cup and utensils to	purpose, and recycle.	Grow an organic garden	certified organic fair	Unplug. Do not use
teeth. Use less water in	the community lftar.	Help curb the effects of	without the use of	trade label when	electricity for as long as
Wudu (ablution).	Have a waste-free lftar.	global climate change.	pesticides / herbicides.	purchasing products.	you can today.
Read the Qur'an. There	Know where your food	Moving your thermostat	Bring and use your own	"Sleep mode" reduces a	Learn about composting.
are more than 1,500	comes from. Visit a farm	up 2 degrees in summer	cloth, canvas, or	computer's energy	You can significantly
verses related to the	/ farmers market.	and down 2 degrees in	reusable and recyclable	consumption by 60 to	reduce food waste and
environment. Learn the	Support sustainable	winter could prevent	bags to the supermarket	70%. At the end of the	produce rich compost for
environmental messages	Community Supported	about 2,000 pounds of	or store. Say: No, thank	day, power it off	garden soil. <i>Eliminate</i>
in the Hadith.	Agriculture (CSA).	carbon dioxide per year.	you for 'paper or plastic'.	completely.	<i>Waste, Grow Food!</i>
Volunteer. Clean up a	Don't pollute	Use a low-flow	Do not use Styrofoam.	Plant a rain garden.	Configure your office or
neighborhood, river,	Telecommute! Drive less.	showerhead. A family of	It is difficult to recycle,	Install a rain barrel at	home printer or copy
park, road, etc.	Have productive and	four can save about	and harmful to the	your home. Fix any leaks.	machine to print on both
Help clean up your	efficient meetings via	20,000 gallons of water	health and the	Reduce your water	sides of the page.
Masjid after Iftar.	the phone, Internet, etc.	per year.	environment.	footprint.	Save paper.
Join and support the	Using cold water can	Consider supporting a	Switch to e-billing.	Shop responsibly.	Pray outside! Touch the
climate justice	save up to 80% of the	fossil-free economy.	In the U.S., hard copy	Reduce one-time use of	grass, smell the earth.
movement. Help	energy required to wash	Support renewable	bills alone generate	gift-wrapping waste.	Rain or shine, glorify and
alleviate the climate	clothes. Dry clothes	energy (such as solar,	almost 2 million tons of	Support eco-friendly,	praise the Creator.
refugees' crises.	outside using solar heat.	wind) investments.	carbon dioxide.	sustainable products.	Eid Mubarak!

Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin | Wisconsin Green Muslims http://IslamicEnvironmentalGroup.org/ | https://twitter.com/WiGreenMuslims Celebrating 10 years! Connecting Faith and Sustainability. Volunteering for a Just, Peaceful and Sustainable Future.

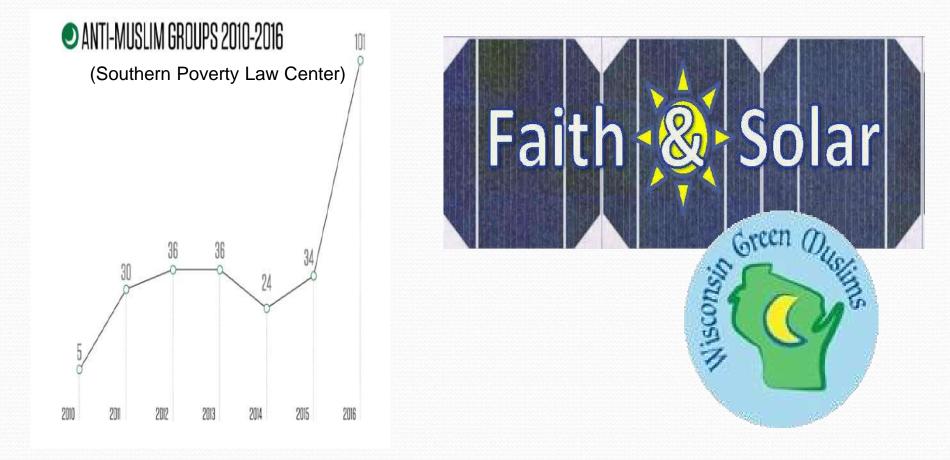




Wisconsin Green Muslims https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/ info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org







How can the unifying power of solar energy help overcome Islamophobia in Wisconsin?

Google Survey Test Christian Frame

Muslim Frame

Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities — which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship. VS.



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities — which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship.

RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

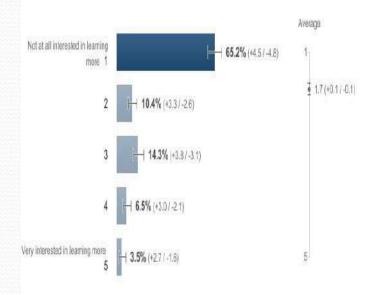
How interested are you in learning more about the Faith and Solar initiative in Wisconsin?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities – which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship.

How interested are you in learning more about the Faith and Solar Initiative in Wisconsin?

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (410 responses) Winner statistically significant.



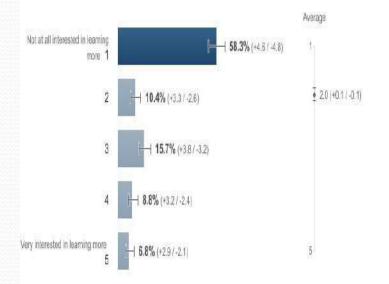
RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

How interested are you in learning more about the Faith and Solar initiative in Wisconsin?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities – which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship. Two sample t-tests: The Christian frame-receiving sample indicated a significantly greater interest in learning more.

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (418 responses) Winner statistically significant.



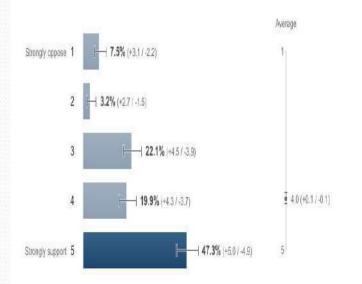
RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

Do you support or oppose increasing the amount of electricity Wisconsin generates from solar power?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities — which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship.

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (403 responses) Winner statistically significant.



Do you support or oppose increasing the amount of electricity Wisconsin generates from solar power?

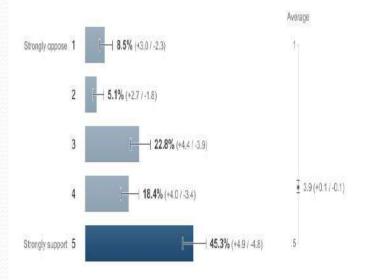
RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

Do you support or oppose increasing the amount of electricity Wisconsin generates from solar power?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities – which is why religious groups across Wisconsin are installing solar panels on their places of worship. Two sample t-tests: No statistically significant difference between the means of the two samples.

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (411 responses) Winner statistically significant.



RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

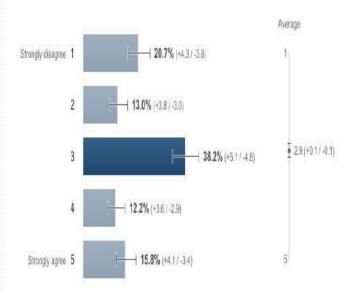
To what extent do you agree Faith and Solar is an organization that shares your values?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities. The Faith and Solar initiative works with religious groups across Wisconsin to install solar panels on places of worship.

To what extent do you agree Faith and Solar is an organization that shares your values?

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (406 responses) Winner statistically significant.



RATING SCALE WITH IMAGE

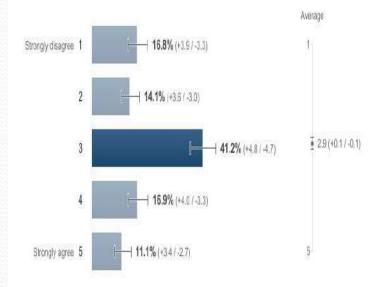
To what extent do you agree Faith and Solar is an organization that shares your values?



Solar energy reduces air pollution, saves money, and creates jobs in our communities. The Faith and Solar initiative works with religious groups across Wisconsin to install solar panels on places of worship.

Two sample t-tests: No statistically significant difference between the means of the two samples.

Results for respondents with demographics. Weighted by Age, Gender. (413 responses) Winner statistically significant.





Just Solar Principles



Tuesday, June 26, 2018 **12 pm CT / By Phone**

What could be Wisconsin's Just Solar Principles? Join Faith Communities for Equitable Solar in generating guiding principles for Wisconsin's solar industry, rooted in our values of justice, equity and inclusion.

Facilitated by Huda Alkaff, Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims

https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaithSolar/ RSVP: info@WisconsinGreenMuslims.org / 262-365-4532



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Connecting Faith, Environmental Justice and Sustainability through Education and Service Since 2005

@WlgreenMuslims



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