



# Faiths 4 Climate Justice 2022

2 October - 6 November

## ACTION GUIDE



Organizers in Fiji

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## ***The Short Version: Faiths For Climate Justice***

### **Our spirit and our faith call us to bold action**

To be faithful to our religious teachings and spiritual convictions, we must show up in the public square as people of faith to hold the fossil fuel industry and too-slow government accountable for a lack of adequate response to climate change.

### **Our Vision For These Actions**

At the end of October, just before world leaders gather at the G20 meetings in Indonesia and COP27 in Egypt, hundreds of the world's great spiritual leaders and thousands of people of all religious backgrounds will call for a new international agreement - a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - that does what is necessary to restore balance, establish harmony, and create justice.



Organizers in France calling on Total to end funding of fossil fuels

### **We are rising together to call for:**

- An immediate end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation
- A rapid transition to 100% renewables and a fair phase-out of fossil fuels
- A commitment to a just transition for impacted workers and climate-vulnerable communities

### **3 Key Features of a GreenFaith Action**

- 1: We bring our religion, our spirituality, our faith into the streets and halls of power. We take action openly, respectfully, boldly, and non-violently.
- 2: We share our moral message and our community's good energy.
- 3: We are welcoming and make it easy for people to connect with us.

**[REGISTER YOUR ACTION HERE](#)**

### **Hashtag:**

Suggested hashtags: **#Faiths4Climate**, **#F4CJ**, **#Faiths4ClimateJustice**, **#KillingThePlanetIsAgainstMyReligion**

\* For general questions, email [info@greenfaith.org](mailto:info@greenfaith.org)



## ***Why are faith groups mobilizing for climate justice?***

### **Our spirit and our faith call us to bold action.**

The February 2022 IPCC report paints a clear picture: climate change is already impacting every corner of the world worse than expected. Half the world's population faces water insecurity for at least a month every year. Wildfires, droughts and severe storms are laying waste to regions that hundreds of millions have called home for generations. The climate crisis is driving millions of people into extreme poverty. Much more severe impacts, including war, genocide, mass climate-induced migration, and great suffering, are in store if we fail to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half this decade.

These impacts are the opposite of what our religions call for: peace, well-being for all, security for children and families, and respect for our precious planet.

**Our planet and all living things are sacred and must be protected.** The current destruction of our world is an offense to our beliefs and our wellbeing. It is preventing us from living in harmony with the Earth and each other. Now is the time to rise for climate justice.

**People of all religions, faiths and spiritualities have been sounding the alarm and acting for well over a decade.** We have joined with scientists, climate movement allies, Nobel Laureates, youth leaders, and economists to call for actions that will slow the damage to our planet and put us on a more sustainable and just path.

But ineffective or corrupt governments, powerful extractive industries, financial institutions, and fundamentalist cultural and religious forces have blocked the steps necessary for a more just, compassionate, and loving world.

**Throughout history, courageous, public, nonviolent, direct action has been a powerful force in changing these institutions and governments.** From India's liberation from British colonial rule to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement to the ending South Africa's apartheid regime, religious people have always played a vital role. The moral standing and respect we command makes us effective partners.

This is a pivotal moment for our world and our future.

**That is why we are launching Faiths for Climate Justice on 2 October, and continuing the call for climate justice through 6 November, the eve of the Conference of Parties (COP) 27 climate talks.**

In the weeks before the United Nations' annual gathering of world leaders, taking place in Egypt this year, is the perfect opportunity to make our moral voices heard and ensure bold action for climate justice.

Grassroots people of different religions, from Africa to Asia, Europe to the Americas, will take courageous, public action. Together, we will peacefully and directly press governments and financial institutions to do what only they can do to create a harmonious and sustainable world.

At the end of October, just before world leaders meet at the G20 meetings in Indonesia and COP27 in Egypt, hundreds of the world's great spiritual leaders and countless thousands of people of all religious backgrounds will call for a new international agreement - a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty - that does what is necessary to restore balance, establish harmony, and create justice.

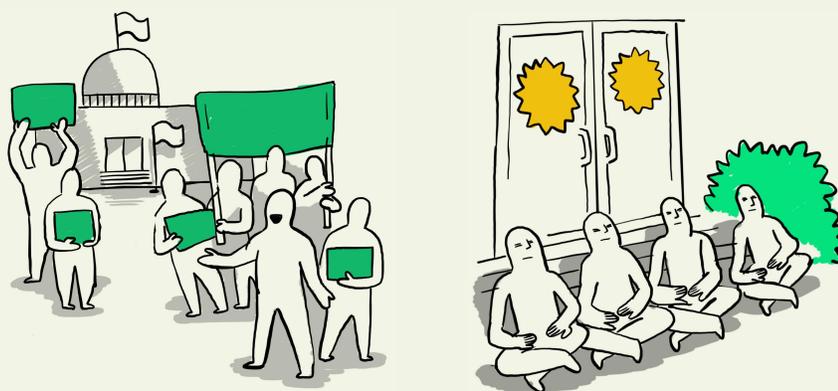


**We are rising together to call for:**

- An immediate end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation
- A rapid transition to 100% renewables and a fair phase-out of fossil fuels
- A commitment to a just transition for impacted workers and climate-vulnerable communities

It may not be easy or comfortable, and each of us must decide what we are called to do, given our context and who we are. But **history shows that when people of diverse religions join together in solidarity we can build a more just and harmonious world.**

**This toolkit has everything we need to imagine, design, plan, and implement a bold action, rooted in our faiths and communities.**



## ***3 Key Features of a GreenFaith Action***

Creating a visual identity, one that reflects our global, multi-faith unity and the distinctiveness of our religion and region is vital to building moral power.

Understanding that different types of public actions are safer or more appropriate in some regions than others, we invite you to integrate the following three features into your public actions.

### **1: We bring our religion, our spirituality, our faith into the streets and halls of power.**

At GreenFaith, we are people of faith and spirit first. So, as you plan your action, think about the resources and teachings of your faith that guide and sustain you – and call you into action!

In your religion, do you sing hymns or chant? If yes - sing hymns or chant outside government offices!

Do you kneel in prayer or sit in meditation? If yes - do these in front of a bank that finances fossil fuel projects.

Do you have traditional religious clothing? If yes - be sure to wear this during your public action. Are you blocking the entryway to a fossil fuel company headquarters, or occupying the office of a government official? If yes - organize a short service of prayer or worship as part of your action.

Remember - we are placing our religious beliefs in the way of those who are destroying the planet. Our beliefs and practices sustain us. These beliefs and practices are beautiful and they are our unique contribution to the movement for climate justice. Remember also - we always take action openly, respectfully, boldly, and non-violently.

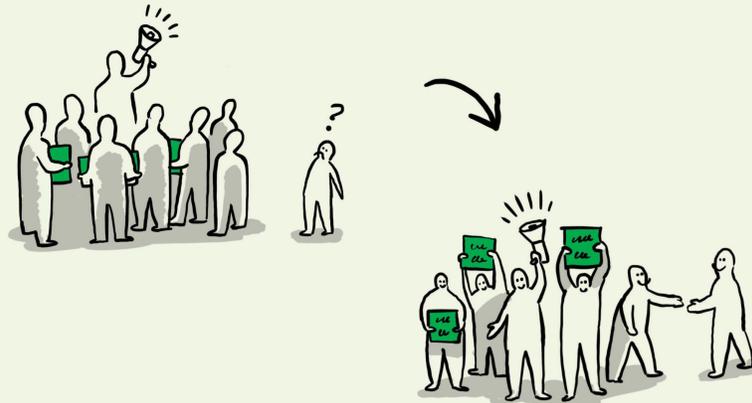
### **2: We share our moral message and our community's positive energy.**

When we take action, we talk about the religious beliefs, principles and philosophies that compel us to act. Our signs and banners and t-shirts show these same messages - messages about the compassion, love and justice we're fighting for.

Statistics about the climate crisis do not change hearts and minds or build community. Shared values do. Articulating these values is one of our distinct contributions to the climate justice movement, both in our signs and on social media.

We also make it clear that we are building a friendly, passionate community in action. Where it is safe to do so, and to the greatest degree possible, we share photos and accounts of our training sessions, our community meals, our gatherings to create signs and banners, our preparation for action. By doing this, we show that we are a team that loves to work together for what is right.

### **3: We are welcoming and make it easy for people to connect with us.**



Public actions are a great way to invite new allies into our community. We make our actions open and inviting so that people will want to join us. Here are some suggestions, to be adapted for your cultural context.

- When we share our faith in public, we face outward towards the world, and towards those passing by.
- We greet people who pass by our actions and invite them to join us.
- We take the time to talk to people who attend our actions, and sign them up for future events.
- If we form a circle, we leave empty space for all the people who haven't joined us yet.
- If we are being photographed or filmed, we are mindful of people watching from home who may feel isolated or lonely. We smile through the camera lenses at them.
- We document and share stories of our actions online so that everyone can share in the experience.

**[REGISTER YOUR ACTION HERE](#)**



## *Choosing Who to Influence and How*

### **Step 1: Identify the problem in your community, country or region.**

The climate crisis and environmental injustice are caused by corporations that profit from destroying our planet and governments that enable these destructive practices. What are the specific problems in your community, country, region, or faith institution? For example: In Indonesia, the government is allowing new coal plants and deforestation to happen. In Canada, the government is allowing new tar sands pipelines to be built. What's going on in your country and region?

### **Step 2: Identify who can solve the problem - that's your "target."**

After you've identified the problem, identify who has the power to make the change that's needed. This could be a President, Prime Minister, or legislature with the ability to stop a destructive project or green-light a good project. It may be a bank that's financing the problem, or a local government decision maker or corporation. Often, local climate organizations can help you identify who is the most important stakeholder to target.

Here's how Steps 1 and 2 connect. In the US, one target will be President Biden because he has the power to stop new fossil fuel projects. In Tanzania, one target will be the CEO of Total bank because they have the power to stop financing the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) that is slated to cut through the country.

### **Step 3: Choose your tactic.**

Design an action that can influence your target and public opinion. The tone of your action will depend on your target and the context. Here are three possible approaches.

#### **The (Possibly) Persuadable:**

This kind of target - whether a corporation, a corporate executive, or an elected official - is hard to move and requires a large amount of pressure. In this case, your action should communicate your willingness to apply ongoing pressure, sending the message that you're not going away. You might try to get people to come to your action, or speakers, who could influence your target. This type of action could happen if you blockade the door of an office, organize a "pray--in" inside their lobby, or use signs and other visuals that call directly on the corporation or individual outside their office and on social media.

#### **The Villain:**

Current practices by corporations and governments are failing us - we need to challenge leaders and hold them accountable to making changes necessary to achieve climate justice. This type of action serves to criticize a corporation, a corporate executive, or an elected official who is very unlikely to support your position. By making an example of this company or person, you can build public pressure and use your moral authority to prevent other decision makers from following in their footsteps. This kind of action could

take place outside the target's office, with a strong message of how this politician or company is wrecking the community. It could include talking to passersby and making sure the community sees how unethical, and morally reprehensible the actions of this individual or company are.

Now you're ready to design the tactic you'll use to take bold action on behalf of a local problem.



## ***Examples of Faith in Action***

## Demanding Climate Justice, as People of Faith and Spirit!

We encourage you to be creative and take action that makes sense in your context, and in response to the climate issues most pressing to your community.

### Together, we are calling for:

- An immediate end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation
- A rapid transition to 100% renewables and a fair phase-out of fossil fuels
- A commitment to a just transition for impacted workers and climate-vulnerable communities

**[Here are photos of previous actions](#), and below are a few examples of what your action might look like:**

- In Tanzania and Uganda a collaborative action against the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).
- In France, an interfaith fast at the Total headquarters to Stop EACOP.
- In Indonesia, a youth bike tour with a set of pray-ins at coal-fired power plant sites, calling for an end to coal.
- In Germany, a multifaith pilgrimage to call for climate justice.
- In the US, a protest at BlackRock, Vanguard, or Bank of America to end fossil fuel financing.
- In Nigeria, a national Interfaith action against gas flaring.
- In Chile, an event in a public square with religious symbols, imagery and art, calling for an end to deforestation.
- In Ghana, a climate justice training for 100 grassroots community and faith leaders, including diverse civil society and religious networks, and with a special focus on women and girls.
- In Kenya, a roundtable discussion with multi faith leaders calling for bold climate leadership, a street march, and a youth public action, calling for renewable energy financing.
- In Malawi, an event in a public square with Interfaith messages and imagery, calling for an end to coal mining and deforestation.

We invite you to reach out to collaborate with GreenFaith partners in your region:

Australia - [Australian Religious Response to Climate Change](#)

Brazil - [Instituto de Estudos da Religião](#) contact: Isabel Pereira - [isabelpereira@iser.org.br](mailto:isabelpereira@iser.org.br)

Canada - [Faith and the Common Good](#)

Chile - [Alianza Interreligiosa y Espiritual por el Clima](#)

Southern Africa - [SAFCEI](#)

United Kingdom - [Faith For The Climate](#)

Uganda - [Inter-Religious Council of Uganda](#)

\* For more questions, email [info@greenfaith.org](mailto:info@greenfaith.org)



***How to Take Action as GreenFaith***

## Health and Safety Considerations

COVID 19 is still a serious public health issue in many places. Please follow local public health protocols, and limit risk to ensure your activity can happen safely.

Legal considerations: Please take action based on the local contexts and laws of your cities and countries. GreenFaith will not be able to support with legal counsel or fees and will not be liable for illegal activity.

## Roles to Include when Planning your Action

When planning your action, it is helpful to define what roles you'll need in order to be successful, and who can fill those roles. While it's possible for one person to play multiple roles, to ensure the success of large events, it's best for each person to have one role. You won't need all roles for every action - choose what's needed.

Possible Roles:

- **Action Coordinator:** This person is responsible for the overall success of the action, and communicating with all the people who are in leadership roles. They will also make any decisions that need to be made quickly. All the other roles should know who the action coordinator is if they have questions they need answered.
  - This should be someone who has strong leadership skills, and ideally has experience organizing actions or has taken part in multiple actions in the past.
- **Outreach Coordinator:** this person is responsible for building a list of congregations or houses of worship that may be interested in participating in the action and reaching out to them. This should be through calls, emails, and even presentations or a small paragraph to put in congregational announcements.
  - This should be someone who isn't afraid to jump on the phones and is good at connecting with new people. It could also be someone who already has connections with different congregations around town.
- **Partner Coordinator:** this person is responsible for identifying organizations that care about the same issues, and reaching out to them about co-sponsoring or turning people out.
  - This should be someone who already has relationships in the community with other partner organizations.
- **Media Lead:** this person is responsible for sending out a media announcement ahead of time to local press, and then making pitch calls to different media outlets to ask them to join the action. They are also responsible for meeting any members of the media who show up to the action and introducing them to the spokespeople for the action. (Media toolkit with sample materials will be coming soon.)
- **Spokesperson:** This is someone who has been briefed on the talking points for the action and is ready to talk to the media. It may also be one of the people who will be speaking in front of the crowd.

- **Prayer leader/Spiritual leader:** This person is responsible for leading the group in public meditation, practice, or prayer. There may be more than one of these people at the action, and they should be dressed in religious attire if possible.
- **Visual & Arts Coordinator:** This person is responsible for making sure the action has compelling visuals that clearly communicate who you are, why you are acting, and what your demands are. This may include signs, banners, puppets, artwork, or faith imagery. They ensure that art/visuals are well positioned during the action to communicate your message (in coordination with Photographer, Action Coordinator and Media Lead). They also make sure art/visuals are collected, stored, repurposed, or properly disposed of afterwards.
  - This could involve organizing sign-making/ art build parties, or working with local artists to create materials.
- **Photographer:** This person is in charge of taking excellent photos of the action! Sometimes, this means asking people to stand in a specific place or with banners or signs in specific places in order to make sure the photos clearly convey the message of the action. The photographer will be responsible for uploading the photos to [this shared Google Photos album](#). This person will also be responsible for posting the best images to social media or sending them to the social media coordinator in order to post. [See page 17 of this guide for more.](#)
- **Social media coordinator:** This person is in charge of taking photos/videos and posting them to social media in a way that conveys the story of the action. [See page 17 of this guide for more.](#)
- **Police Liaison:** This person is responsible for communicating with the police or any security that shows up at the action. They should be the ONLY person at the action that talks to the police. The police liaison is responsible for respectfully and clearly communicating with the police, de-escalating any situations that may arise, and being the main point of contact between the police and the action coordinator, or other leadership on the action.
  - This is a good role for someone who does not get triggered by police presence, and can be disarming, or able to communicate in non-threatening ways.
- **De-escalation/public outreach:** These people are responsible for communicating the message of your action with passersby. They could hand out a half page explanation or answer questions about the event. They are also responsible for de-escalating situations that may arise if a passerby is angry with the people taking part in your action because they disagree with the message or the tactic.
  - This should be done by people who are experienced at de-escalation, non-violent communication, and is sometimes a good role for clergy to play.

## **[REGISTER YOUR ACTION HERE](#)**

### **Bringing Powerful Words to Action:**

Sharing our stories is powerful and inspiring. During your action, your group should seek opportunities to tell your story: what is your demand? To whom are you asking to respond to that demand? Why does your faith compel you to take action? We can tell our stories through our visuals, the speakers who speak to the crowd at our event, and those who speak to media sources that attend our actions. Here are some tips for preparing those who will be speaking publicly:

1. Write and memorize three clear talking points that speak to:
  - a. Who are you calling on to act? What are you asking them to do?
  - b. Why does your faith call you to take action?
  - c. How is this issue currently impacting you or your community?

*Example:* Our faiths call us to action - vulnerable communities across the globe are already bearing the burden of inaction on the climate crisis. We are calling on President Biden to use his executive power to declare a climate emergency, ensuring no new fossil fuels and a just transition to a clean energy future.

2. Practice with your speaker!
  - a. Pretend that you are a reporter and ask your speaker questions like, "Why are you here? Do you think this will accomplish anything? What are you hoping to achieve?"
  - b. Have them answer these questions by pivoting to the three talking points. No matter what you ask when you pretend to be the reporter, make sure they only answer with the main talking points.
3. Make sure they wear clothes that signify their faith tradition.
4. Make sure they are near signs or visuals that convey the message of the action. This could mean holding a sign or standing near a banner or crowd while they are being interviewed.

## Sample Agenda for an Action

### **1: Gather, sing, pray, review roles.**

Meet someplace near the location you've selected for your action. Take a moment together to become grounded in your religious or spiritual practice. Make sure everyone is clear about the plan for the day and their specific roles.

### **2: March - deliberately!**

Summon your energy, get ready for action, and march together to your location! More tips below.

### **3: Carry out your action (this could include songs, prayer, community sermon, etc.)**

Carry out the action you've planned. Do it as beautifully and thoughtfully as possible. Below, you will find examples of different ways you can take action in halls of power-- this is the most important part!

### **4: Finish strong!**

Make sure to end strong--with a song, prayer, etc. In most cases, leave together as a group.

### **5: Debrief, celebrate and share!**

Gather right after your action to debrief and to celebrate what you've accomplished! Share how you felt during the action, what worked well, what you learned. Offer appreciation for each other. Then - be sure to share photos and posts on social media so that the world can share in the excitement of your good work. [See page 17 of this guide for more.](#)

## Best Practices for a March



- 1: Include songs, chants, and your faith rituals.
- 2: March SLOWLY. Those holding the banner should set a slow walking pace, so everyone can relax and enjoy the moment.
- 3: Welcome in strangers and people passing by ensuring signs are readable. Smile through the cameras to reach people watching at home. Designate someone to welcome bystanders, hand out fliers, and sign people up for future actions.

## Ritual Action at the Halls of Power

An important part of your action is calling for bold climate action from decision makers - whether at a bank, a corporate headquarters, or a city, regional, or national government office.

When you arrive, you have three choices: you can **rally out front**, **enter the building**, or **hold a prayer/meditation blockade**. We encourage you to **make your faith visible**: plan a program that includes prayer, singing, and speakers. Dress for worship, and bring objects related to your faith traditions with you.

**Note:** In a number of countries with repressive governments, any of these kinds of actions may carry significant risk. Please consider your context carefully as you plan your action and adapt your plans accordingly.

### Option A: Prayer Rally in Front

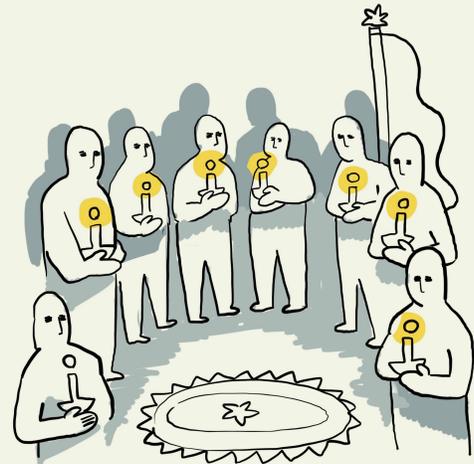
One option is to hold a service out front of the building. Stage this as close to the hall of power as possible. Arrange your group so that people coming by feel welcomed - don't stand in a circle and speak to each other. Pick a spot where it is clear WHO you are protesting, especially in photographs. Is there a sign that shows what building you are at? Make sure to stand near that.



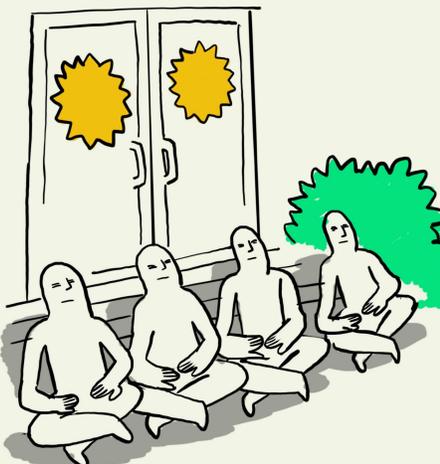
## Option B: Ritual in the Building

If your group feels safe to do so, it is often powerful to enter into the building and hold your action in the lobby or front area. Don't wait to be invited. This sends a clear message that we are not taking no for an answer! Lobbies are usually public spaces.

You can hold your rally, service or ritual in the lobby in much the same way as you would hold it outside. Be warm, friendly, and calm: even if the people in the building act like they don't like that you are there - you know you are doing right! Pick one or two people who will liaise with security guards or officials in the building, and instruct everyone else to direct any officials or building personnel to those people.



## Option C: Prayer or Meditation Blockade



The most powerful way to convey your message for climate justice is to get in the way of business as usual. Some groups will be ready to set up a Prayer or Meditation blockade - putting your faith in the path of a doorway, or directly in the office where decisions are made.

**Note:** In some countries, or for people belonging to certain racial, ethnic, gender, political identities and cultural communities, actions such as these may carry real risks, including the risk of arrest. In a number of countries, this cannot be done safely, or in the name of an NGO or charity. In other countries, this can be a powerful component of your action. Everywhere, those people who belong to the cultural, racial, ethnic or religious majorities - because of their cultural

privilege - will be able to take more confrontational action with less risk. If you decide to take on a more confrontational action, please prepare properly. In many places, there are seasoned activists who are familiar with this process who can join you or help you: be sure to consult them while you plan your action. If you do not know where to start, reach out to GreenFaith staff for help - [info@greenfaith.org](mailto:info@greenfaith.org).



## ***Making Your Story Clear to See*** Slogans, Signs and Banners



Your action will rely on banners and signs that you make that make your message clear. Use these designs or create your own!

[Suggested slogans for your signs and banners here.](#)

Designs to Download: [Banner and sign designs here.](#)

[Guide for painting, printing, and custom designing banners that match this style.](#)



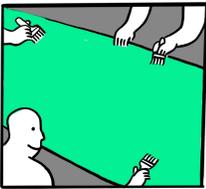
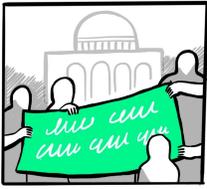
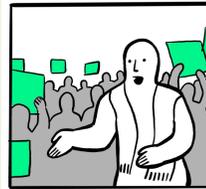
# Sharing your Story with the World

## Documentation and Social Media

Photos and social media enable you to expand the impact of your action, and should capture the message of your action. Before your day of action, make a list of photos you want to take and share that list with those who will be taking the photos/ videos at the action. Here is a sample list. Customize it to your community and event.

- People praying together
- A community member or faith leader in front of the crowd (w/ a quote)
- Photos of the banners and/or signs where the messaging is readable
- Marching to the halls of power
- A video of people singing together
- A sign or landmark indicating location
- The community gathered outside or inside the halls of power
- An image that shows the action is a religious service
- (if applicable) people blockading the doors in prayer, police making arrests, arrested people being marched out, solemn and proud

### Sharing your action in 5 social media posts

 <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;">EXAMPLE GREENFATH CIRCLE</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;">EXAMPLE GREENFATH CIRCLE</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;">EXAMPLE GREENFATH CIRCLE</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;">EXAMPLE GREENFATH CIRCLE</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; color: gray;">EXAMPLE GREENFATH CIRCLE</p>
<p>Image: <i>Banner being painted</i></p>	<p>Image: Banner in front of the place of worship</p>	<p>Image: People praying together</p>	<p>Image: Community gathered inside the halls of power</p>	<p>Image: community member or faith leader in front of the crowd</p>
<p>Sample Caption: Do you feel isolated and powerless in the face of climate change? Join us this Sunday for (insert details here).</p>	<p>Sample Caption: Two sentences about why our faith compels us to act. One sentence about the upcoming action.</p>	<p>Sample Caption: Climate change is terrifying. But, we have felt the power we have together—and together we will overcome it.</p>	<p>Sample Caption: It's not enough to pray while the world burns, so today we're holding our prayer service in Senator ____'s office.</p>	<p>Sample: Caption: <i>This is why my faith compels me to take action. I was scared and powerless, but now that I'm here- I'm not afraid anymore.</i></p>

## Hashtag:

Suggested hashtags: **#Faiths4Climate**, **#F4CJ**, **#Faiths4ClimateJustice**, **#KillingThePlanetIsAgainstMyReligion**

## Saving and sharing photos and videos:

- [Tips for creating a great video](#) (by Pacific Climate Warriors - English only.)
- Share your photos to our Greenfaith Community by uploading them [to this Shared Google Photos Album](#) (instructions [here](#)).
- Please also share your photos on your faith community or organization's page, or your personal page. Remember to use #Faiths4Climate and tag @greenfaithworld. You can also tag reporters who may be interested in your action or might amplify.
- You can also get partners or people with large followings to share your posts! This is a great ask for someone who isn't able to make it to your action, but can still share. Please ask as many people as possible who are involved on the day to share your posts.