

Sustainability and religions, Brahma Kumaris

The Brahma Kumaris organisation has been active in its environmental initiative since before the COP15 meeting in 2009, lobbying government representatives and making alliances with other faith based organisations (FBOs). For much of that time, governments were more concerned with political and economic aspects of sustainability. Climate change is one of a number of critical areas that need to be tackled. Years have gone by and progress is glacially slow. The problems are real, however. Just now, we are using the worlds resources at twice the rate that can be sustained (two earths are needed). If the world was like Europe and USA, 4 earths would be needed. Somethings have to change; quickly and in large measures.

At COP21 in Paris, 2016, leaders of countries were, for the first time, using terms previous only spoken by faith-based leaders – consciousness, awareness and behavioural changes are needed, they say. But changes from politicians are hindered by political diversity in their own countries and by powerful industries so progress may continue to be slow.

85% of the worlds population belong to an FBO. While FBOs are reluctant to engage in anything 'political', sustainability of our planet is not an issue that can be ignored. We are trustees of the planet and we must live up to that responsibility. The leaders of FBOs can do much to create awareness of the issues – to teach people to be responsible in their own lives to **Reduce** consumption of materials and energy, **Re-use** where possible, and **Recycle** where it is not possible. This is good but it only changes percentage points. The one area that everyone can help and will make the biggest difference is for people to stop eating animals and animal products, particularly dairy products; to become vegan. It can create healthier humans and a healthier planet.

This is one of the 10 ways of creating a better world; for details and other good ideas refer: <http://tinyurl.com/BKeco01>

Spiritual reflections on these topics are given in the article: <http://tinyurl.com/BKeco03>

These issues on sustainability are discussed on our web site www.eco.brahmakumaris.org.

This article represents my personal views.

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