



“Religion is an essential factor in motivating individuals to protect the environment and address climate change”

<i>Faith Perspective</i>	<i>Buddhism</i>
<p>Fundamental Principle of the Faith</p> <p><i>What the faith teaches about taking care of the environment (sacred texts)</i></p>	<p>There are no direct teachings in Buddhism that specifically relate to taking care of the environment as this was not the issue it is today when the Buddha lived 2,500 years ago.</p>
<p>Application of the Principle to the Motion of the debate</p> <p><i>What responsibility the faith tradition's teaching passes to individuals</i></p>	<p>There are certainly core Buddhist teachings that, if followed, would lead a person to have much less of an impact on the environment. For instance, Right Intention (the second of the parts of the Noble Eightfold Path) teaches one to avoid acting on the intentions of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desire 2. Ill-will 3. Harmfulness <p>and to instead act upon their opposites, which are the intentions of:</p>





	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renunciation 2. Loving-kindness 3. Harmlessness. <p>Perhaps the one to really consider here is renunciation, which implies living simply, being content with little, and understanding that following greed and selfish desire only ever brings suffering.</p>
<p>Implications for the debate</p> <p><i>Things to think about when preparing for the debate</i></p>	<p>Buddhists take care not to harm or hurt any living creature, often going to great lengths such as straining their water when taking it from a natural source such as a stream to ensure no tiny organisms are killed in the process.</p>
<p>Documentary references and interpretations</p> <p><i>Useful references from sacred text(s)</i></p>	<p>The Noble Eightfold Path, specifically 'Right Intention.</p> <p>The idea that wisdom and compassion are the ground of ethical action and speech.</p>
<p>Examples of faith-based environmental protection organisations and activities</p> <p><i>The ...faith in action with regards to taking care of the environment</i></p>	<p>Buddhist Action Month</p> <p>https://www.nbo.org.uk/what-is-buddhist-action-month/</p>

