



HINDU RESOURCE

SHOW THE LOVE

2021

[SHOWTHELOVE.ORG.UK](https://showthelove.org.uk)



THE
CLIMATE
COALITION

#SHOWTHELOVE



Mata bhūmi putro aham prthivyāh!
The Earth is my mother and I am her child!

For Hindus, climate change is a symptom of humanity living out of balance with Bhūmi Devi, Mother Earth. Our materialistic lifestyles are depleting Her resources and destroying the natural world. Therefore, to address climate change, we require a more spiritual outlook to life which transforms our inner and outer behaviour.

The Mahābhārata (109.10), an important scripture in the Hindu tradition tells us:

“Dharma exists for the welfare of all beings. Hence, that by which the welfare of all living beings is sustained, that for sure is dharma.”

The verse urges us to consider the effects our actions have, not just on ourselves and our neighbours, but also on all living beings. We have a religious or dharmic duty to ensure that we sustain a harmonious, abundant, and bountiful planet.

The Śrīmad Bhāgavatam (10.22.33) states:

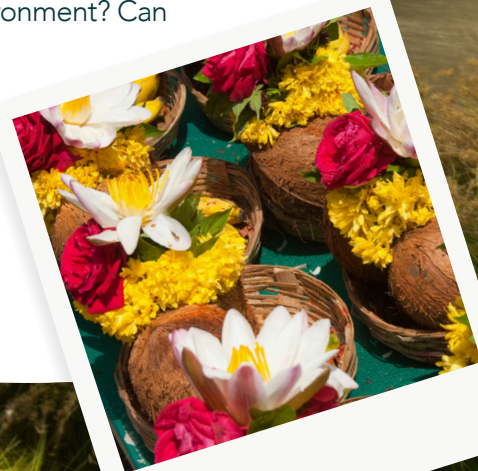
*Look at these fortunate trees. They live solely for the benefit of others.
They tolerate wind, rain, heat and snow but still provide us shelter.*

The natural world provides us with everything we need to flourish. Therefore, we should base our response to climate change on the principle of gratitude. When we appreciate everything that Bhūmi Devi gives us, naturally our behaviour changes and we will be inspired to 'go green'. Gratitude helps us actualise vasudhaiva kutumbakam, the whole world is one family.

Climate change causes pain, suffering, and destruction. We can reduce this suffering by changing our habits, simplifying our desires and not taking more than our reasonable share of resources. A simple change we can make to reduce our environmental impact is adopting a plant-based diet, one of the single most powerful acts a person can make. By doing all of this, we promote Ahimsa, causing the least harm and Dharma, helping maintain the ecological and cosmic order which allows life and existence to flourish.

We are at a tipping point with the ongoing climate emergency. We must ask ourselves, “am I willing to sacrifice some of my luxuries for the benefit of the environment? Can I make these selfless acts an act of worship to Bhūmi Devi?”

[Adapted from the 2015 Hindu Declaration on Climate Change]





Get Involved

The past year has been a year like no other. The devastating impacts of the pandemic have impacted us all, and made us value what we love more than ever. We know our best chance at rebuilding goes hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis. We need our leaders to protect everything we love and deliver a healthy, green and fair recovery.

Later this year, the UK will host the United Nations climate summit. This is our opportunity to lead the world into a cleaner, greener future, but first we need to invest in the solutions to the climate crisis at home.

When we raise our voices together, we are a force for change that is impossible to ignore. The rest of this pack is full of ideas on how to take part in Show the Love and take action to protect the people, place and life we love from climate change. In order to inspire other Hindus and people around the world, we want you to show the world that you have love for Mother Earth and all that she provides us.

Throughout February, The Climate Coalition encourages us to Show the Love for all the things you want to protect from climate change. The rest of this pack is full of ideas on how you can do this.

Ways to #ShowtheLove

Ever since the start of Show the Love, communities across the UK have demonstrated year-on-year that beautiful things are possible when people work together. Things may look a bit different this year, but you can still show the love! Here are some ways you can get involved:

GET CREATIVE AND MAKE A GREEN HEART

You can find ways to do this in our Green Heart action pack at showthelove.org.uk. You can then wear or share your green heart with your friends and family. You can even send one to your MP to encourage them to #ShowTheLove for a cleaner, greener future. There is a postcard to send to your MP at the back of this pack.

CREATE A GREEN HEART DISPLAY

Window displays have brought joy to many communities over the past year as we've spent much more time at home. Create green hearts and use them to decorate a window, noticeboard or front garden over the Valentine's Day weekend- the 12th-15th of February- to show the love to your community.

TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

What do you care about? What do you love that you want to protect from climate change?

WHAT LESSONS CAN WE TAKE FROM TEXTS SUCH AS THE MAHABHARATA AND RAMAYANA TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

TALK TO TEMPLE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EXPLORE HOW THEY COULD GET INVOLVED

OFFER A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE TO MOTHER EARTH



CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Connect with your community - Although life remains unusual, there has never been a better time to club together with your local community. This February, connect with others in your area such as community groups and local faith communities. Organise an online talk about why you care about climate change, the work you are doing to tackle climate change, and explore how you can work together to help create a cleaner, greener future this year.

Share the love on social media

If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself with a green heart and share it online with the hashtag **#ShowTheLove**. This is a way of coming together as part of the national campaign online, alongside people of many faiths and none.

The Time Is Now For A Cleaner, Greener Work That Works For Everyone

Our declaration brings together people from all walks of life with businesses, community groups, MPs, local decision makers to send a strong and unified message that **#TheTimeIsNow** to take urgent action to protect what we love from the climate crisis.

We want to reach one million voices before the UN Climate Summit. Encourage your congregation to add their name to the declaration at thetimeisnow.uk, and send a postcard to your MP to ask them to commit to **#ShowTheLove** by championing climate action.



STEP 1

Add your name to the declaration at thetimeisnow.uk - you can sign up as an individual and as a community too.



STEP 2

Fill in the postcard and add a bit about why you've signed the declaration so your MP knows why you care about climate action.



STEP 3

Fold your postcard, attach a crafted green heart if you've made one.



STEP 4

Pop the postcard in an envelope and send it your MP. You can find their constituency surgery address at members.parliament.uk or alternatively send it to (addressed to them) to House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.



STEP 5

Keep an eye out for their response.

THE
BHUMI
PROJECT

 **HINDU
CLIMATE
ACTION**

Notes to organisers, temple and community leaders:

You can download additional postcards like the one featured in the back of this pack on showthelove.org.uk if individuals want to print out their own and send it to their MP.

Additional resources are also available on showthelove.org.uk if you would like to get more involved in Show the Love, for example with craft or youth and children's activities.



**The time is now to protect what we
love from the climate crisis.**

thelimatecoalition.org

#SHOWTHELOVE

Dear **MP**

**I want to see urgent action to protect what I
love from the climate crisis.** I've added my voice
to The Climate Coalition's Declaration because I
care about...

Before the UK hosts the world at the UN Climate
Summit in November, we need to show global
leadership by ensuring our recovery gets us on
track to a cleaner, greener world that works for
everyone. **Will you #ShowTheLove by
championing climate action this year?**

Please show your support by:

- Signing The Climate Coalition's Declaration for
a Healthy, Green And Fair Tomorrow (please
email campaigns@thelimatecoalition.org to
sign)
- Sharing a photo of this green heart on Twitter
pledging your support to protect all that we
could lose to the climate crisis - don't forget to
tag @thelimatecoalition and use #ShowTheLove

Thank you,

Name:
Postcode:
Email/Phone:
Organisation/Group:

thelimatecoalition.org

