



## Ten Ways Faith Groups Can Care for Biodiversity

[www.faithecolony.net.au](http://www.faithecolony.net.au)

The Faith and Ecology Network (FEN) is an interfaith network of people connecting faith with ecological awareness and care. Since 2020 FEN has had a focus on the **WONDER OF BIODIVERSITY**. In the context of biodiversity collapse, the [current United Nations work](#) on a post 2020 global biodiversity framework, and the call of our First Nations to [Heal Country](#), FEN calls on faith groups to better care for our biodiversity. Our various faith traditions and the sciences do have something in common: We listen and learn from each other; We share a sense of WONDER at the natural world. The following Ten Ways are a guide to help your faith group engage in activities that encourage care for our common home, as we get 'back to nature'. The process involves first listening and learning, then reflecting, followed by acting. It continues in a constant learning, reflecting and acting cycle.

Listen and Learn	Reflect-Contemplate	Act
<b>1. Wisdom from the Elders.</b> Learn about the First Nations people where you live Eg <a href="#">Leprena Centre (Tas)</a> ; Learn about <a href="#">indigenous fire management</a> .	Connect to Country, <a href="#">Acknowledge Country</a> at your place of worship; <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SxomxQ9UqMn">www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SxomxQ9UqMn</a>	Find out who the local First Nations peoples are from your local Land Council; Join in NAIDOC or Sorry Week events. Join <a href="#">Regenerative Songlines</a>
<b>2. Grow in your sense of Place:</b> Love where you are. Get to know the names and habits of the wildlife/tree species where you live or worship; Make deep connections to your local place.	Learn to think of your place as part of a whole, a bigger place and story; Think about the future: "How might your actions impact on those coming next? Think globally, act locally.	Create/Connect to a Nature Walk where you can; Link the species you find to <a href="#">the Atlas of Living Australia</a> ; Join the <a href="#">Aussie Backyard Bird Count</a> ; Grow a tree and give it away; Get in touch with the Earth through composting and gardening.
<b>3. Learn from the Sciences</b> Read the report on <a href="#">ecosystem collapse</a> in Aust; Learn about the importance of soil health from <a href="#">Soils for Life</a> ; or river ecology from <a href="#">The Society of Ecological Restoration Aust</a>	Reflect on scripture, wisdom teachings and religious practice in the light of 21 <sup>st</sup> Sciences. Eg: What does your wisdom teaching say about Soil? Water? Rivers? How can science and faith inform each other? Eg View <a href="#">Journey of the Universe</a>	Join a <a href="#">Citizen Science</a> project near you; Join a local group that protects waterways, beaches. eg <a href="#">Streamwatch</a> ; <a href="#">Land and Sea Rangers</a> (Qld)

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4. <b>Collaborate with and Learn from</b> local groups protecting nature by working in <a href="#">Bushcare</a> or in the Council nursery; Join a community garden.	Think about what practices you/your faith community can change in the light of your new learning. Connect with a rural community. Arrange visits and learn from each other.	Get help from your local Council; Plant local species in your garden, balcony; Become <a href="#">responsible pet owners</a> ; Join <a href="#">tree planting trips</a> Create a <a href="#">Bee &amp; Bee Highway</a> of plants for pollinators; Construct a bee hotel, or bird, bat or mammal box with the local Men's Shed.
5. <b>Become Eco citizens.</b> Gather/Inspire others by listening and doing together; View videos on <a href="#">FEN website</a> ; Listen to Affinity Intercultural Foundation talks on <a href="#">Climate Change</a> .	Involve all the groups in your community in the preparations; Have discussions on <a href="#">reducing meat consumption</a> Organise topics for discussion with local experts. (Face-to-Face or Zoom).	Join with local groups to explore nature e.g. <a href="#">WaterWatch</a> ; Hold bush kids days; Create a website/Social Media page for your eco faith group.
6. <b>Bring Nature into worship/gatherings;</b> Get ideas from others; See the <a href="#">FEN Multifaith Prayer Vigil video Respect for Earth</a>	Take small steps to change. Write, inspire, create with others, learn from the teachers in your tradition/knowledge holders in the community; Eg Catholic <a href="#">Margie Abbott</a> ; Have your religious worship outside.	Undertake the <a href="#">Season of Creation</a> (Christian Ecumenical); Work with your clerics/faith leaders. Plan how to involve all age groups in some way. Visit a <a href="#">Buddhist Forest Monastery</a>
7. <b>Green calendars.</b> Research Local Aboriginal calendars; Notice your actual seasons; <a href="#">Research key environmental events</a>	Link key environmental events to your faith's holy days. Eg Jewish <a href="#">Canfeinesharim</a> Find out what's on in your area. Work with your community leaders.	Create a <a href="#">Green calendar of events</a> for your faith group to participate in; Eg Sow seed during a particular worship season.
8. <b>Be an active voice.</b> Listen to and learn from a variety of biodiversity advocates; Eg <a href="#">AELA</a> ; <a href="#">ARRCC</a>	Join with your preferred active advocates; Think of why you are doing this; Show by example: Eg <a href="#">Multifaith Association SA</a> ;	Become a <a href="#">forest protector</a> Declare a <a href="#">Green Faith</a> Climate Emergency; Join ARRCC's climate campaigns.
9. <b>Grow in the Wonder of Nature:</b> Learn from <a href="#">Listening Earth</a> ; <a href="#">Nature for All</a> ; <a href="#">Wivenhoe Conservation Project</a> . Hold deep listening sessions from <a href="#">Dadirri</a>	Read writers and poets on ecospirituality; Spend time outside reflecting from your scripture, wisdom teachings; Use all your senses to pay attention to nature.	Participate in meditation walks. Seek ideas: <a href="#">Bahai' Temple Bushcare</a> ; <a href="#">Kelvin Grove Quaker Aboretum</a> ; <a href="#">Brahma Kumaris</a>
10. <b>Share successes:</b> Interview or ask members of your faith community about their experience of participating in any and all of the above.	Link eco news to your spiritual news: Bring the two together.	Brand and broadcast specific good news stories to local publications, to FEN via email or our Facebook page; Include regular stories in your bulletins / newsletter Get the FEN newsletter to stay in touch via email <a href="mailto:faithecology@gmail.com">faithecology@gmail.com</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FaithEcologyNetwork">www.facebook.com/FaithEcologyNetwork</a>

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