Eco-Mosques Workshop

MCB Annual General Meeting, 13 July 2019, Birmingham
Presentation 1
York Mosque’s Eco-initiatives

Striving towards sustainability
Islam – an eco-friendly religion

• “If any of you have a date sapling on the doomsday he should plant it if possible.”

• “Whoever plants a tree is rewarded by Allah as much as the produce grown in that tree.”  (Ahmad b.Hanbal, Musnad, V, 415.)

• “Whoever plants a tree and it matures, Allah plants a tree in paradise for that person.”
  (Ahmad b.Hanbal, Musnad, IV, 61).

• “O Children of Adam! Eat and drink but waste not by excess, for God loveth not the wasters”  (Surah al Araaf, The Heights 7:31 ).
York Mosque’s Eco-Strategy

• Identify the challenges
• Determine the priorities for implementation
• Get the congregation involved
• Successes so far
• ongoing developments
Challenges

• We are all becoming increasingly aware of global challenges to our existence including climate change, plastics pollution, water scarcity, environmental tipping points.

• York Mosque has a growing congregation, the majority of which is a transient student community.

• There is a significant amount of waste generated from a range of activities.

• All our waste goes in single bins which end up in landfill.

• Car park can no longer accommodate increasing congregation especially during jumuah and big festivals.

• Ramadan generates at least 300 bin bags of waste, which ends up in landfill.
Friday food sales

• Food sold every Friday to help raise funds towards the Mosque’s running costs

• Problem
  • Food containers, packaging & drinks cans end up in general landfill

• Solution
  • Short term fix is to use aluminium foil for wrapping burgers which can then be collected on site after consumption and recycled
  • Separate collection box to recycle plastic containers and drinks cans
  • Recycle packaging waste for raw materials, i.e. burger buns, burgers, etc
Iftar

• Problem
  • Every year we use over around 500 single use plastic items per night including cups, bowls, plates, spoons which end up in landfill
  • We also use at least 100 plastic bottles per night during taraweeh which ends up in landfill
  • Excess food waste

• Solution
  • Adopt and implement a ‘no single use plastics policy’
  • Introduce reusable cups and plates
  • Add water coolers
  • Provide attractive branded reusable York Mosque bottles
  • Encourage congregation during khutbas, reminders before Isha to bring their own water bottles
  • Encourage smaller portions, take home what isn’t finished
Ramadan 2019 – branded water bottles
Dedicated iftar team – reusable items washed and ready for next day
Madrasa initiatives

• Encourage cycling, walking or public transport
• Introduce switch off engine while waiting policy
• Assemblies with children and parents planned in partnership with local experts
Eco-initiatives ongoing

• Reduce waste water during wudhu by flow restrictor taps
• Automatic lights off in low usage areas
• Optimise recycling protocols
• Encourage car sharing, walking, cycling, public transport
• Explore cost benefit analysis of solar panels/heat recovery/rainwater systems
• Consider setting up electric car charging points
• Add water collection butts to recycle rainwater
Action plan

• Perform a review of your mosque’s sustainability plan
• If one doesn’t exist, start by preparing list of priorities
• Engage with the congregation through madrasa assemblies, khutbas, incentives such as branded items
• Encourage children to come up with ideas and persuade parents to adopt at home
• Work with local organisations
• Look to continuously improve
• Let’s work now to leave a healthy planet for those who come after us!
Contact details

contact@yorkmosque.com

JazakAllah khairan for your attention
Presentation 2
Green Lane Masjid & Community Centre

2019
The cycle of work that delivers our Vision

**Vision**
God/Allah in the hearts of the people

**Ebadah/Worship**
- Masjid activities
- 5 daily prayers
- Taraween/Qiyam
- Itikaf
- Feeding people - Iftar, suhoor
- Jumuah, Friday khutbas/sermons

**Care & Welfare**
- Foodbank
- Food kitchen
- Funeral Services
- Counselling Services
- Zakah/Charity service
- Youth Services
- Streetwatch
- Legal surgery
- Taskforce – Humanitarian Aid
- Winter Freeze
- Job Fairs
- Imam Q&A

**Social Activities**
- Celebrate Eid
- Coffee Mornings
- Sisters Basketball
- Charity dinners
- Kids Kick-boxing
- Scout
- GLM Football Club

**Outreach & Awareness Activities**
- Conferences & Talks
- School visits
- Exhibition Islam
- Open Days
- Outreach
- Intense Weekend Courses
- GLM TV

**Welfare Services**
- Model Muslims
- (Role models supporting activities, community work and social campaigns)

**Education**
- Sisters Education
- Evening College
- Children’s Madrasah
- Kids Budding Believers Club

**Doing Good Deeds**
- Conferences & Talks
- School visits
- Exhibition Islam
- Open Days
- Outreach
- Intense Weekend Courses
- GLM TV

**EDUCATE**

**SERVE**

**INSPIRE**
What did we do?

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2318177898450926&id=1375314042737321
“...And waste not by excess: for Allah does not love those who waste (by extravagance)”

Surah Al-An’aam, ayat 141.
The Situation

Previous years:

• **Over 800 bottles used every night** during the month of Ramadan

• A **huge amount of waste** left around in the masjid, leading to time consumed in clean up

• Skips and **waste bins hired** to remove waste

• **Complaints** received from neighbours about the amount of waste ending up on the streets (e.g. Morrisons)
How Did We Do It?

1. Highlighted the reasons for change to the community
2. Provided alternative solutions
3. Created awareness and attention
Michal Addison (CEO of Ecobirmingham) spoke at our Community Action Day about the harms of plastic.
We developed posters, issued social media posts and made announcements about our campaign and the need for change.
2. Provided Alternative Solutions

- We removed plastic bottles but provided alternative solutions:
  
  - Subsidized recyclable bottles filled with zam zam
  
  - Water fountains and filling stations during taraweeh
  
  - Water jugs during iftar and suhoor
3. Created Awareness

Media attention -

• Press release

• Media articles

05 May 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Green Lane Mosque and Community Centre is going green for Ramadan. "And waste not by excess: for Allah does not love waste." Surah Al-Araaam, Ayat 141.

During past years, GLMCC has always distributed plastic water bottles and soft drinks. This creates an incredible amount of plastic waste, harming the environment.

This year, we have teamed up with ecoBirmingham to promote an environmentally friendly Ramadan.

At our ‘Community Action Day’ last month, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, addressed the harms of plastic waste and the need for conservation.

“... the UK uses 13 billion plastic bottles a year and only 5% of them are recycled. They end up in landfill or as microplastics in the ocean - producing 333,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year. And there are now 1.9 million plastic bottles on average every day in the ocean."

Over Ramadan, Green Lane Mosque and Community Centre is visited, on average, by over 3,500 people and over 5,000 people are fed every night during the whole of Ramadan.

With this in mind, we have decided not to install water fountains. Instead, we have purchased water coolers and will be asking if guests would like their bottles refilled.

There are already 226 restaurants double that over the year who benefit the environment.

With over 4,000 attendees at the mosque to reduce our carbon footprint, we have already made a start.

Please support our community, the environment and reduce plastic waste.
Masjids have a huge level of influence...

- Facebook Followers: >750,000
- Instagram Followers: >10k
- Twitter Followers: 6k
- Snapchat Followers: 62,000
- YouTube Subscribers: 98,112
- YouTube Videos: 3,457
We have hundreds attending the mosques daily
Thousands attending jumuah and other events...

We need to use our influence for positive change...
Future Eco Plans

• Solar Panels
• Reduction in printing – monthly timetables (already underway)
• Reviewing waste recycling
Thank you for Listening

Any Questions?
Environment & Sustainability
Inspired by the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change

Some of the faith based environment work carried out by the Bahu Trust....
Faith based training for Imams on environment and sustainability...
...leading to environmental pledges by the Imams
And there is no creature on (or within) the earth or a bird that flies with its wings except that they are nations (communities) like you.

(Quran 6:38)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5Y6uB4AHoc

...and environmental messaging campaigns.
Education and awareness of reducing the use of plastics.
In the last three Ramadan, the Bahu Trust hosted a ‘single use’ plastic free Iftar in the mosque.
...attended by hundreds of people
Community clean ups – to promote clean and healthy streets
Community clean ups – to promote clean and healthy streets
Solar panels – Clean Green Energy
Bahu Trust was involved in the Small Footstep project....
...bringing together children from different faiths to learn about the environment
Madrassa Syllabus

• The Bahu Trust has included ‘Islam & The Environment’ module into its Islamic Studies modules
• Currently working on a madrassa text book
Recognition
Environment & Sustainability
Eco-Mosques Workshop

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1) View Slides

2) View Slides

3) View Slides