



## RESEARCH

# Green Behavior, Religion, and Environmentalism: Environmental Ethics for Sustainability Action

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### Abstract

This study builds upon numerous prior studies that have demonstrated the significant influence of religion on environmentally friendly and sustainable behaviors. The objective of this literature research is to examine various aspects of environmental ethics in climate change events, analyze moral values and religious philosophy in climate change action, and quantify the real shift in pro-environmental views within different religious groups (especially in Islamic religion, Christian & Catholic, Hinduism, and Buddhist). This study demonstrates the interconnectedness between environmental ethics and religious morality, highlighting how they perceive environmental issues through the lens of human awareness, influenced by concepts of sin and purity. This promotes eco-friendly behavior and sustainable practices among religious adherents, aiming to achieve environmental sustainability and mitigate the effects of climate change, including natural calamities, water scarcity, and agricultural losses. Religious moral consciousness roots this pro-environmental mentality, encouraging intermittent behavioral modifications that we should collectively implement. This method creates a "middle way" for addressing environmental issues caused by climate change. It involves adopting a balanced approach to utilizing nature, practicing moderate consumption, and promoting environmental sustainability and protection through collective action.

**Keywords** Sustainable Action; Religion; Environmentalism; Climate Change; Green Behavior.

## INTRODUCTION

At present, humanity is facing multiple serious and perhaps life-threatening environmental problems. Global climate change has caused a catastrophe, primarily due to human activities rather than natural factors (Abdillah et al., 2023; Widianingsih et al. 2022; McIntyre-Mills et al. 2023a). The moral philosophy of religions such as Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism teaches individuals to fulfil their basic needs in life. Spiritual achievement involves the active pursuit of happiness, the deliberate cultivation of compassion, the acknowledgment of the value of nature, and the conservation of the natural environment. These religious and moral principles promote long-lasting harmony between human existence and the natural world, as well as peaceful living with nature. The vibrancy of life is seen in the encounters of forest monks in Thailand (Skirbekk & Pędziwiatr, 2018). QS. Rum: 41 incorporates the environmentally conscious perspective of Islam. The ethical values expressed in this poem will motivate Muslims to protect sustainability and correct the damage caused to the universe.

In a variety of scholarly publications, the investigation of environmental ethics in climate change events and the influence of moral values and religious philosophy on climate change initiatives has emerged as a captivating subject. Prianto et al. (2021) and McIntyre-Mills et al. (2023a) examine the dimensions of environmental ethics in climate change occurrences and investigate moral values and religious philosophy in climate change initiatives, with the goal of integrating these dimensions to enhance sustainability efforts. In their study, Shin & Preston (2021) emphasize the favourable influence of attitudes toward environmental management on enhancing human perceptions and moralization regarding climate change. According to Skalski et al. (2023), religious beliefs and moral ideals have significant relevance in tackling climate challenges. In addition, Fair (2019) explores several perspectives on religion that provide individuals with the ability to take action based on spiritual beliefs in addressing the consequences of climate change.

In addition, Stern (2014) explores ethical viewpoints and principles that are pertinent to the examination of climate change policies. The author highlights the significance of ethics and fairness in tackling the difficulties posed by climate change. Moreover, Behl (2016) highlights the significance of ethical communication in directing climate policy choices, specifically in the Arctic region. In their study, Lau et al. (2021) and Jenkins et al. (2018) emphasize the significance of identifying underlying moral frameworks in climate change governance in order to advance climate governance that is both socially and ecologically equitable. Several significant studies have shown the essential connection between religious morality and the implementation of environmental ethics in sustainable practices, particularly in response to global climate.

This study aims to offer a thorough analysis emphasizing the substantial impact of environmental ethics, moral values, and religious philosophy in shaping attitudes and behaviors toward mitigating the consequences of climate change. The focus of this research examines to what extent religion has an impact on sustainability issues and what can we learn?. In order to ensure sustainability and effectively tackle climate change in the future, it is imperative that we simultaneously understand and incorporate key elements while fostering ethical reactions to the issue.

This study is a scholarly review and discussion of the research literature on the significant influence of religion on environmentally friendly and sustainable behavior that does not meet the criteria for

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a review article because: its scope is too narrow or the main purpose of the paper is to support the discussion of various aspects of environmental ethics in the event of climate change, analyze the moral values and philosophy of religion in climate change action, and measure the real shift in pro-environmental views in various religious groups (especially in Islam, Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism). This study attempts to present a more forward-looking and/or speculative view than the typical literature review/article and may take a narrower field of view. This study may contain opinions but we try our best to keep the study and discussion balanced, and is intended to stimulate discussion and consideration of new approaches for further investigation and understanding especially in the discussion of environmental ethics for sustainability action.

This paper serves as a foundation that not only enriches existing knowledge but also paves the way for future research efforts aimed at understanding and enhancing the role of religion in promoting environmental protection and sustainability in the face of future crises and threats. This paper identifies gaps in current research. This can guide future research to address areas that have not been explored in greater depth, such as the role of lesser-known religious groups or the impact of interfaith dialogue on environmental action. This paper can also form the basis for longitudinal research that tracks changes in pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors within religious communities over time. Such research can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of religious teachings and community initiatives in promoting sustainable practices. Future research can explore the global implications of religious environmentalism, particularly in regions facing acute ecological challenges.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research methodology employs literature reviews and qualitative synthesis analysis, utilizing systematic techniques to gather, analyze, and synthesize qualitative data from many sources (Bearman & Dawson, 2013; Rada et al., 2020). These strategies strive to offer a systematic and thorough integration of qualitative findings.

The data sources utilized in this study encompass a wide range of materials, including Scientific Articles (13 research articles), Website (5 documents online), and Media Social (4 Videos YouTube) [see Table 1]. International conference discourses were also considered, and all data obtained in the lesson and reconfirmed using data triangulation (method, time, and place) to ensure the validity of the data. The data sources in this research are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. List of research data sources used.

No.	Data Sources	References/Coverage
1.	Scientific Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prianto et al. (2021) <a href="https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202127706011">https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202127706011</a></li> <li>• Shin &amp; Preston (2021). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000249">https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000249</a></li> <li>• Skirbekk &amp; Pędziwiatr (2018). <a href="https://www.academia.edu/download/57995670/Skirbekk_Pedziwiatr-Sustainability-and-climate-change.pdf">https://www.academia.edu/download/57995670/Skirbekk_Pedziwiatr-Sustainability-and-climate-change.pdf</a></li> <li>• Stern (2014). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/s0266267114000297">https://doi.org/10.1017/s0266267114000297</a></li> <li>• Mangunjaya &amp; Praharawati (2019). <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10100570">https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10100570</a></li> <li>• Major-Smith (2024). <a href="https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/rqz3f">https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/rqz3f</a></li> <li>• Lau et al. (2021). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.06.005">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.06.005</a></li> <li>• Hattingh (2012). <a href="https://doi.org/10.55997/ps12005xlvii140a4">https://doi.org/10.55997/ps12005xlvii140a4</a></li> <li>• Goldberg et al. (2019). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/1075547019860847">https://doi.org/10.1177/1075547019860847</a></li> <li>• Gade (2015). <a href="https://brill.com/view/journals/wo/19/2/article-p161_6.xml">https://brill.com/view/journals/wo/19/2/article-p161_6.xml</a></li> <li>• Fair (2019). <a href="https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2019-1216">https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2019-1216</a></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behl (2016). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1017/s0032247416000152">https://doi.org/10.1017/s0032247416000152</a></li> <li>Agusalim, L. (2024). <a href="https://doi.org/10.32479/ijeep.15166">https://doi.org/10.32479/ijeep.15166</a></li> </ul>
2.	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PRRI (2023). [online] <a href="https://www.prrri.org/research/the-faith-factor-in-climate-change-how-religion-impacts-american-attitudes-on-climate-and-environmental-policy/#:~:text=The%20National%20Association%20of%20Evangelicals,action%20to%20protect%20the%20environment.">https://www.prrri.org/research/the-faith-factor-in-climate-change-how-religion-impacts-american-attitudes-on-climate-and-environmental-policy/#:~:text=The%20National%20Association%20of%20Evangelicals,action%20to%20protect%20the%20environment.</a></li> <li>UNep (2024). [online] <a href="https://www.unep.org/faith-and-climate-action#:~:text=Faith%20leaders%20are%20sounding%20the,response%20to%20the%20existential%20threat%E2%80%A6">https://www.unep.org/faith-and-climate-action#:~:text=Faith%20leaders%20are%20sounding%20the,response%20to%20the%20existential%20threat%E2%80%A6</a></li> <li>Pew Research Center (2022). [online] <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/religious-groups-views-on-climate-change/#:~:text=Most%20members%20of%20non%2DChristian,is%20not%20a%20serious%20problem.">https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/religious-groups-views-on-climate-change/#:~:text=Most%20members%20of%20non%2DChristian,is%20not%20a%20serious%20problem.</a></li> <li>University of Cambridge (2023). [online] <a href="https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/2023/does-religion-have-the-power-to-persuade-us-to-take-climate-action/">https://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/2023/does-religion-have-the-power-to-persuade-us-to-take-climate-action/</a></li> <li>Skirbekk &amp; Pędziwiatr (2018). [online] <a href="https://sharepoint.uclouvain.be/sites/cismodoc/Articles/V.%20Skirbekk%20et%20K.%20P.%20C4%99dziwiatr,%20Sustainability%20and%20climate%20change%20in%20major%20religions%20with%20a%20focus%20on%20Islam,%20Humaitarian%20Academy%20for%20Development,%2014%20d%C3%A9cembre%202018Sustainability-and-climate-change%20-%20English.pdf">https://sharepoint.uclouvain.be/sites/cismodoc/Articles/V.%20Skirbekk%20et%20K.%20P.%20C4%99dziwiatr,%20Sustainability%20and%20climate%20change%20in%20major%20religions%20with%20a%20focus%20on%20Islam,%20Humaitarian%20Academy%20for%20Development,%2014%20d%C3%A9cembre%202018Sustainability-and-climate-change%20-%20English.pdf</a></li> </ul>
3.	Media Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvard Divinity School (2023a). [Youtube] <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMxzpc4DzdA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMxzpc4DzdA</a></li> <li>Harvard Divinity School (2023a). [Youtube] <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0MyeZ2qeVs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0MyeZ2qeVs</a></li> <li>UnEarth Muslims (2023). Sheikh Hamza Yusuf on climate change [Youtube] <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOm98A49b0w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOm98A49b0w</a></li> <li>ByChoiceMuslim (2015). Sacred Earth, Sacred Self - Shaykh Hamza Yusuf. [Youtube] <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TizX5aFeM7c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TizX5aFeM7c</a></li> </ul>

Source: Processed from various sources, 2024

After all the data was obtained, we carried out data analysis using in-depth interactive analysis (Miles et al., 2018) by collecting data, reducing data, verifying data, presenting data, and drawing conclusions to get the best findings.

## RESULTS

### Religion and Environmentalism in Climate Action

Studying the ethical aspects of climate change events as well as the impact of religious, moral, and philosophical values on climate change actions yields valuable insights. Studies by Nche (2023) and Major-Smith (2024) conducted research demonstrating that belonging to a religious group, regularly attending religious services, and holding favorable views on environmentally conscious practices based on religious beliefs all contribute to increased awareness, perception, and engagement in addressing climate change. The results indicate that people who have a stronger connection to their religious beliefs are more likely to participate in pro-environmental actions because they believe in the importance of environmental stewardship. The following (refer to Table 2) provides an account of

the fundamental tenets of environmental ethics concerning religion and climate change, including the viewpoints of Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Catholicism, and Islam.

Table 2. Principles of environmental ethics based on religious morals

Religions	Climate Action	Environmentalism and sustainability
Islamic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “cf. Quran, 30:41” - awareness of environmental protection.</li> <li>• Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change (IDGCC) 2015 as a strategic entity and important affirmation on climate change.</li> <li>• “cf. Quran, 7:31” - underlines the importance of sustainable consumption practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islam views environmental sustainability and climate change from the perspectives of stewardship (Khalifah) and balance (Mizan).</li> <li>• Islamic environmentalism is a burgeoning movement among Muslims that promotes the integration of Islamic teachings with environmental activism. This includes the promotion of environmentally friendly actions, such as waste reduction and water conservation, as well as active participation in community initiatives aimed at addressing climate change.</li> </ul>
Christian and Catholic*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theological Foundations: Numerous Christian theologians contend that environmental deterioration is a moral quandary, as it impacts the welfare of all existence. The Catholic Church has expressed a firm position on environmental matters, particularly through papal encyclicals.</li> <li>• Social justice: This viewpoint urges Christians to support policies that safeguard the environment and uphold the rights of the impoverished.</li> <li>• Community Engagement: Christian communities are progressively participating in environmental endeavors, including conservation projects, sustainable agriculture, and lobbying for climate action. Several churches and groups actively advocate for eco-friendly practices and urge their members to adopt sustainable lifestyles.</li> <li>• Moral Responsibility: Christians should consider their lifestyle choices and consumption patterns in light of their beliefs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianity and Catholicism prioritize stewardship, the care for creation, and social justice in their examination of environmental sustainability and climate change. These convictions inspire individuals to take action to protect the environment and advocate for the rights of those most affected by ecological degradation.</li> <li>• The essential principles highlighted in Christian and Catholic ethics encompass love, compassion, reverence, and regard for the divine creation. We sometimes refer to this value as creation or stewardship. Secular environmental values inherently incorporate love and respect for the earth.</li> <li>• However, what distinguishes eco-theology is its perspective of the earth as an integral component of God's creation and the conviction that humans have a responsibility to nurture and protect it. Establishing a clear connection between the ground and the rest of God's creation evokes the essence of spirituality, namely the interdependence of all entities, which can serve as a source of inspiration.</li> <li>• We mean here: "Various Christian traditions, including Catholic and Protestant, interpret environmental ethics through both Scripture and church teachings, albeit with different emphases."</li> </ul>
Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hindu philosophy highlights the interdependence of all living beings and their integration into a wider cosmic arrangement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinduism perceives environmental sustainability and climate change from a holistic standpoint, highlighting the interdependence</li> </ul>

	<p>referred to as <i>Dharma</i>. This study cultivates a sense of responsibility towards the environment, perceiving harm to nature as detrimental to oneself and the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinduism considers several elements of nature, such as rivers, mountains, and animals, to be sacred. For instance, Hindu worship and rituals revere the Ganges River as a divine entity and place significant importance on it. This devotion motivates adherents to protect and maintain the integrity of natural resources.</li> <li>• <i>Ahimsa</i>, or non-violence, is a principle that encompasses all living beings and the environment. Hindus encourage to embrace sustainable practices that aim to reduce environmental harm, such as adopting vegetarianism and practicing responsible consumption.</li> <li>• Traditional Hindu practices often involve the implementation of sustainable agricultural methods, the conservation of water, and the careful management of natural resources.</li> <li>• Hindu festivals and ceremonies aim to honor nature and foster a heightened awareness of the environment.</li> <li>• Philosophical literature, such as the <i>Vedas</i> and <i>Upanishads</i>, present in Hindu scriptures, emphasizes the need to cultivate a harmonious connection with the natural world.</li> <li>• The concept of "<i>Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam</i>," which signifies the interconnectedness of the universe as a unified family, encapsulates the notion that all living organisms coexist in a common dwelling and should cooperate to improve the planet.</li> </ul>	<p>of all living beings and the natural world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This religion's doctrines promote reverence for the natural world, the sanctity of the earth, and the importance of maintaining a harmonious relationship with the environment. Essentially,</li> <li>• Hinduism promotes a profound reverence for nature and highlights the interdependence of all living beings. The teachings of this ideology promote sustainable practices, nonviolence, and a feeling of environmental responsibility.</li> <li>• As a result, it holds significant relevance in the discussion around environmental sustainability and climate change.</li> </ul>
<p>Buddhist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interconnectedness (Dependent Origination): A key principle in Buddhism is the concept of interconnectedness, also known as "dependent origination," which states that all things emerge in connection with each other. This comprehension cultivates a sense of environmental responsibility, as causing harm to one component of the ecosystem has an impact on the whole.</li> <li>• Buddhist teachings prioritize the cultivation of mindfulness and simplicity in one's daily life. Engaging in mindfulness can result in heightened awareness of one's consumption habits and a decrease in waste production. A significant number of Buddhists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddhism addresses environmental sustainability and climate change by emphasizing the fundamental principles of interconnectedness, compassion, and mindfulness. These principles guide the Buddhist perspective on the environment and shape activities that aim to foster ecological balance and sustainability.</li> <li>• Buddhism prioritizes the concepts of interconnectedness, compassion, and awareness while addressing environmental sustainability and climate change. Buddhism's teachings motivate individuals and communities to participate in behaviors that</li> </ul>

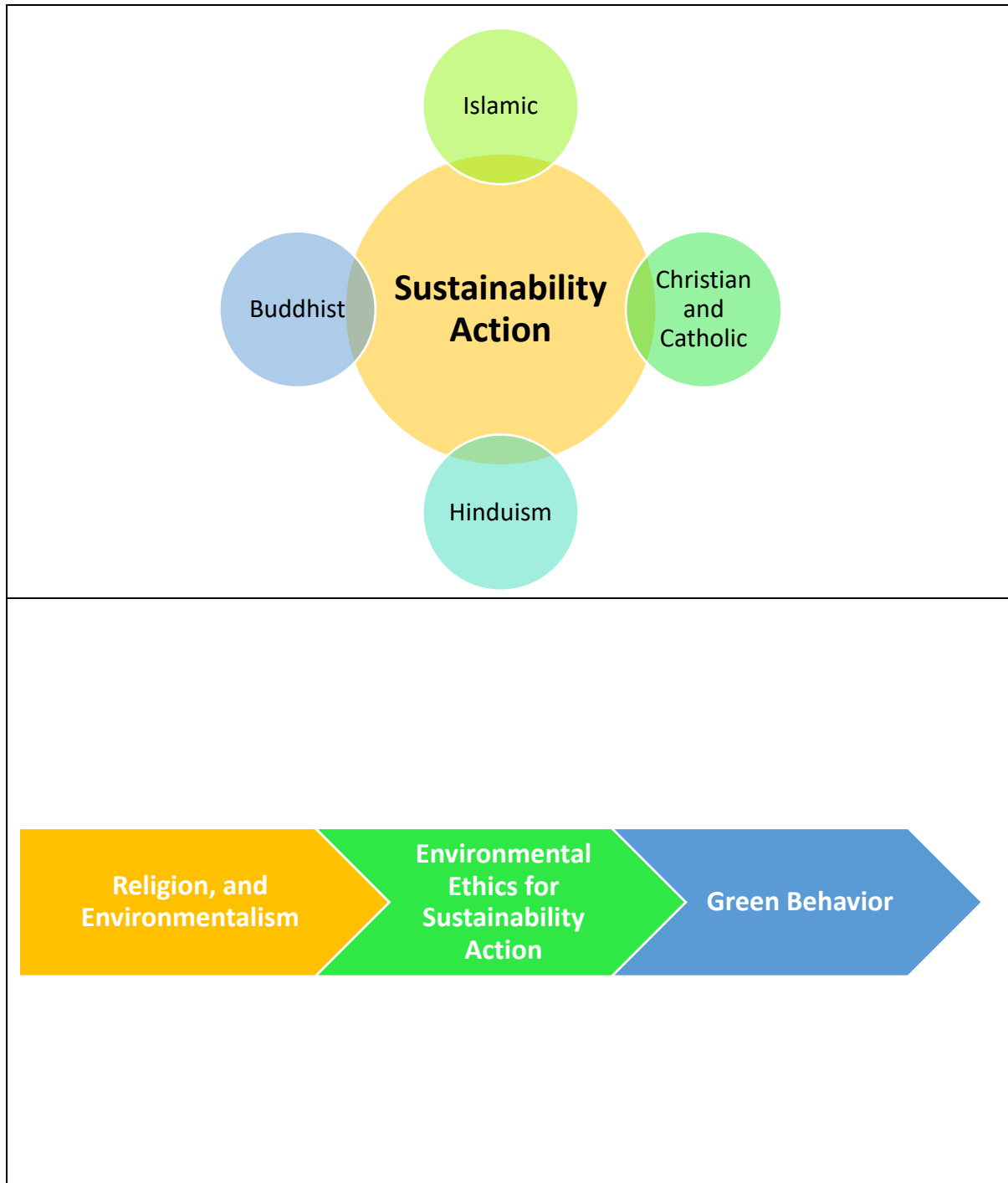
	<p>promote a minimalist way of living that aims to reduce environmental harm, in accordance with the idea of "right action" in the Eightfold Path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddhist Environmental Movements: Over the past few decades, there has been an increase in Buddhists' engagement in environmental action. Organizations like the Buddhist Global Relief and the Eco-Buddhism movement prioritize tackling climate change and advancing sustainability through educational initiatives, advocacy efforts, and community involvement.</li> <li>• The Buddhist doctrine of impermanence (<i>Anicca</i>) emphasizes the ephemeral quality of all phenomena, including the natural surroundings. This understanding can motivate individuals to participate in efforts to protect the planet, recognizing that the current state of the environment is temporary and subject to change through collective effort.</li> <li>• Engaged Buddhism is a movement that utilizes Buddhist ideas to address social, political, and environmental concerns. Renowned individuals such as Thich Nhat Hanh have underscored the significance of tackling climate change and environmental deterioration as an integral aspect of a wider dedication to social equity and harmony.</li> </ul>	<p>safeguard the environment and advance ecological equilibrium, positioning it as a prominent contributor to the sustainability conversation.</p>
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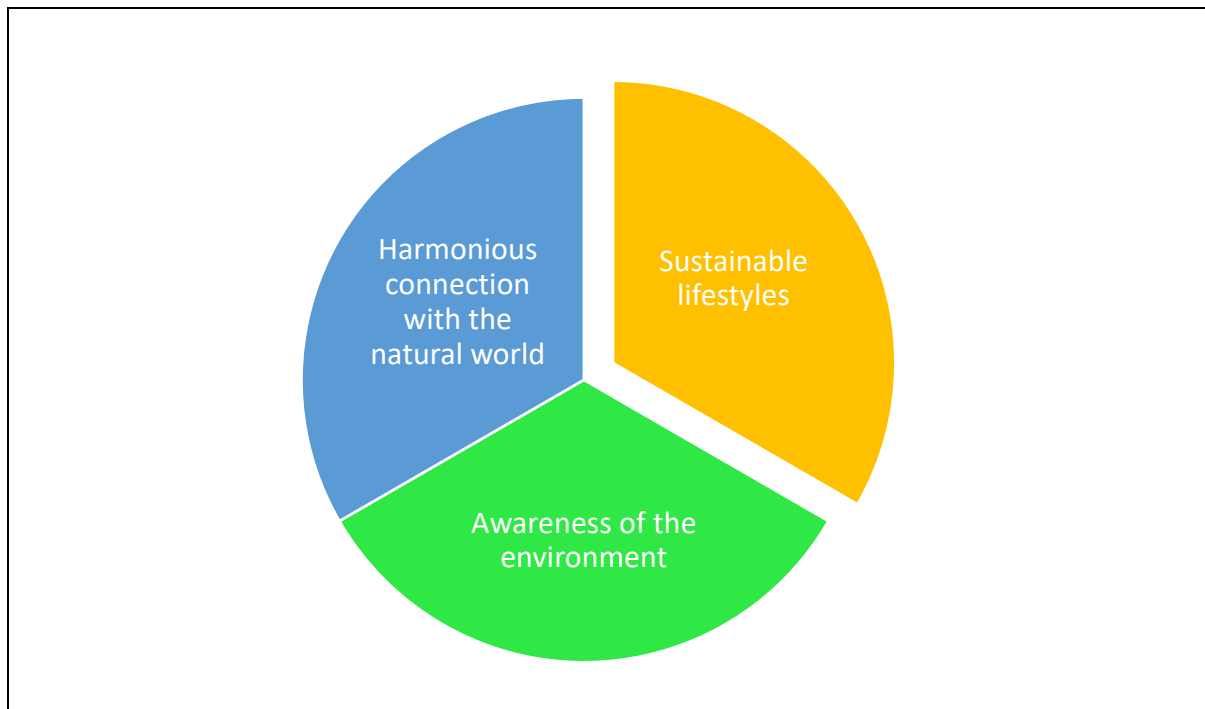
Source: Compiled from various sources (see Table 1), 2024

\*Information on the differences between Christians and Catholics in this study is only differentiated based on the teachings of the Bible (Christian) and the teachings of the church (Catholic) regarding climate change and environmental ethics [Impotent: Catholicism is a major branch of Christianity, and Catholics also follow the Bible]. We mean here: "Various Christian traditions, including Catholic and Protestant, interpret environmental ethics through both Scripture and church teachings, albeit with different emphases."

According to the information shown in Table 2, religion and belief play a significant influence in addressing the occurrence of climate change. This is due to the fact that religion has the capacity to influence the conduct of around 6.7 billion individuals, which accounts for almost 85% of the global population, in order to promote efforts aimed at mitigating climate change (Skirbekk & Pędzwiatr, 2018; Jenkins et al., 2018). The elements that contribute to religion and belief's impact on mitigating climate change are numerous (see Figure 1). Religious leaders may exert significant influence on environmental policy and initiatives through active engagement with legislators and participation in international environmental discourse. The religious teachings often provide a robust moral and ethical framework that emphasizes the responsibility of individuals to care for the Earth. Religious

communities are positioned as powerful agents for mobilizing collective action towards environmental initiatives.





**Figure 1.** Visual plots about the principles of environmental ethics based on religious morals.

The first requirement is to have a distinct and tangible component. Indonesia has a population of 240 million individuals who adhere to various religious beliefs, although in Asia as a whole, the number of religious followers amounts to 3 billion people. Globally, there are around 6.7 billion individuals who adhere to a religious faith, constituting approximately 85% of the total global population (Skirbekk & Pędziwiatr, 2018). A second factor is the presence of references to religious beliefs in the form of sacred texts like the Quran and the Bible, as well as religious publications like fiqh and tafsir. The holy book contains numerous scriptures that explicitly and unequivocally encourage religious adherents to adopt environmentally friendly practices and mitigate climate change.

Furthermore, religion also instills in us the value of revering all forms of life on our planet (Skirbekk & Pędziwiatr, 2018). Religion can control climate change by exerting its power to moderate and regulate behaviors. Religion promotes frugal and efficient behavior among humans, which contributes to the mitigation of climate change (Skirbekk & Pędziwiatr, 2018; McIntyre-Mills et al., 2023; Jenkins et al., 2018). Meanwhile, prominent religions wield significant political influence and can actively support policies that tackle climate change and advance sustainability. Religious leaders can have their influence on environmental legislation and efforts by actively involving lawmakers and participating in global conversations.

## DISCUSSIONS AND IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

Hattingh's (2012) research underscores the discernible consequences of climate change, including the dissolution of ice sheets, the escalation of sea levels, the occurrence of severe weather events, and the depletion of biodiversity. This research emphasizes the imperative need to confront climate concerns promptly. Prianto et al. (2021) examine the ethical dimensions of climate change events and the moral ideals associated with religion, with the goal of incorporating these dimensions into actions that promote sustainability. This study emphasizes the significance of comprehending and

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integrating ethical and moral aspects into climate change responses.

In addition, studies by Agusalim (2024) and Goldberg et al. (2019) emphasize the significant role of religiosity in reducing carbon emissions and motivating individuals, especially Christians, to engage in climate change action. These findings suggest that religious beliefs can serve as a powerful motivator for environmental management and climate action (Skirbekk & Pędziwiatr, 2018). Religion and beliefs play a significant role in mitigating climate change. For instance, religion plays a significant role in how we use resources like houses of worship. We can encourage religious followers to use houses of worship in a more environmentally friendly way. Avoid wasting water during ablution or use renewable energy to illuminate the church. Another contribution involves shaping the lifestyle of its followers (Mangunjaya & Praharawati, 2019).

When implementing the Hajj pilgrimage, we should consider the carbon offset of each congregation. If each person emits 2.83 metric tons (MT) of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent and there are 230,000 Indonesian Hajj pilgrims, then there is an emission release of 650,900 MT of CO<sub>2</sub>. In Indonesia, religious contributions to climate change mitigation are being implemented, such as the fatwa issued by the Indonesian Ulema Council on environmental and forestry conservation. In addition, there is a fatwa from the MUI regarding the prohibition of burning forests and land (Gade, 2015; Mangunjaya & Praharawati, 2019).

We also made a categorization of sustainability actions in this research that can be explained systematically as follows:

### 1. Worship

- **Definition:** Worship refers to the practices and rituals that religious communities engage in to express their faith and devotion.
- **Role in Sustainability:** Worship can incorporate themes of environmental stewardship, such as prayers for the Earth, blessings for nature, and rituals that emphasize the sacredness of creation. These practices can inspire congregants to reflect on their relationship with the environment and motivate them to engage in sustainable behaviors.
- **Examples:** Religious services that include sermons on environmental issues, special observances for Earth Day, or communal prayers for ecological healing can reinforce the importance of caring for the planet.

### 2. Advocacy

- **Definition:** Advocacy involves efforts to influence public policy and raise awareness about environmental issues from a religious perspective.
- **Role in Sustainability:** Religious leaders and organizations can leverage their moral authority to advocate for environmental justice, climate action, and sustainable practices. This advocacy can mobilize communities and influence policymakers to prioritize environmental issues.
- **Examples:** Campaigns led by religious groups to promote renewable energy,

statements issued by faith leaders on climate change, and participation in environmental protests or initiatives demonstrate how advocacy can drive sustainability efforts.

### 3. Institutional Development (Religious Buildings, Facilities, etc.)

- **Definition:** Institutional development refers to the physical infrastructure and resources that religious organizations create and maintain, including places of worship, community centers, and educational facilities.
- **Role in Sustainability:** The design and operation of these facilities can reflect sustainable practices, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the use of sustainable materials. By modeling environmentally friendly practices, religious institutions can serve as examples for their communities.
- **Examples:** Implementing solar panels on church roofs, using eco-friendly materials in construction, and creating community gardens on religious grounds are ways that institutional development can contribute to sustainability.

### 4. Spiritual/Educational Formation

- **Definition:** Spiritual and educational formation encompasses the teachings, programs, and curricula that religious organizations provide to their members.
- **Role in Sustainability:** This formation can include education on environmental ethics, the theological basis for caring for creation, and practical training on sustainable practices. By integrating environmental education into spiritual formation, religious communities can cultivate a deeper understanding of their role in environmental stewardship.
- **Examples:** Workshops on sustainable living, educational programs that explore the intersection of faith and ecology, and youth programs that engage young people in environmental service projects are all examples of how spiritual and educational formation can promote sustainability.

Based on this, we categorize sustainability actions into worship, advocacy, institutional development, and spiritual formation/education, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding how religious communities can engage in environmental stewardship. Each category plays a distinct but interrelated role in promoting sustainability, demonstrating that faith-based initiatives can make significant contributions to addressing ecological challenges. Through the integration of these initiatives, religious organizations can promote a comprehensive approach to sustainability that is consistent with their doctrinal values and ethical teachings.

The synthesis of the results of this study underscores the positive influence of religious affiliation, moral values, and ethical considerations on climate change awareness, perception, and action. Understanding the interaction between environmental ethics, moral values, and religious philosophy is essential to promoting sustainable behavior and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Based on this, the implications of this study suggest that the world's major religions (Islam,

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Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism) can play an important role in realizing environmental sustainability and addressing the impacts of climate change. Leveraging their moral authority, community networks, and teachings, religious groups can contribute significantly to global efforts aimed at creating a more sustainable and equitable future.

In addition, we also argue religion can contribute to environmental safeguarding in several key ways: (a) Moral and ethical guidance: Religious teachings often provide a moral framework that emphasizes stewardship of the Earth. This study encourages followers to view environmental protection as a moral obligation, fostering a sense of responsibility towards nature and all living beings; (b.) Community mobilization: religious communities can mobilize collective action for environmental initiatives. Many faith-based organizations engage in community projects focused on conservation, sustainable practices, and climate advocacy, thereby leveraging their networks to promote environmental safeguarding; (c) Behavioral influence: religion can shape individual behaviors and lifestyle choices. Religious beliefs that emphasize values such as simplicity, reverence for nature, and frugality can serve as powerful motivators for adherents to engage in sustainable practices and minimize their environmental impact; d. Advocacy and policy influence: religious leaders and organizations can play a significant role in advocating for environmental policies. Their moral authority can influence lawmakers and public opinion, leading to stronger commitments to environmental protection and sustainability; (e) Educational initiatives: religious institutions often serve as platforms for education on environmental issues. Integrating environmental ethics into religious teachings enables faith leaders to enhance environmental awareness among followers and encourage the adoption of proactive conservation measures.; and (f) Interconnectedness and holistic views: many religions emphasize the interconnectedness of all life, which can foster a holistic understanding of environmental issues.

This study encourages a comprehensive approach to environmental safeguarding that considers the well-being of all creatures and ecosystems. We highlight that by utilizing their moral influence, community engagement, and educational roles, religious groups can significantly contribute to environmental safeguarding and promote sustainable practices among their adherents.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study highlights the beneficial impact of religious affiliation, moral ideals, and ethical considerations on climate change awareness, perception, and action. Gaining a comprehensive comprehension of the interplay among environmental ethics, moral principles, and religious philosophy is crucial for fostering sustainable conduct and tackling the difficulties presented by climate change. The study implies that the world's major religions, including Islam, Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism, can have a significant impact on achieving environmental sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change. Religious groups can make a substantial contribution to global endeavors focused on establishing a more sustainable and fair future by utilizing their moral influence, community connections, and teachings.

This study also underscores the important role that religion plays in fostering environmental protection and sustainability. By providing a moral and ethical framework, religious teachings inspire their adherents to view stewardship of the earth as a fundamental responsibility. Collective action mobilized by religious communities (such as Islam, Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and

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Buddhism) increases community involvement in environmental initiatives, while the behavioral influence of religious values encourages individuals to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

In addition, advocacy efforts by religious leaders can have a significant impact on environmental policy, promoting a stronger commitment to addressing climate change and preserving natural resources. Educational initiatives undertaken by religious institutions further strengthen awareness and understanding of environmental issues, empowering followers to take proactive action.

Ultimately, the interconnectedness emphasized in many religious philosophies (including Islam, Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism) fosters a holistic approach to environmental protection, recognizing the intrinsic value of all living beings and ecosystems. By leveraging their moral authority, community networks, and teachings, religions such as Islam, Christianity & Catholicism, Hinduism, and Buddhism can play a transformative role in advancing global efforts toward a more sustainable and equitable future. This study highlights the importance of integrating religious values into environmental discourse, as they can serve as powerful motivators for change and inspire collective action in addressing pressing ecological challenges.

#### **DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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#### **USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY**

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation, analysis, or writing of this manuscript. All aspects of the research, including data collection, interpretation, and manuscript preparation, were carried out entirely by the authors without the assistance of AI-based technologies.

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