



Buddhist Council of NSW
Working for the Buddhist Community

15 February 2021

Sacred People, Sacred Earth
Buddhist Council joins global day of action on climate change
March 11th 2021

The Buddhist Council of NSW is joining with other Buddhist organisations, the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and Greenfaith International in *Sacred People, Sacred Earth*, a international day of action by communities of faith to demand strong action and climate justice on Thursday 11 March 2021.

The action acknowledges that our planet is in trouble: global heating, pollution, and environmental damage is leading to bushfires, droughts and extinctions. Australia is one of the most vulnerable countries on earth. Some Pacific nations are in danger of vanishing under rising seas. As always, it is the poorest who suffer most.

Our intention is to show the commitment of communities of faith and build pressure for strong action as part of the lead up to COP26 in November. Buddhist Council of NSW Chair Gawaine Powell Davies says “This is a good opportunity to show that Buddhism is socially active and for Buddhist groups and individuals to show their support for climate justice. I hope to see many Buddhists taking part.”

The [Sacred People Sacred Earth Action Kit](#) has full details about the day of action and suggestions for what you can do. Here are some suggestions for Australian Buddhist groups and individuals for how to sound the alarm on climate change.

Individuals

- Sign the [Sacred People Sacred Earth statement](#) and encourage others to do so. Every name makes a difference!
- Join in one of the public meditation events at 10.30am on Thursday March 11th.
 - Outside Scott Morrison’s office (130 The Kingsway, Cronulla)
 - Opposite NSW Parliament in Macquarie Street
 - Outside Newtown Station

- All locations are near public transport (10 minute walk at

www.buddhistconnection.org Cronulla)

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- Bring a cushion/milk crate/stool to sit on; water; a sun hat and sunscreen; a sign identifying your sangha/group/temple or with your climate message; a bell, gong or other means of sounding the alarm.
- Keep up to date with Covid restrictions (currently 500 people allowed, one person per 2sq m). A Covid safe plan will be in force.

Temples/sanghas/Buddhist groups

- Choose an action that you can take or before the 11th March. For example:
 - sound the alarm: ring bells, sound gongs or horns
 - put a sign outside your building
 - join in on one of the meditation events or create one of your own
 - dedicate your normal meditation/worship meeting to climate justice, with a sign showing your support for the issue (suggestions below).
- [Register your action at the ARRCC website](#)
- It is important to film or photograph your action using banners or posters to identify your group, highlight your climate demands and brand it as part of **Sacred People, Sacred Earth**.
- Upload your images to social media on or before 11th March, using the hashtags #SacredPeopleSacredEarth / #Faiths4Climate / #KillingThePlanetIsAgainstMyReligion and also tag it @GreenFaith. You will then feature on a map of actions around the world, and may be used in media stories etc.
 - Images may include screen shots of online meetings or meditation, take, add a suitable message, but close-ups of meditating with a suitable sign are more photogenic.

ARRCC offers free training to help amplify your action on social media

Book at <https://www.arrcc.org.au/>

- Day of Action introductory workshop. Friday Feb. 25th 1.00 – 2.00 pm
- Using Facebook: Thurs 16th February 2.00 – 4.00 pm / Wed. 17th 7.00 - 9.00 pm
- Australia and COP26 Thurs 18th February 7.00 – 9.30 pm
- Basics in Twitter: Wed. Feb 24th 2.00 – 4.00 pm / Fri Feb 26th 7.00 – 9.00pm

More information

<https://www.arrcc.org.au/>

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