

EARTH DAY

Prepared by Dr. Mohammed Saleh

It is the Earth Day of the UN. The Earth Day is now observed each year on April 22 in virtually every country on Earth. Denis Hayes, the co-coordinator of the original Earth Day in 1970, took it to the world on April 22, 1990. Forty years after the first Earth Day, the world is in greater peril than ever. While climate change is the greatest challenge of our time, it also presents the greatest opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous, clean energy economy now and for the future.

PART 1: READ

وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ (القصص)

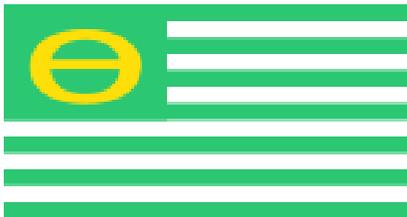
And seek not corruption in the earth; lo! Allah loveth not corrupters (Quran 28: 77)

PART 2: LEARN

1) The word "earth" came in the Quran to mean dust (2:71), soil (22:5), water carrying underground layers (232:18), the surface of the outer earth layer (13:3) and the planet as a whole (55:33). Earth here refers to the entire planet where corruption can spread: soil, surface, water, air and bio-cover.

2) Allah does not like corruption and corruptors. Other words for corruption are: deformation, spoiling, impairment, perversion, demoralization
What is the opposite of corruption? [Making good, making right, setting right, repairing, reparation, reformation, restoration]

3) This is the picture of the Ecology flag; the symbol is a combination of the letters "E" and "O" taken from the words "Environment" and "Organism," respectively. The flag is patterned after the United States' flag, with thirteen alternating-green-and-whites stripes. Earth Day 2010 coincided with the World People's Conference on Climate Change and with the International Year of Biodiversity.



4) Now the Earth Day is changing to Earth Week. The Earth Day 1970 celebrated in Philadelphia gave birth to Earth Week, April 16-22. It was created by a committee of students (mostly from University of Pennsylvania), professionals, leaders of grass roots organizations and businessmen concerned about the environment. They decided that the Earth Day would focus on climate change and would end a week of environmental activities.



5) Earth Day is: A Time for Strengthening the Links with Mother Earth.

References:
Wikipedia



PART 3: THINK & CONNECT

Some Muslims think that the True Earth Day (TED) was declared in the Quran some 1,400 years ago, long before the declaration of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Do you agree or disagree? Account for your answer.

What can you do as a Muslim to reform the corruption “fasad” in earth?

Study the photos above and then design an Islamic Earth Day Flag in the box below.

The Islamic Earth Day Flag