

“We cannot segregate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life moulds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every abiding change in the life of man is the result of these mutual reactions.” - Shoghi Effendi

Baha'is believe that nature is an imperative component of life – to such an extent that Baha'i scriptures describe nature as a reflection of God. We believe that it is our duty to preserve and value nature, as it is a crucial step in ensuring an ever-advancing human civilization.

We view ourselves as the trustees of the plethora of resources that our beautiful planet has to offer. Humanity is urged to utilise the Earth's resources (whether renewable or non-renewable) in a way that is sustainable – and ensures that future generations have equal access to the same resources.

To attain a sustainable way of living necessitates that we always consider the environmental impacts and consequences of all the activities that we undertake. We need to realise the importance of humility and moderation in our actions – and cease to view nature in terms of economics and currency. Most importantly, we need to understand the importance of nature in our material and spiritual development as humanity; that sustainable development is not just an optional commitment, but one of the requirements for the physical survival of the individual and the spiritual growth of the individual.

Baha'is believe that the following changes must be made at social and institutional levels in order to foster sustainable development and the preservation of nature:

- At a governmental level, questions challenging the distribution of resources and the responsibility of environmental destruction must be posed – this will encourage governments to implement policies that take into account the health of the environment and entire communities.
- At an institutional, non-state level a global scientific counsel is needed to make more efficient decision making and reporting – paying close attention to the three fold relationship between environmental issues and social and political issues.
- At an educational level, the curriculum provided should try to establish a sense of responsibility for the environment in learners.

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