



# Share Your Story

## Advocating for Environmental Justice as a Person of Faith and/or Conscience

A foundation of being a faith-rooted, conscience-led advocate is being able to identify and share why you care. What are the values that inform your call to environmental justice? Who inspires you to live out these values? How does your spirituality and/or values compel you to act?

**By reflecting on three questions, i.e. who are you, what do you value, and what do you want, you will be able to effectively share your story on “why” caring for planet and people matters to you.**

In this 4 part exercise, we will help you craft the answers to these questions and help you tap into a tradition that is intrinsic to us as people of faith and conscience, storytelling. As people of faith and conscience, storytelling is something we already know how to do and it is practice many of our sacred traditions already use.

This guide will help you to craft your story, the one you are an expert on, so that you can effectively communicate with friends, family, policy-makers, and others why advocating for strong environmental policies as well as a just and sustainable future for all is sacred and communal work.

## 1. Who Are You?

### Questions to help you remember/know your “why.”

- When did you start loving the earth?
- What life experiences have shaped how you think about caring for the earth or a particular?
- How does your faith and/or conscience relate to environmental justice?
- Do you have a story about how you, your family, your community have been affected by environmental issues?
  - How have you/your community responded?
- Where do you see a call to environmental justice within:
  - Sacred stories or religious teachings?
  - Spiritual experiences or encounters with the Divine?
  - Connections with loved ones, neighbors, communities, and the global creaturely family?

## 2. What do you value?

### Identifying your values.

**Common Values:** Review over the set of provided common values, which one(s) resonate with you and are connected to the issue you are wanting to advocate on? How are you already living out these values to care for creation? What else might you do to deepen your commitment to environmental justice?



- Justice for all
- Caring for Earth
- Grace
- Treating all with dignity and respect
- Stewardship
- Equity
- Reform
- Collaboration
- Legacy
- People over profit
- Honesty & integrity
- Interconnectedness
- Fairness and Equity
- Responsibility
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. What Do You Want?**

Naming what issues you are working to change, your why, and how the audience you are connecting with can help bring about the change.

**As people of faith and conscience, we are often skilled at reflection and are good storytellers! This last step helps to connect the previous ones to action.**

#### **Connecting Values to “Why”:**

Using the below template draft a personal statement as to which part of your identity is connected to the reason why you feel compelled to work for environmental justice.

**I am a \_\_\_\_\_**

**Ex:** person of faith, caring grandparent, working parent, young adult, avid hiker, lover of animals, a teacher, am part of a sacred community, a fisher, a farmer, a dreamer, etc.

**And a member of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_**

**(faith/spiritual/conscience community) (neighborhood or district)**

**My values of \_\_\_\_\_ call me to care for creation and work for environmental justice by \_\_\_\_\_**

**Ex:** getting out faith-rooted and conscience-led voters, calling my elected officials, talking to my community about important environmental issues, encouraging my sacred community to talk about environmental issues, planting community gardens, etc.

### **4. Start sharing**

Sharing your story, your “why” can be daunting and perhaps even a little scary, it’s okay to be nervous. AND here are some helpful things to remember and tips for sharing.

**Remember: You don’t have to be an expert on environmental issues and/or policies. You are already an expert in your own story and that is worth sharing!**

#### **Tips**

**Start with people you trust.**

**Lean into your strengths (e.g. writing, talking, drawing, etc.)**

**Invite others to share as well. Our efforts grow when we work together!**