

# FOSSIL FREE MOSQUES IN THE MENA REGION



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## BACKGROUND

The MENA region is impacted by the climate crisis, intensified by its heavy reliance on fossil fuels. Urgent action is needed. Given the region's predominantly Muslim population, religious discourse is crucial for increasing awareness about the climate crisis and facilitating efforts to decrease the region's reliance on fossil fuels.

The verse from Surah An-Naba, 'And have made (therein) a shining lamp (sun)' (Verse 13, page 262), describes God's creation of the sun as a shining lamp, emphasizing its role in providing light and warmth to the Earth. This passage serves as a reminder of the fundamental gift of the sun, a renewable energy source bestowed upon us by the divine. Utilizing this natural resource not only sustains life but promotes personal, community, and planetary health. We need not stray from sources intended for our well-being and the preservation of our environment.

***This report highlights the role of mosques as models in the transition to renewable energy.***

## WHAT IS A FOSSIL FREE ZONE?

The concept of a “Fossil Free Zone” was initially introduced by Fergus Green from University College London in 2022.



### **Fossil Free Zones (FFZ)**

- FFZ is a framework for grassroots climate action.
- A FFZ is any geographic area free from fossil fuel extraction and burning.
- The seven FFZ categories in the following table exemplify the adaptable nature of this framework.
- Every step contributes to the collective shift towards a fossil free world.

*Table 1. Categories of Fossil Free Zones.*

 <p>COAL EXTRACTION <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	 <p>OIL &amp; GAS EXTRACTION <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	 <p>FOSSIL EXTRACTION <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	
 <p>COAL <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	 <p>GAS <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	 <p>OIL <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>	 <p>FOSSIL <b>FREE</b> ZONE</p>



## Fossil Free Mosque

A Fossil Free Mosque does not burn oil, gas, or coal on site and does not use electricity generated from fossil fuels.



*The Central Mosque in Cambridge, England accommodates space for 1,000 worshippers. Its rooftop photovoltaic (PV) panels are capable of generating enough power to fulfill one-third of the mosque's energy needs.*

## MOSQUES AS FOSSIL FREE MODELS



Mosques fulfill various functions, including religious, educational, social, and charitable needs. Mosques bring together diverse audiences within a spiritual setting, making them ideal for public campaigning and advocacy efforts.



Mosques serve as models for teachings rooted in Islam while showcasing practical solutions to the climate crisis.



The photos depict scenes from the Fossil Free Abu Ghaweileh Mosque in Jordan.

*Eliminating fossil fuel usage from mosque practices and features proves that such a shift is achievable in any location.*

## ISLAM AND ENVIRONMENTALISM

Islam teaches Muslims the importance of caring for the Earth and all its elements, which are considered blessings. Muslims believe that humans are stewards, or “khalifah,” of the planet, and they will be held accountable by God for their actions towards these blessings.

*“When your Lord said to the angels, ‘Indeed, I will make upon the earth a successive authority.’“*

Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 30, Page 06

### سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾



In addition, the Quran contains approximately 200 verses addressing environmental matters. For example:

*“But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters.”*

Surah Al-Qasas, Verse 77, Page 394

## سُورَةُ الْقَصَصِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَأَتَّبِعْ فِي مَاءِ آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۗ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ  
مِنَ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَأَحْسِنَ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ ۗ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي  
الْأَرْضِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾

Not only does the Quran address environmental matters, but the Sunna also emphasizes environmental concerns. Prophet Muhammad demonstrated kindness, care, and general principles for the treatment of all creatures:

*“If any Muslim plants something or sows seed from which man, bird, or beast eats, it counts as sadaqa (Charity) for him.”*

(Bukhari 2320 and Muslim 1553)

مَا مِنْ مُسْلِمٍ يَغْرِسُ غَرْسًا، أَوْ يَزْرَعُ زَرْعًا، فَيَأْكُلُ مِنْهُ طَيْرٌ أَوْ  
إِنْسَانٌ أَوْ بَهِيمَةٌ؛ إِلَّا كَانَ لَهُ بِهِ صَدَقَةٌ.

البخاري (2320)، ومسلم (1553)



Muslims already have an environmentalism framework to follow, which is embedded in aspects of Islam. What is needed is to expose Islam's environmental framework using tools that touch Muslims' conscience to induce ideological change. This concept of stewardship is influential in catalyzing change. It was utilized in the Islamic Declaration on Climate Change to advocate for change in environmental policy in Muslim countries in 2021.



*The academics who drafted the declaration on climate change at the International Islamic Climate Change Symposium held in Istanbul Aug. 17-18, 2021.*

## FOSSIL FREE MOSQUE IDENTIFICATION

Mosques are considered “Fossil Free” when oil, gas and coal are eliminated from all aspects of daily life, including lighting, cooling, heating, and cooking. Mosques represent the perfect fit for transitioning to fossil free energy due to their relatively limited energy needs.



*God's Flower positive  
energy mosque in  
Kazakhstan*

Within this landscape, Fossil Free Mosques emerged as a strategic tool for discussing the elimination of fossil fuels.

## Methodology

Fossil Free Mosques were identified through research or information collected from partners. Over 90 interviews were conducted to confirm candidates. Our methodology for identification comprises of three steps:

- 1. Search for mosques with a renewable energy profile or recognized as green mosques.**
- 2. Gather information on potential candidates.**
- 3. Conduct interviews, calls, and surveys to verify their energy status.**



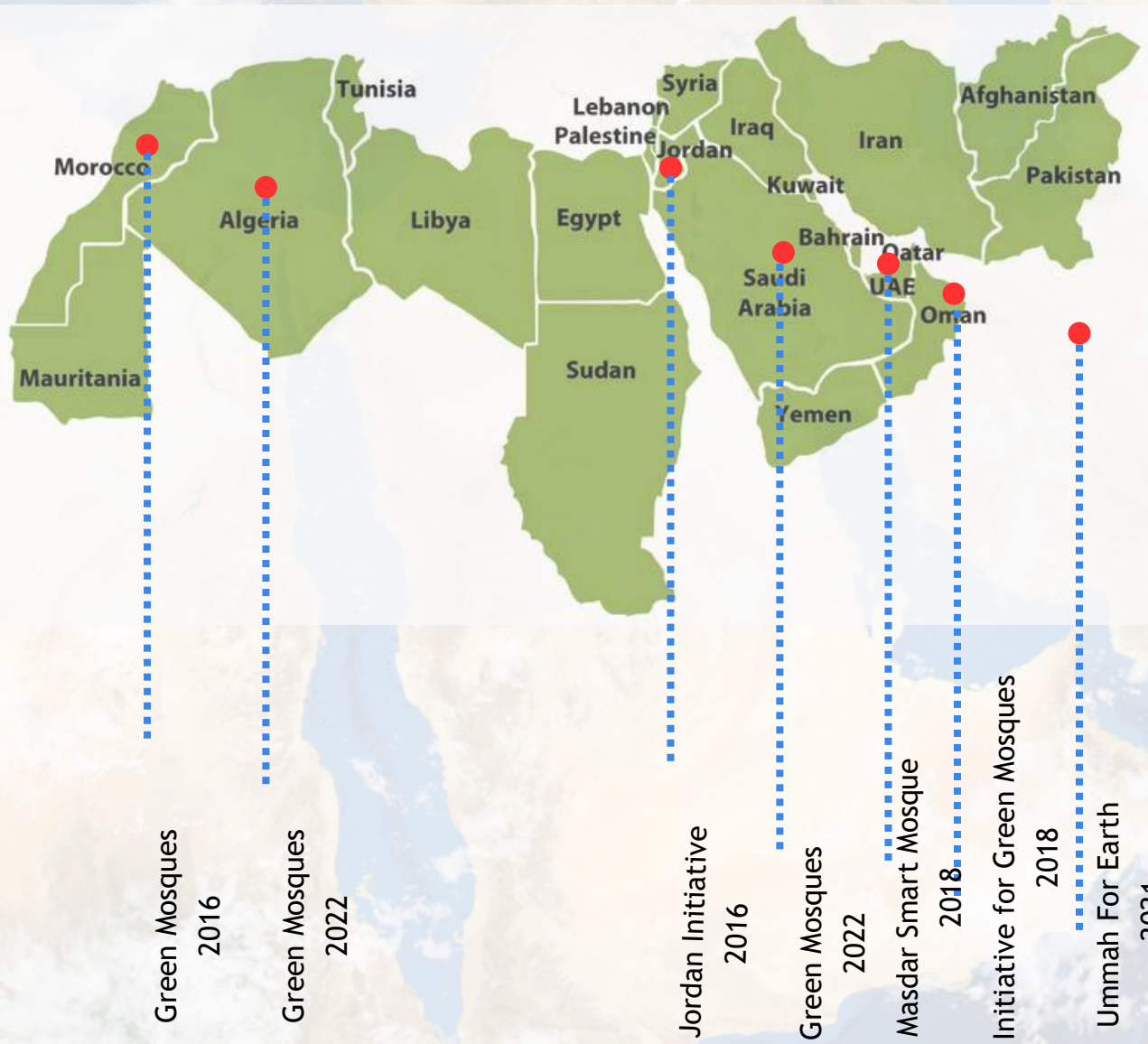
**Confirmed**

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# FOSSIL FREE MOSQUES IN THE MENA REGION

## Green Mosques Initiatives

"Green initiatives" have played a pivotal role in facilitating the energy transition, with mosques in Oman, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria becoming focal points.



## Success Stories

In the MENA region, Fossil Free Mosques serve as success stories of the transition away from fossil energy sources.

Table 2 shows the number of mosques with a renewable energy profile and those that were assessed and identified as Fossil Free Mosques.

The numbers grow daily in some countries but decrease in Palestine, where the majority of mosques were destroyed.

Despite these challenges, Middle Eastern countries are shown as leaders in Fossil Free Mosques.

*Table 2. Number of candidates and the identified Fossil Free Mosques in the MENA region.*

Country	Number of Mosques	
	Candidates	Confirmed
UAE	6	0
KSA	4	0
Bahrain	5	0
Kuwait	1	0
Oman	5	0
Qatar	0	0
Jordan	87	1
Syria	51	1
Lebanon	69	1
Palestine	10	1
Iraq	4	1
Yémen	10	0
Morocco	9	1
Algeria	1	0
Tunisia	1	0
Egypt	17	3
Libya	0	0
Sudan	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>12</b>

## Pioneers of the Energy Transition

Below are two shining examples of Fossil Free Mosques.



### Tadmamet Mosque

Location: Tadmamet, Marrakech-Safi, Morocco

Energy Source: Solar Power

Fossil Free Mosque since 2016

### Abu Ghaweileh Mosque

Location: Tlaa Al Ali, Amman, Jordan

Energy Source: Solar Power

Fossil Free Mosque since 2016





**For more information:**

**Check the Fossil Free Zones website .**



**For more information about climate change  
and energy transition terminology:**

**Check the Naqla Initiative website .**



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**LINGO works on accelerating the fossil endgame and the 100%  
renewable energy transformation**