

Ecodharma: Walking lightly on the earth and practicing the three pure precepts



Do no harm

Do good

Protect and preserve life

A scientific report published in Lancet Planetary Health* this year came to the following stark conclusions (in italics)

"Human impacts on earth-system processes are overshooting several planetary boundaries driving a crisis of ecological breakdown. This crisis is being caused in large part by global resource extraction, which has increased dramatically over the past half century."

The planetary boundaries that are being overshoot are climate change (especially CO₂ levels in the atmosphere), nitrogen and phosphorous loading (due to industrial and agricultural practices), biodiversity loss (unprecedented extinction rate), land conversion (especially loss of forest and wetlands) and chemical pollution.

"... high-income nations bear the overwhelming responsibility for global ecological breakdown, and therefore owe an ecological debt to the rest of the world."

Whilst the detail of these conclusions can be debated, they reflect the broad consensus of the scientific community, and as Buddhist institutions in Europe we are deeply concerned by them.

Considering the inevitable scientific and spiritual reality of interdependence and its implications, and following the three pure precepts of Buddhism that flow from it, we support and encourage all member organisations of the European Buddhist Union in taking energetic steps towards,

Minimising environmental harm and damage

Contributing to the well-being of living beings

Contributing to a socially just transition towards the health of all people and all beings.

We ask that member institutions make a commitment to share with each other past actions and future initiatives in relation to these aims, in order to facilitate mutual learning and the exchange of good ideas.

In preparation for a workshop at the AGM this September 2022, please bring details of:

-  **relevant actions already taken by your organisation**
-  **specific actions planned in the 12 months leading up to the next AGM in 2023**
-  **actions that are planned for the longer term in any of the above three areas.**

*National responsibility for ecological breakdown: a fair-shares assessment of resource use, 1970–2017 by J.Hickel, D.W.O’Neil, A.L.Fanning and H.Zoomkawala. The Lancet Planetary Health 6(4) 2022