Overcoming partisan politics while advocating a sustainable planetary society

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Religious leaders back carbon tax

Representatives from Australia's Hindu, Uniting Church, Jewish, Bahai, Buddhist, Catholic, Jain and Anglican communities met members of both sides of politics in Canberra to show their support for action on climate change.

Photo: Alex Ellinghausen
The trouble with partisan politics

Reductionist
Divisive
Harming efforts to address climate change
Short-term perspective
Favours those with power
Ineffective for making decisions about important long-term issues
Criteria for an alternative

Inclusive
Unifying
Just
Non-competitive
Collaborative
Mutually empowering
Baha’i consultation

Process-based
Diversity of perspectives
Frank but courteous
Ideas belong to the group
Principles-based
Decisions are supported in learning mode
Understands human beings are essentially noble
Questions

Is it safe to assume that human beings have an inherent capacity for nobility that can be cultivated, or are they hopelessly corrupt, selfish and aggressive?
Questions

It’s not too difficult to create inclusive, collaborative processes of decision making in a relatively small group, but what might they look like on a larger scale?
Questions

How can we move beyond partisanship to create innovative governance alternatives that are democratic, non-competitive, and serve the common good?