BERNARD AND AUDRE RAPOPORT L'TAKEN SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR

Environment and Climate Justice
2024-2025

To: Bernard and Audre Rapoport L'Taken Seminar Participants

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"One generation passes away and another generation comes; but the Earth remains forever." – Ecclesiastes 1:4

Background:

Climate Change: The Basic Science

You've probably heard the phrase "climate change" before. You probably know what it refers to, and that it's an urgent issue. You may even know some of the science behind its causes. But you don't have to be a scientist to wrap your mind around climate change, or to know that we all need to be acting together to confront it. For starters, let's make sure we've formally defined climate change: it is "a long-term change in the average weather patterns that has come to define Earth's local, regional and global climates."[1] It is caused "predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere."[2] These heat-trapping gases, commonly known as greenhouse gases, include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (NO_2). While heat is essential for life on the planet, human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and other agricultural and industrial practices, are exacerbating this "greenhouse effect" to heat our climate beyond safe levels.

In the past 150 years, the capacity for humans to affect the world around us has grown exponentially. Since the industrial revolution, we have been able to emit, deforest, and grow *far* more than ever before. Leading climate scientists believe that the safe level of atmospheric CO_2 is around 350 parts per million (ppm).[3] Since the Industrial Revolution, we've blown this proportion out of the water, recently reaching 420 ppm – nearly 30% beyond historic limits in the geological blink of an eye. The explosion of CO_2 from the past 60 years happened 100 times faster than any previous natural increases.[4] In 800,000 years of measured atmospheric CO_2 data,

[1] What is Climate Change?
https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/what-is-climate-change/
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] Hansen et al. "Target atmospheric CO_2: Where should humanity aim?" DOI: 10.2174/1874282300802010176
[4] NOAA on Climate Change: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide
https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide

we've never seen carbon dioxide concentrations this high. This rapid and immense increase in greenhouse gases is causing significant consequences for the global climate and the billions of humans and other biodiverse species that depend on its fragile balance. We are in precarious and unprecedented times.

"Climate Change" vs. "Global Warming:"

The increase in the earth's average temperature due to the greenhouse effect is often referred to as "global warming." Since the Industrial Revolution, scientists believe that human activities have caused the earth to warm by 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit.[5] However, rising average global temperatures are not the only consequences of the greenhouse effect. Its impacts also include sea level rise, melting glaciers, droughts, and increased frequency and severity of weather events.

In 2023, we experienced a record number of high-cost weather disasters including Hurricane Idalia, the strongest storm to hit Florida's Big Bend region in over 125 years; the August Hawai'i firestorms that resulted in approximately 115 people killed and an estimated $5.5 billion in damages to communities; the first ever tropical cyclone in Southern California; and record heat-waves that left hundreds dead in southern Arizona.

After setting a new record in 2023 with 28 extreme weather events, the U.S. experienced 24 extreme weather disasters by November 2024. In one year alone, these climate-intensified storms have caused over 418 confirmed deaths and tens of billions of dollars in damages. This includes Hurricanes Helene and Milton, back-to-back storms that caused unprecedented devastation in the southeastern states. In New Mexico, residents fled super-charged wildfires only to be met with an overlapping tropical storm. In Texas, Hurricane Beryl left millions without power and let loose over 50 tornadoes in the region.

These diverse symptoms, and the fact that climate change may cause temperatures to decrease in some places even as the earth's average temperature rises, are why many scientists and environmentalists prefer to use the term "climate change" rather than the narrower "global warming." Some use the term "climate crisis" or "climate emergency" to convey the urgency and seriousness of the issue. [6]

Human Influence and the Impacts of Global Warming:

In October 2014, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report that concluded that human activity, primarily the CO_2 emissions that come from burning fossil fuels, have contributed to 95 percent of the climate change we are experiencing.[7] Given our historical trends, scientists have projected a warming threshold of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius.[8] Warming above1.5 degrees Celsius will already bring significant deadly and disruptive side-effects. If human CO_2 emissions continue beyond these limits, the Earth will reflect it with

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[5] "Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C," IPCC, 2018, http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/

[6] The Guardian, https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/17/why-the-guardian-is-changing-the-language-it-uses-about-the-environment

[7] IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp., http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/

[8] "Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C," IPCC, 2018, http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/

extreme heat waves, decreased rainfall, species loss, permafrost thaw, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and more. Global health, food and water security, and economic growth will be devastated. [9] In 2018, the IPCC predicted that current greenhouse gas emissions levels are not sustainable and that we will reach 1.5 degrees of warming between 2030 and 2052 unless drastic actions are taken. Still, we must remember that most models with a favorable view of the next 85 years now see exceeding this 1.5-degree threshold – known as "overshoot" -- as an inevitability. So, we can't lose hope if/when we exceed 1.5-degrees; our immediate and ongoing actions are critical to ensure that we can return back to safer margins.

The evidence is clear, and the call to action is unmistakable. The 2022 IPCC report warns us: "the cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all."[10] It's up to us, and it has to be now. We are all responsible for our shared future on this planet.

Climate Justice: American Responsibility and Disproportionate Effects of Climate Change

Not all countries bear equal responsibility for climate change. The United States is home to only 5 percent of the world's population but has emitted nearly a third of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions since the start of the Industrial Revolution. [11] The U.S. joins Canada, China, India, Russia, and Japan among the top greenhouse gas-emitting nations.

It is darkly ironic that the nations that contribute the least to the problem of climate change suffer first and foremost from its consequences, due to their more precarious economic position and their dependence on natural resources and vulnerable ecosystems for daily survival. One international report estimates that climate change causes an average of 400,000 deaths per year, 83 percent of which are in developing countries.[12]

While the U.S. can stave off the negative effects of climate change more effectively than developing nations, the severe impacts of the recent wildfires, droughts, heatwaves, and hurricanes demonstrate that we are all still at risk. Low topography zones like South Florida, coastal Massachusetts, California, Puerto Rico, the Gulf Coast, and many parts of New York and New Jersey are vulnerable to flooding as sea levels rise; the Southwestern states are growing desperately hot at the same time as the Colorado River Basin is drying up; natural disasters have devasted towns once thought to be out of a storm's reach; poor air quality from pollution and wildfires affects 40% of all Americans and leads children to asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

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[9] IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp., http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/

[10] IPCC Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/.

[11] Gillis, Justin and Popovich, Nadja. "The U.S. Is the Biggest Carbon Polluter in History. It Just Walked Away From the Paris Climate Deal." https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/01/climate/us-biggest-carbon-polluter-in-history-will-it-walk-away-from-the-paris-climate-deal.html

[12] DARA: http://daraint.org/climate-vulnerability-monitor/climate-vulnerability-monitor-2012/report/

[13] Carbon pollution also poses a major risk to U.S. public health. Climate change threatens the water we drink and the food supplies that nourish us. Ozone smog, pollution levels, heat waves, hurricanes, wildfires, infection disease rates, and river flooding are all climate-related occurrences that have a significant impact on health costs. Since 1980, the U.S. has endured 338 weather and climate disasters where overall damages/costs were at least $1 billion. The total cost of those 338 events exceeds $2.295 trillion.[14] The federal government's Office of Management and Budget estimates that by the end of this century, natural disasters (like floods, droughts, wildfires, and hurricanes exacerbated by climate change) could cost the U.S. $2 trillion *each year*.[15]

In the U.S., low-income communities and Communities of Color bear a disproportionate burden of the effects of climate change. Race, even more than socioeconomic status, is the top predictor of one's proximity to toxic waste and polluting facilities in the U.S. Black Americans breathe air that is 38 percent more polluted than the air white Americans breathe.[16] Often, federal disaster relief has fallen short of equity. Research demonstrates that unequal recovery efforts following an extreme weather disaster have contributed to lasting racial and social divides. According to FEMA's 2020 National Advisory Council report, Communities of Color are less likely to receive disaster relief aid when compared to white, affluent households and communities. As we move forward in this decisive moment, the developed world—and particularly the U.S.—has a great burden of responsibility. It's not just that historical emitters owe the world a debt; we are uniquely positioned with the economic and industrial capacity to lead international efforts to tackle the climate challenge.

Another part of environmental justice is the concept of a "just transition." The idea is to promote a fair and inclusive transition to a greener economy without leaving communities behind. This includes measures that would help with job training and economic revitalization for populations historically dependent on fossil fuel extraction. Beyond seeking just outcomes for vulnerable people, these measures help build a broad base of public support for climate-friendly policies. Everyone can see themselves in our greener future.[17]

Sustainable Solutions:

While the impacts of climate change are diverse and severe, there are many things we can do to lessen (or prevent) the worst consequences and adapt to the inevitable effects that we're beginning to see worldwide. Worldwide approaches to climate change generally fall into two categories: adaptation and mitigation.

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[13] "American Lung Association State of the Air 2024." *American Lung Association*, www.lung.org/research/sota. Accessed 19 Nov. 2024.

[14] National Centers for Environmental Information, National Oceanic and Atmospherics Administration, https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/.

[15] CNBC, https://www.cnbc.com/2022/04/04/climate-change-could-cost-us-2-trillion-each-year-by-2100-omb.html.

[16] Grist, https://grist.org/living/people-of-color-contribute-least-to-smog-yet-breathe-more-of-it-wtf/.

[17] United Nations Development Programme
What is Just Transition? And why is it Important?
https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-just-transition-and-why-it-important

Adaptation is what we can do to help communities cope with the present or inevitable effects of climate change. Since half the global population is already highly vulnerable to these consequences, we must adapt our communities to face our new reality.[18] This includes small acts – like planting trees to soak up CO_2, stabilize soil systems, and provide shade – as well as major projects, like building climate-resilient infrastructure – retrofitting buildings, securing bridges and roads, fortifying coastal protections. Besides our lived environment, we must adapt our behaviors to make conscious, responsible choices for the future. Now that we have brought Earth's climate to a tipping point, we must reflect on what it means to live in right relationship with the planet.

Adaptation is also the smart money move. If we invest money in climate resiliency measures, we will save ourselves from paying far more significant costs. Just like a retirement fund, we have to be willing to invest resources now to guarantee our future

Mitigation is the implementation of long-term changes designed to reduce our emission of greenhouse gases and diminish the consequences of climate change in the future. We can decrease our emissions by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels such as oil and coal, slowing deforestation and replanting deforested areas (forests can act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing excess carbon dioxide), choosing food options that have smaller carbon footprints, and building more energy-efficient homes, schools, and synagogues. These options can all be encouraged through federal, state, and local policies on climate and energy issues, as well as individual consumer choices.

Recent Legislative Actions:

After a hard-fought battle in the summer of 2022, Congress barely passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This landmark bill made historic investments in green job creation and manufacturing, clean energy and transportation, and environmental justice. Its policies are projected to reduce U.S. fossil fuel emissions by more than 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.[19] It puts us on the path to meet our climate goals. The IRA is the largest investment in climate action, adaptation, and mitigation in US history -- a sum of nearly $400,000,000,000. At the same time, critical compromises had to be made to pass the bill in an evenly divided Senate. The IRA also contained provisions increasing investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and opening lands in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico for fossil fuel extraction. Fossil fuel extraction has harmed and will continue to harm frontline communities suffering the legacies of environmental injustice.

Legislative Update:

The **A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act (S.919/H.R.1705 in the 118th Congress)** would address climate change and the disproportionate impacts it has on Communities of Color, marginalized communities, and less affluent communities. Introduced by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-3) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), the bill would create new legal tools to challenge environmental racism; integrate environmental justice into the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act; strengthen environmental justice considerations throughout the executive branch; establish grant programs to facilitate access to outdoor recreational opportunities; and invest in historically fossil fuel-dependent communities by facilitating a just

[18] UN Climate Action: Adapting to the Impacts of Climate Change
https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-adaptation

[19] https://repeatproject.org/docs/REPEAT_Climate_Progress_and_the_117th_Congress.pdf

transition to a clean energy economy. The bill has not yet been reintroduced in the 119th Congress.

The bill includes the following key features:

- **Cumulative Impacts** – Requires consideration of cumulative impacts in permitting decisions under the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act and ensures that permits will not be issued if the project cannot demonstrate a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health.
- **Executive Order 12898** – Codifies and bolsters President Clinton's 1994 Executive Order by directing federal agencies to develop environmental justice strategies and regularly report on implementation and progress. It also ensures that federal agencies include diverse communities in public health research, data collection, and analysis.
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – Requires federal agencies to provide early and meaningful community involvement opportunities under NEPA when proposing an action affecting an environmental justice community. Ensures robust Tribal representation throughout the NEPA process for an activity that could impact an Indian Tribe, including activities impacting off-reservation lands and sacred sites.
- **Health Equity** – Funds research grant programs to investigate personal and childcare products containing chemicals linked to adverse health impacts and supports research to identify safer alternatives for cosmetic products marketed specifically towards women and girls of color. It also requires accurate labeling of professional cosmetic products and menstrual products.
- **Outdoor Access for All** – Supports more equitable access to parks and recreational opportunities, prioritizing projects and recreational opportunities that benefit underserved urban communities.
- **Environmental Justice Grant Programs** – Authorizes $75 million annually for grants to support research, education, outreach, development, and implementation of projects to address environmental and public health issues in environmental justice communities.
- **Fair and Just Transition** – Establishes a Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund using revenues from new fees on the oil, gas, and coal industries to support communities and workers as they transition away from greenhouse gas-dependent economies.

Urge your Representative and Senators to support environmental justice and accountability by cosponsoring the A. Donald McEachin Environmental Justice for All Act when it is reintroduced in the 119th Congress.

Reform Jewish Values:

We are taught throughout Jewish texts and tradition to be good caretakers of the earth. In Genesis 2:15, we read that "The human being was placed in the Garden of Eden to till it and to tend it." The rabbis tell a story about this: "When God created the first human beings, God led them around the Garden of Eden and said: Look at my works! See how beautiful they are, how excellent! For your sake I created them all. Take care not to spoil or destroy My world, for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you." (*Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah* 7:13)

Our obligation to take responsibility for the Earth is repeated consistently. Our tradition teaches that human domain over nature does not include a license to abuse the environment. The Talmudic

concept *ba'al tashchit*, "do not destroy," was developed by the rabbis to prevent senseless waste and preserve the environment and natural resources wherever possible. This moral disaster of abusing the Earth's gifts and the moral value of sustaining them *l'dor vador* is driven home by a moving Talmudic tale. In it, we read about the sage Honi's encounter with an old man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him: "How many years will it take for this tree to give forth its fruit?" The man answered that it would require 70 years. Honi asked: "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered: "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. So, too, will I plant for my children." (Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a).

Judaism recognizes the beauty of the Created world, honors the innate dignity of all creatures, and appreciates their interconnectedness and interdependence. As partners in Creation, Humans are called to recognize that our actions toward the world impact the quality of human relationships with God and with each other. Part of our role as stewards of God's creation is to raise our voices in the face of environmental injustice. We need to take impactful, considered action to address climate change and protect our communities.

This duty to pursue *Tikkun Olam* inspires us to pursue justice in each generation. *Tikkun Olam* is a long-term, up-and-down process. While we deal with the successes and setbacks of the hard work of repairing the world, our faith and our communities keep us from breaking down. As we face down the escalating climate crisis, taking collective action empowers us and our tradition grounds us. Our Jewish history gives us a wide perspective. Instead of retreating, we build resolve to continue the work of generation after generation to bring about justice in the world. We are inspired by the teaching that while "you are not obligated to complete the work, neither are you free to desist from it (Pirkei Avot 2:21)." As people of faith and conscience, we will continue to work for a healthy environment and a sustainable future.

Our Jewish texts also underscore the moral imperative of protecting the poor and vulnerable as we pursue a just transition: "When one loves righteousness and justice, the earth is full of the loving-kindness of the Eternal" (Psalms 33:5). Developing nations and vulnerable communities are positioned to bear the brunt of the negative impacts associated with climate change. The countries most responsible for climate change must lead the way to creating equitable solutions.

The URJ has passed seven different resolutions on the environment, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) have passed additional resolutions. Below, you will find the most recent and one of the oldest resolutions the URJ passed on protecting the environment.

URJ and CCAR Resolutions:

Addressing the Climate Crisis Through Investment Strategies

In 2024, the URJ passed a landmark resolution recommending that Reform Movement entities and congregations implement a targeted combination of divestment, shareholder advocacy, and adjustment/redirection of holdings related to fossil fuels and related industries. This is the most significant fossil fuel divestment action taking by a Jewish institution, providing both moral leadership and an important market signal to financial institutions.

Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change

Union for Reform Judaism 74th Assembly, December 2017

THE UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM RESOLVES TO:

1. Encourage congregations to advocate from the local to federal levels of government to uphold or go beyond the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement;
2. Encourage congregations to:
   a. Take steps to educate and prepare themselves and their neighbors for the impacts of sea level rise, wildfires, increased extreme weather events, drought, and other impacts of climate change; and
   b. Work with local organizations to provide relief to those affected by these events.
3. Continue to advocate for legislative, regulatory, and judicial action to protect all communities from the damaging impacts of climate change;
4. Continue to advocate for the Canadian and U.S. governments to uphold our international responsibilities to decrease the human impacts of climate change; and
5. Encourage congregations to work with interfaith and other partners within their communities to advocate for and work to implement climate change solutions.

URJ Resolution: Environmental Pollution

UAHC'S 50th General Assembly, November, 1969

THEREFORE, THE UAHC RESOLVES:

1. to urge that appropriate measures be taken by local, state and national governments to remove or ameliorate the growing threats of environmental pollution and to afford protection to the environment;
2. to urge individuals and businesses in the private sector to cooperate in actions designed to reduce environmental pollution and afford protection to the environment;
3. to urge national commissions, regions and congregations to become actively interested in the problem of environmental pollution and the protection of the environment through study, cooperation and action alongside interested communal agencies which are working in this field.

CCAR: Resolution on the Climate Crisis 2022

Therefore, the Central Conference of American Rabbis hereby resolves to:

1. Urge all CCAR members to further educate themselves and the individuals and communities they serve about climate change and its deadly cascade of impacts, especially those impacts that incorporate an intersectional and/or international consideration of climate change inquiry such as racial inequity, gender inequality, and social justice.

2. Encourage CCAR members and the congregations and organizations they serve to lead and participate in events that raise awareness of climate change and its harmful effects, particularly in conjunction with environmental groups, other faith groups, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) or its state organizing teams, and other appropriate organizations. Ideas include but are not limited to:
    a. Community engagement programs that address key aspects of climate change across lines of difference like race and religion;
    b. A speaker event or series on topics about climate change;
    c. A documentary or movie screening and discussion about climate change and what needs to be done;
    d. Hosting a service project or community event, paired with discussion of climate change;
3. Advocate, and urge CCAR members and the communities we serve to join in advocacy efforts, in support of comprehensive public policies at the local, state, and federal levels designed to curb American greenhouse gas emissions and address the harms of climate change in an equitable and just way, with guidance from the RAC when appropriate, that may include but are not limited to:
    a. Creating incentives for the most egregious greenhouse gas emitters to dramatically reduce the emissions—such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases—they pump into the atmosphere that destroy our world and endanger all life on Earth;
    b. Transitioning to a low- or zero-emission clean green economy by 2050 or earlier;
    c. Incorporating environmental justice into governmental action; that is, seeking to research, understand, and repair the historical harms done by environmental racism;
    d. Empowering the constituencies most impacted by climate change and centering them and their needs in the process of finding and implementing the best possible solutions to the crisis;
    e. Ensuring that the procurement of necessary materials for a zero-emission economy do not cause or advance unfair or exploitative labor practices, community harms, and/or human rights violations;
    f. Supporting a just transition of fossil fuel workers to meaningful and sustainable employment;
    g. Contacting local, state, and federal level legislators to express concerns about climate change, voicing support for proposed legislation that will help resolve climate change and protect the environment;
    h. Holding the governments of the United States and Canada accountable for our share of the problem, with special regard to our obligations to vulnerable nations experiencing the first and worst effects of climate change.

i. Recycling products such as paper, plastic, metals, and food waste, and strongly encouraging all members to recycle in all the places they frequent if possible;

j. Adopting the use of biodegradable products such as bamboo over single- or one-time use products;

k. Reducing the amount of animal products offered for meals and gatherings;

l. Exploring the use of alternative energy sources such as solar power;

m. Replacing energy inefficient bulbs with LED lights;

n. Installing motion sensors to disable lighting when a room is vacant; and

o. Supporting national and local initiatives aimed at growing trees and community gardens, especially in areas impacted by inequities correlated to income and race.

4. Commend the Reform Pension Board (RPB) for establishing the Reform Jewish Values Stock Fund (RJVSF), which excludes coal companies from its investments and invests in clean energy, and pledge to educate RPB participants about the RJVSF as an option for their consideration; and urge all members to be more conscious of their own personal financial investments, remembering that "voting with our wallets" is an important way to live our values and make a difference.

Resources

- Religious Action Center: rac.org/environment or 202-387-2800. Check out the RAC's website to see how to get started taking action.
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL): The premier Jewish environmental organization has great resources on climate change and other environmental issues, including the Jewish Energy Covenant Campaign, holiday guides and other Jewish resources. http://www.coejl.org/
- Dayenu, A Jewish Call to Climate Action: Dayenu is a grassroots Jewish environmental group working to stop climate change through spirituality and political advocacy/organizing. See how you can get involved in a Dayenu Circle (their name for local organizing groups) or start one in your hometown: https://dayenu.org/.
- Interfaith Power and Light: IPL is an interfaith organization with chapters all over the country. They prioritize responsible stewardship of our earth by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/
- Sierra Club: Information on climate change and energy from a leading environmental advocacy group. http://www.sierraclub.org/
- World Watch Institute: World Watch is a good resource for many different issues facing our globe. http://www.worldwatch.org/

Take Action

- Encourage your congregation to join the ‘We Are Still In’ Campaign. Join businesses, communities, and local governments representing over 160 million people in committing to reaching the U.S. Pledge to the Paris Agreement at www.wearestillin.com.
- Start a ‘green club’ at your school or synagogue or get involved if one already exists. Take the initiative to organize green projects (recycle, install a green roof with solar panels, start composting), speakers, and lobby days with local officials.
- Organize a day of action at your school or synagogue where people bike or walk, use only recyclable or biodegradable products, and invite a speaker on environmental activism.