



The Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition Founding Statement

Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years. Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach. It is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change, making extreme climate events, including heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts, more frequent and severe. Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with further warming ... However, some changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming. To limit global warming, strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO₂, methane, and other greenhouse gasses are necessary. This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change, but also improve air quality. The climate we experience in the future depends on our decisions now.

-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (August, 2021)¹

G!d took and placed Adam in the garden of Eden, to serve and protect it.

-B'reishit (Genesis) 2:15

The climate crisis is real, and it is here. Nearly one-third of Americans lived through a weather disaster in 2021.² The overwhelming global scientific consensus confirms what we see with our own eyes: hurricanes, superstorms, wildfires, drought, dangerous air quality for months at a time - each year worse than the last.

The impact does not affect us all equally. Those in our society with less power and fewer resources, already more vulnerable, are hit hardest by the traumatic impact of climate change. Jewish values compel us to confront this crisis, and our commitment to Jewish community compels us to do so together.

Our coalition represents Jewish organizations engaging millions of people of all ages and backgrounds, across the world. Together, we recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and our obligation to do more.

We commit to climate action.

As members of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, we will come together to learn, share, and support each other as we plan to take on new climate actions in the years ahead. Each year, we will release our Climate Action Plans on Tu B'Shvat, reporting on our accomplishments from the year past, and commitments for the year ahead.

¹ "Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group 1 - The Physical Science Basis." *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. August 2021.

² Sarah Kaplan and Andrew Ba Tran. "Nearly 1 in 3 Americans experienced a weather disaster this summer." *Washington Post*. September 4, 2021.

We invite and welcome all Jewish organizations everywhere to participate.

The Jewish people have a long history. Our ancestors endured suffering and calamity, then rose to meet the next challenge. It is now our generation's imperative to confront this existential crisis together with communities across the world. Our children and grandchildren need us. Our hope is not yet lost.

Join us!

Signed by the following founding signatories,

Jakir Manela, CEO
[Adamah](#)



Marc Terrill, CEO
[Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore](#)



Gidi Mark, CEO
[Birthright Israel](#)



Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive
[Central Conference of American Rabbis](#)



Jeremy Fingerman, CEO
[Foundation for Jewish Camp](#)



Adam Lehman, CEO
[Hillel International](#)



Gideon Behar, Special Envoy for Climate
Change and Sustainability
[State of Israel, through the Israeli Ministry
of Foreign Affairs](#)



Doron Krakow, CEO
[JCC Association of North America](#)



Amira Ahronovitz, CEO
[The Jewish Agency for Israel](#)



Eric Fingerhut, CEO
[Jewish Federations of North America](#)



Andrés Spokoiny, President and CEO
[Jewish Funders Network](#)



Russell Robinson, CEO
[Jewish National Fund USA](#)



Ilana Aisen, CEO
[JPro](#)



David Cygielman, CEO
[Moishe House](#)



Reuben Rotman, CEO
[Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies](#)



Paul Bernstein, CEO
[Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools](#)



Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, CEO
[Rabbincical Assembly](#)



Rabbi Mark Dratch, Executive Vice President
[Rabbincical Council of America](#)



Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President and CEO
[Reconstructing Judaism](#)



Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, Executive Director
[Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association](#)



Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President
[Union for Reform Judaism](#)



Rabbi Ashira Konigsburg, Chief Program Officer
[United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism](#)

