

How I Can Help Stop Climate Change in the New Year



During this season of repentance, prayer, and tzedakah, let us take time to also reflect on the global climate crisis, and the need for us to act to avoid further damage to the planet we inhabit and its natural ecosystems. Our tradition teaches that we are part of God's Creation and that we have a central role in caring for this planet – a planet that sustains billions of human beings and millions of species, all part of the sacred web of life on Earth.

From these reflections may we find the capacity to change the way we live so as to become stewards of the environment and to keep faith with future generations. Let us take this time to commit ourselves to use our efforts, our money and our energy wisely.

First, to better understand how changing our actions can reduce climate change and benefit the environment,

I will calculate my "carbon footprint" using:

1. **Cool Capital Challenge:**

<http://www.coolcapitalchallenge.org/challenge1>

2. **Climate Crisis:**

<http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/>



I will then pledge to take action and reduce my CO2 use by following any of these action suggestions:

- **Eating local food one meal a week:** The average meal in the United States travels some 15,000 miles from the farm to our plates. By buying locally we will save fuel and c, Carbon dDioxide, and help support our local farmers. To learn more about Tifereth Israel's community supportive agriculture (CSAAS) program, please visit



http://www.hazon.org/go.php?q=/food/CSA/communities/washingtonD_C.html

- **Going car-free one day a week:** By eliminating just 10 miles of driving a week, we can save 500 pounds of CO2 a year.



- **Changing it up:** Installing energy efficient appliances such as light bulbs, refrigerators, and washing machines, can further help to cool the planet. If each household in the U.S. replaced its existing appliances with the most efficient models available, we'd eliminate 175 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.
- **Joining the greening effort at my synagogue** and help green our community. Please contact tikkunolam@harshalom.org for more details.
- **Help to advocate** to our elected officials for science-based, mandatory limits on greenhouse emissions, set higher fuel economy standards, and increase funding for research and development of renewable technologies and energy conservation.

L'Shanah Tovah v'Yerukah