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**RESPONSE #5061 STARTED ON 11/11/2023 01:47:26 PM**

Adamah Climate Action Plan



**OPEN RESPONSE**

This response has been saved by the respondent and **is not yet complete.**

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**A word about Greenwashing:**

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**Form Outline**

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**Status Definitions**

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**Form Instructions**

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Rental or Interaction ID

**a0V4V0000F8WSgUAN**

## Contact Info

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### org info

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Organization Name

**Chevrei Tzedek Congregation (Baltimore, MD)**

Address

**3101 Fallstaff Road**

City

**Baltimore**

State

**MD**

### org contact

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Website

**<https://www chevreitzedek.org/>**

Liason First Name

**Sally**

Last Name

**Grobani**

## Form Submitter

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First Name

**Karyn**

Last Name

**Polak**

Phone

**917-207-1072**

Email

**kswpolak@gmail.com**

## Organization Stats

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Roughly how many members do you have, or how many people does your organization engage over the course of a year?

**90 households**

If your organization has a building, are you planning to renovate or engage in new construction in the next 3 years?

**Not Applicable (no building)**



## Source Clean Electricity

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### What actions have you taken to source clean electricity?

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We installed a photovoltaic (PV) solar array.

**Not applicable**

We installed another form of onsite renewable energy production.

**Not applicable**

We purchased clean electricity through the grid or another program, such a community solar.

**Not applicable**

We rent and the building sourced 100% clean electricity.

**Not currently planning**

We rent and advocated for the landlord to source clean electricity.

**Planning to next year**

We educated our remote workforce about purchasing clean electricity for their home.

**In process**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**We rent space from the Edward A. Myerberg Center. They and we are members of The Associated and hope to work with you, the Associated, and the Myerberg to encourage more clean energy efforts on campus.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to source clean electricity (optional)

**We have provided connections to our community members for solar installations in their homes.**

## Go Electric/Fuel Switching

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### What actions have you taken to switch your building's appliances to electric?

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We took an inventory of our equipment, noting which use fossil fuels, the year they'll reach end of functional use, and made a timeline to replace with electric versions.

**Not applicable**

We electrified all our appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles.

**Not applicable**

We assessed our electrical capacity and know if/where we need upgrades.

**Not applicable**

We upgraded the capacity of our electric panel(s).

**Not applicable**

New construction/remodeling was all electric.

**Not applicable**

We rent, and the building is all electric.

**Not currently planning**

We rent and advocated with our landlord to fuel switch.

**Planning to next year**

We educated our remote workforce about fuel switching.

**Planning to next year**

We planned to switch to all electric but were derailed and purchased fossil fuel equipment this year.

**n/a**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above comments re the Myerberg.**

Other Activities: share any additional actions you have taken to switch to electric (optional)

*No answer given*



## Energy Efficiency

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### What actions have you taken to reduce energy use at your facilities?

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We switched to LED bulbs.

**Not applicable**

We installed motion detectors for lighting (if observance allows).

**Not applicable**

We installed and used programmable thermostats to optimize energy/comfort settings.

**Not applicable**

We installed energy efficient appliances.

**Not applicable**

We increased the useable power coming in through the electrical panel reducing overall energy use.

**Not applicable**

We improved the building envelope with insulation and/or energy efficient windows.

**Not applicable**

We installed geothermal.

**Not applicable**

We installed solar water heaters.

**Not applicable**

We installed a white roof.

**Not applicable**

We installed a green roof.



**Not applicable**

We conducted an energy audit.

**Not applicable**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above re The Myerberg.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce energy use (optional)

**We will be educating our congregation on taking these actions in their homes and at their places of employment.**

## Transportation

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### What actions have you taken to reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation?

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We installed signage to support clean modes of transportation.

**Not applicable**

We gave parking priority for electric cars, carpools, and/or bikes.

**Not applicable**

We provided instructions on our website and PR for how to get to our site/programs via public transit, carpool, biking, or electric vehicle.

**Planning to next year**

We implemented programs and incentives that encourage staff and members to commute via public transit, carpool, biking, or electric vehicle.

**Not currently planning**

We offered electric vehicle charging in our parking lot.

**Not applicable**

Air travel to programs, events, conferences, and meetings was limited; and/or we did virtual engagement and/or bundled objectives when travel is needed.

**Not applicable**



More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above comments re the Myerberg.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce travel-related emissions (optional)

**We will be educating our congregation on taking these actions in their homes and at their places of employment.**

## Food We Serve

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### What actions have you taken to reduce GHG emissions associated with the food you serve?

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We exclusively served vegan (plant-based) food.

**Not currently planning**

We exclusively served vegetarian (no meat or fish, but did serve dairy and/or eggs).

**Not currently planning**

We had vegan options at all meals.

**In process**

We had vegetarian options at all meals.

**In process**

We replaced industrial meat, dairy, and eggs with higher welfare, more regeneratively farmed versions.

**Want to learn more**

We have a food policy that addresses climate impacts.

**Not currently planning**

We advocated for more plant-based options with local caterers, our food distributor, and/or other outside food providers.

**Not applicable**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**We would very much appreciate Adamah's support to work through these and other options to take positive climate action with respect to the food and beverages we serve.**



Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce food service-related emissions (optional)

*No answer given*

## Minimize Food Waste

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### What actions have you taken to reduce food waste generated in the first place?

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We conducted a food waste audit.

#### Want to learn more

We have a food waste policy.

#### Not currently planning

We took steps to reduce food waste created on the catering/kitchen side.

#### Not applicable

We took steps to reduce food waste in the dining area.

#### In process

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

#### See above with respect to requests for resources and guidance.

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce food waste (optional)

*No answer given*

## Food Waste Emissions

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### What actions have you taken to reduce GHG emissions associated with food waste going to the landfill?

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We gave surplus food to people

#### Want to learn more

We gave surplus food to animals.

#### Not currently planning



We composted surplus food (onsite or off-site).

### **Planning to next year**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

*No answer given*

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce food waste-related emissions (optional)

*No answer given*

## **Nature-based Solutions**

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**What actions have you taken to reduce the GHGs released from, and maximize the carbon sequestered by, natural spaces and resources you manage (e.g., lawns, woodlots, forests, waterways)?**

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We assessed our facility's grounds to understand current land use.

**Not applicable**

We planted additional trees on our property.

**Not applicable**

We reduced lawn thereby reducing mowing and increasing perennial coverage.

**Not applicable**

We managed our landscape, including lawns, without fossil-fuel powered equipment.

**Not applicable**

We managed our landscape, including lawns, without using chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

**Not applicable**

We converted impermeable surfaces to green infrastructure, such as bioswales.

**Not applicable**

We restored degraded ecosystems on our property such as waterways, wetlands, and/or woodlots.

**Not applicable**



We sequestered carbon through other nature-based technologies, such as biochar production or composting toilets.

**Not applicable**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above comments re the Myerberg.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to reduce GHGs using nature-based solutions (optional)

**We will be educating our congregation on taking these actions in their homes and at their places of employment.**



## Offset Emissions You Can't Reduce

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### What actions have you taken to offset the GHGs produced from your operations?

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We categorized our GHG emissions.

**Not applicable**

We measured our GHG emissions by category.

**Not applicable**

We fully offset all GHG emissions

**Not applicable**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above re the Myerberg.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to offset emissions (optional)

*No answer given*



## Education & Nature Connection

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### What actions have you taken to incorporate climate education and nature connection into your organizational work?

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Programs: Produced programming for our staff and/or constituents on climate education or nature connection.

#### In process

Curricula/Ritual: Integrated opportunities for climate education or nature connection into our organizational culture, e.g., incorporated it into curricula, life cycle events, holiday celebrations, and/or volunteer events.

#### In process

Training: Developed staff or community capacity to incorporate climate education or nature connection into our work by participating in trainings and programs with Adamah or JOFEE (Jewish Outdoor Food Farming and Environmental) organizations.

#### Not currently planning

Publicity: Promote and publicized our climate action work to our networks and community.

#### In process

Outreach: Encourage organizations within our network to join the Coalition.

#### Not currently planning

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**We are convening an Advisory Committee within the synagogue to steward the Climate Action Plan in 2024 (and beyond). We plan to hold educational events throughout the year, include climate action information and resources in our weekly newsletter, and join other organizations' climate events and advocacy.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to incorporate climate or nature into your work (optional)

*No answer given*

## Advocacy

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### What actions have you taken to engage in climate advocacy or direct-action efforts?

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We created a Jewish Youth Climate Movement kvutzah or an Adamah on Campus chapter.

**Not currently planning**

We hosted a Dayenu Circle.

**Not currently planning**

We partnered with the Jewish Earth Alliance.

**Not currently planning**

We participated in demonstrations (e.g. rallies, marches, climate strikes, direct actions).

**Planning to next year**

We engaged climate-concerned voters through postcard campaigns, hosting candidate forums, participating in "Get Out the Vote" work, etc.

**Want to learn more**

We published op-eds, letters to the editor, or other articles.

**Not currently planning**

We lobbied elected officials or regulatory agencies on climate policy.

**Planning to next year**

We communicated with our community about climate advocacy opportunities.

**In process**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**See above comments on education.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken to engage in climate advocacy (optional)

*No answer given*

**Finance**

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**What actions have you taken to shift your institutional dollars from fossil fuel to climate-smart bar**



## and investments?

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We created an organizational process of learning and dialogue about socially responsible investing and climate-smart banking.

### **Planning to next year**

We moved our banking to an institution that aligns with our values around climate action.

### **Want to learn more**

We moved all our investments out of fossil fuels.

### **Want to learn more**

We moved our investments to climate-smart funds.

### **Want to learn more**

We had a socially-responsible investing fund available in our 401k/retirement plan.

### **Not applicable**

We set a socially-responsible investing fund as the default for our 401k/retirement plan.

### **Not applicable**

We funded other Jewish organizations to invest in emissions reductions and cost-saving climate action, through grants, loans, or financing.

### **Not applicable**

More Details: provide relevant information, data, or narrative to expand upon any responses above (optional)

**We are beginning to hold discussions with the Finance Committee and ultimately with the synagogue on this topic, to educate, consider, and take action where possible.**

Other: share any additional actions you have taken towards climate-smart banking and investments (optional)

*No answer given*



## Strategic Planning and Governance

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Incorporating climate action into the everyday systems that guide your organization can ensure that climate considerations outlive any one action or policy or administrator. Climate action can be woven into strategic planning and capital campaigns. Please use this space to address how you have been, and how you will, weave climate action into your organization's systems.

**The Social Action Committee of the synagogue took up the responsibility to craft, socialize, and finalize the Climate Action Plan for 2024 and will continue to lead the climate action effort for the shul. We are forming an Advisory Committee, to be led by two members of the Social Action Committee and include representatives from all the synagogue stakeholders (youth, kiddish, finance, building, etc.) to take the Climate Action Plan forward.**

Those in our society with less power and fewer resources are already more vulnerable, and they are hit hardest by the impacts of climate change. Climate action planning is an opportunity to address such harms and inequities through the pursuit of a just transition, and ensure they are not recreated in the future. Like everything else in your Climate Action Plan, incorporating climate justice is a process of learning and growth that develops year by year. Please use this space to share the principles, processes, and practices that your organization uses, and/or will use, to promote just outcomes through climate action. (Learn more about a just transition at [What is 'climate justice'? » Yale Climate Connections.](#))

**We'd like to learn more about how we can contribute to this goal.**

## Conferences and Retreats

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Gatherings are high-profile opportunities to reduce your climate impact and inspire your community. Share more about the ways you have reduced or hope to reduce the climate impact of retreats or conferences you host.

**We do not typically hold sizable retreats or conferences. We have held Shabbaton for the synagogue and other special events. We are developing plans for climate-related events in 2024, including for Tu B'Shevat.**

## Sustainability and Resiliency

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There may be other important sustainability and resiliency actions you are taking that don't fit into the Coalition climate action planning framework above. Describe other environmentally-positive measures that you have undertaken, or plan to take. Also, include ways your organization has prepared, or will be preparing, to be resilient in the face of our changing climate.

**We are always open to learning more about what we can do in this respect. We are limited given we do not own a physical space, so we can only seek to influence the decisions of our landlord and otherwise educate our congregation (and the broader community) for home and work consideration.**



## rating 1 to 5

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Office Hours

**3**

Community of Practice Quarterly Meetings

**N/A**

Climate Action Fund

**N/A**

Resource Guides

**5**

Online Seminars and Workshops

**4**

Climate Action Overview (our framework for climate action)

**5**

Climate Action Plan Submission Form

**5**

Direct Staff Engagement (phone, email, etc.)

**4**

Monthly Coalition Newsletter

**5**

Accountability from being part of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition

**5**



Being part of the larger Jewish climate movement

5

## optional text response

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What else, if anything, would be useful to help you create a climate action plan? (optional)

**Perhaps a mid-year check in to talk through what we've accomplished and where we've stumbled, as well as what we might do to continue to advance.**

If you're happy, please let us know. Your testimonial will help us grow the program. (optional)

**Adamah's resources, respect and guidance have been amazing. We need to do a better job of taking advantage of all that you offer, so that we can make a meaningful difference in achieving our mutual goals.**



