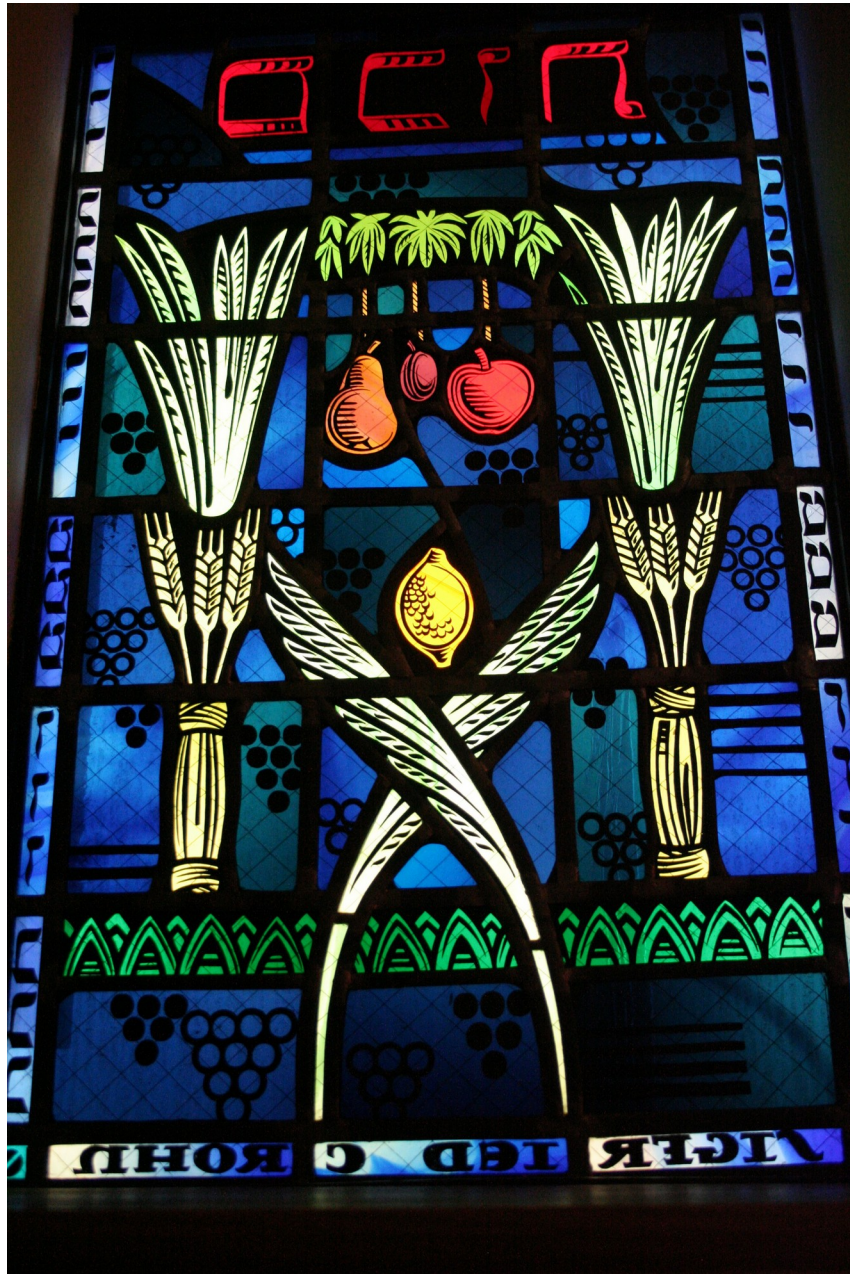


# The CBI Climate Change Prevention Passport

Bar Mitzvah Project of Max Friedenwald-Fishman



Sukkot Window in Congregation Beth Israel's Shemanski Chapel

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## Introduction

The CBI Climate Change Prevention Passport will help the Temple green itself and help members and their families green their homes and reduce their carbon footprint. Climate change is the process of the Earth getting warmer because greenhouse gases are being emitted from houses, buildings and other human activity. Scientists have figured out and are figuring out new ways to cut back on the greenhouse emissions people are letting out into the environment. It is important to prevent climate change because it causes droughts, floods, infertile soil, famine and other disasters. But we can fix climate change. It is not just the powerful peoples' or the leaders' jobs to fix it, but everyone's responsibility to take action. In this passport, there is a list of 14 ways you can help prevent climate change and a list of places you can get information to help.

Preventing climate change matters to Jews because one of G-d's commandments is "thou shalt not steal" and we are stealing resources from the earth, from ourselves and from future generations by taking more than our share. The URJ has made a resolution to help prevent climate change.

*Jewish tradition emphasizes that human dominion over nature does not provide a license to abuse the environment; rather we are called to "till and tend" God's Earth (Genesis 2:15), and reminded in the Midrash that if we fail to do so, there will be nobody after us to repair our damage (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13). We are also repeatedly commanded to care for the poorest and most vulnerable among us; this means ensuring adequate access to basic resources and a healthy environment for all people, including marginalized communities at home and throughout the world.*

*...For more than forty years the Reform Movement has advocated in defense of our environment and all those species – from the smallest creatures to humankind itself – that rely on our shared natural habitat and resources for survival.*

*...We now face the unprecedented challenge of climate change due to greenhouse gas emissions, and the need for serious and urgent action on this issue has never been clearer. This growing threat, along with our rapidly decreasing supply of fossil fuels, further illustrates the need for strong energy and environmental policies at every level.*

Submitted by the Commission on Social Action to the Union for Reform Judaism's 70th General Assembly.

## Passport Actions: 14 Things Everyone Can Do - Check them all off!

### ☐ 1. Wash clothes in cold water

Saves 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year.

### ☐ 2. Replace a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL)

CFLs use 60% less energy than a regular bulb. This simple switch will save about 300 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. We recommend you purchase your CFL bulbs at [1000bulbs.com](http://1000bulbs.com). They have great deals on both screw-in and plug-in light bulbs.

### ☐ 3. Install a programmable thermostat

Programmable thermostats will automatically lower the heat or air conditioning at night and raise them again in the morning. They can save you \$100 a year on your energy bill.

### ☐ 4. Move your thermostat down 2° in winter and up 2° in summer

Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment.

### ☐ 5. Clean or replace filters on your furnace and air conditioner

Cleaning a dirty air filter can save 350 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

### ☐ 6. Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket

You'll save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple action. You can save another 550 pounds per year by setting the thermostat no higher than 50°C.

### ☐ 7. Be sure you're recycling at home

You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide a year by recycling half of the waste your household generates.

### ☐ 8. Recycle your organic waste

Around 3% of the greenhouse gas emissions are through the methane released by decomposing, biodegradable waste. By recycling organic waste or composting it if you have a garden, you can help eliminate this problem. Just make sure that you compost it properly, so it decomposes with sufficient oxygen, otherwise your compost will cause methane emissions and smell foul.

### ☐ 9. Plant a tree

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Shade provided by trees can also reduce your air conditioning bill by 10 to 15%. The Arbor Day Foundation has information on planting and provides trees you can plant when you become a member.

### ☐ 10. Buy locally grown and produced fresh foods

The average meal in the United States travels 1,200 miles from the farm to your plate. Buying locally will save fuel and keep money in your community. Buy fresh foods instead of frozen. Frozen food uses 10 times more energy to produce.

### ☐ 11. Reduce the number of miles you drive by walking, biking, carpooling or taking mass transit whenever possible

Avoiding just 10 miles of driving every week would eliminate about 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year! Look for transit options in your area. Start a carpool with your coworkers, classmates or co-congregants. Sharing a ride with someone just 2 days a week will reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by 1,590 pounds a year. eRideShare.com runs a free service connecting North American commuters and travelers.

#### **□ 12. Encourage the switch to renewable energy**

Successfully combating global warming requires a national transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass. These technologies are ready to be deployed more widely, but there are regulatory barriers impeding them.

#### **□ 13. Protect and conserve forests worldwide**

Forests play a critical role in global warming: they store carbon. When forests are burned or cut down, their stored carbon is released into the atmosphere. Deforestation now accounts for about 20% of carbon dioxide emissions each year. Conservation International has more information on saving forests from global warming.

#### **□ 14. Consider the impact of your investments**

If you invest your money, you should consider the impact that your investments and savings will have on global warming. Check out SocialInvest and Ceres to learn more about how to ensure your money is being invested in companies, products and projects that address issues related to climate change.

#### **Sources for the 14 Actions:**

*The sources for these tips include: Defenders of Wildlife <http://www.defenders.org> and Global Warming Facts <http://globalwarming-facts.info/>*

## **Resources and Links**

### **NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL**

#### **Defenders of Wildlife**

<http://www.defenders.org>

#### **Global Warming Facts**

<http://globalwarming-facts.info/>

#### **Nature Conservancy**

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/urgentissues/climatechange/help/tips-from-a-nature-conservancy-scientist.xml>

#### **A Jewish Response to Climate Change**

[www.coejl.org/climatechange/gw\\_jewishresponse.php](http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/gw_jewishresponse.php)

#### **Jewish Climate Initiative**

<http://www.jewishclimateinitiative.org/ethics/pikuah.php>

**URJ: Climate Change Basics**

[http://urj.org/about/union/governance/reso/?syspage=article&item\\_id=27421](http://urj.org/about/union/governance/reso/?syspage=article&item_id=27421)

**Faith in Place**

[www.faithinplace.org](http://www.faithinplace.org)

**David Suzuki Foundation (Canada)**

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/>

**Climate Works Foundation**

[www.climateworks.org/](http://www.climateworks.org/)

**Practically Green**

<http://practicallygreen.com/>

**LOCAL**

**Portland Bike and Transportation Options**

<http://www.portlandonline.com/TRANSPORTATION/index.cfm?a=70221&c=34809>

**Drive Less. Save More.**

<http://www.driveless.savemore.com/>

**Portland Sustainability Institute**

[www.pdxinstitute.org](http://www.pdxinstitute.org)

**Clean Energy Works Oregon**

<http://www.cleanenergyworksoregon.org/>

**Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**

<http://neea.org/>

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