

Hillel
International

100
years of hillel

20
23 Climate
Action
Plan

Proud member of the



**Jewish Climate
Leadership Coalition**
POWERED BY ADAMAH

Call to Action

The global climate crisis is an historic inflection point for our planet, our communities, and our people.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body that assesses the science of climate change, estimates that we have fewer than seven years to take urgent and meaningful action to avoid locking in the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

Jewish tradition compels us to respond.

Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition

In 2022, Hillel International signed on as a founding partner to the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, along with twenty other national and international umbrella organizations of Jewish life.

Powered by Adamah, the Coalition is a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commit to taking action.

Coalition members develop **Climate Action Plans** that outline our strategic priorities of our climate work. Our Climate Action Plan details action taken to-date and sets goals for both reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and mobilizing our networks around climate action in the year ahead.

Inspired by Jewish values, we are working to do the Jewish community's part to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and build a livable future together.

We invite Jewish community organizations everywhere to join us.

For more information about the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, watch the [Coalition launch video](#) or visit Adamah's [website](#).



Background

Hillel International is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, working with students at more than 850 colleges and universities across North America and around the world. Hillel's mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world.

Young people have been leading the Jewish community in recognizing, learning, advocating and taking action about climate change. Many Hillel students are deeply concerned about the impact of climate change, and are seeking opportunities to put their Jewish values into action around environmental sustainability.

Simultaneously, increasing numbers of students are engaging with Hillel to actualize their commitment to address the climate crisis.

In 2022, reflecting trends and interest in the field, Hillel International launched a department of Social Impact which includes Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action as a priority area. Hillel International launched a field advisory committee to amplify current efforts in the field and to guide the Hillel movement's growing work in this area.

Building on that work, in 2022 Hillel International became a founding signatory of the **Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition**. Hillel's participation in the Coalition and our Climate Action Plan are Inspired by Jewish values, our students, and our obligation to the next generation. Through this Climate Action Plan and our participation in the Coalition, we are working to amplify the voices and actions of our students and campuses in addressing climate change and ensuring a vibrant future.

Climate Action Plan

Hillel's Climate Action Plan will prioritize **movement-wide organizational learning**; expansion of **student programming**; a **climate assessment**; and efforts to reduce Hillel's climate impact during **conferences and gatherings**. Specifically, Hillel International commits to the following activities in 2023/5783:

Movement-Wide Organizational Learning

- **Professional Development:**
 - In partnership with leading Jewish environmental experts like Adamah and Dayenu, we will conduct quarterly Hillel U professional development workshops and at least one Hillel Torah Salon focusing on environmental sustainability and climate action.
 - In March 2023, the Hillel Social Impact team will partner with Adamah to launch a new Community of Practice for Hillel professionals working in this area and/or from Hillels that have joined the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition.
- **Campus Hillel Board Education:** In partnership with the Hillel U Center for Volunteer Leadership, the Hillel Social Impact team will:
 - Provide regular updates for the Center for Volunteer Leadership newsletter to share out environmental sustainability tips, best practices, and progress reports on the Climate Action Plan; and
 - In partnership with organizations like Adamah and Dayenu, run a minimum of two sessions for Campus Hillel Board Chairs and Executive Directors on topics such as climate-smart investing; climate-neutral/positive opportunities for Hillels with buildings; sustainable infrastructure and building opportunities; and climate resiliency.

- **Hillel International Board Education:** The Hillel International Board of Directors will engage in learning during the 2023-24 year about:
 - Successes, challenges and opportunities for local campus Hillels and student leaders that have prioritized this area of work;
 - Opportunities for the Hillel movement as a whole to further engage in climate action.

Student Programming

- **Chesapeake Bay Climate Action Empowerment Alternative Spring Break:** In partnership with Repair the World and Adamah, Hillel International will create and run the Chesapeake Bay Climate Action Empowerment alternative spring break experience for up to 60 students in Spring 2023.
- **Continued growth of student-driven, climate-focused education and engagement as part of Hillel's Service Engagement Internship:** In partnership with Repair the World, Adamah, and Dayenu, Hillel's Service Engagement Internship will continue to expand internship opportunities for student interns who have been involved with Adamah's Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM) and Dayenu's educational programs and Dayenu Circles. This expansion will amplify the campus-focused impact of Adamah and Dayenu, while strengthening campus Hillel's impact in student engagement around Jewish climate action.

Hillel International Climate Assessment

In consultation with Adamah and comparably sized coalition members, the Hillel Social Impact team, together with leaders from the Student Cabinet, will begin the process of conducting an assessment of the climate impact of our operations both on the local and movement-wide levels. This work will inform a set of climate action recommendations for the future developed by professionals and student leaders.

Conferences and Gatherings

Hillel will utilize Adamah's resource/toolkit on conferences (food and carbon offsets) to develop recommendations for additional ways to mitigate climate impact at conferences and gatherings we organize. The Hillel Conferences and Events team will consult with the Social Impact team to determine where we can reduce impact with swag, meals, travel, etc, as well as identify ways to raise climate awareness through displays/education. At all conferences/events, Hillel will try to partner with [Tikkun Ha'yam](#) to ensure fully compostable cutlery/dishware is used whenever possible.

For more information about our climate work, visit our [website](#).