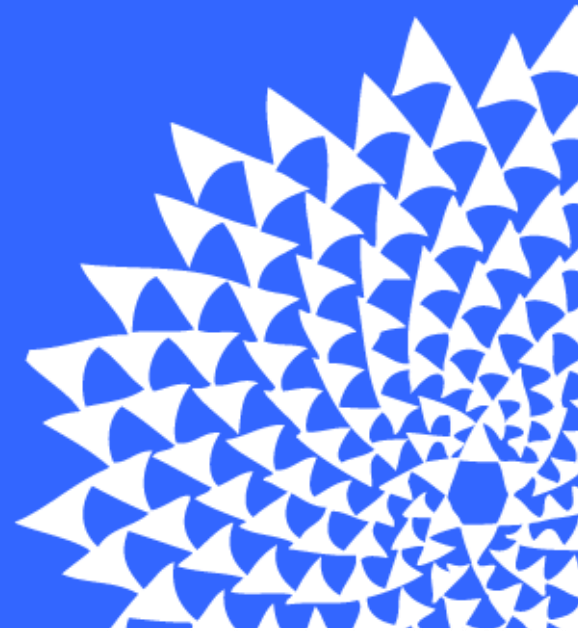


Hillel
International

100
years of hillel

CLIMATE
ACTION
PLAN
2024



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 five 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](#).



HILLEL INTERNATIONAL 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

HILLEL INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW

Hillel International is the largest Jewish college 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 can 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. Hillel International is proud to be a founding signatory of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. In 2023, actualizing on the commitment made as a member of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, Hillel International publicly released and implemented a Climate Action Plan. A Student Committee of the Hillel International Student Cabinet was also established in 2023 to help guide and support Hillel's growing work in this area, giving Hillel students a direct voice in the process.

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 OVERVIEW

In 2023, Hillel International proudly released our first Climate Action Plan, outlining our strategic priorities for both reducing our organizational greenhouse gas emissions and mobilizing our broader networks to engage in climate action.

This year's report includes both a reflection on our 2023 Climate Action Plan successes and challenges, as well as our goals for expanding our climate action work in the year ahead.

2023 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS AND REPORTING

Movement-Wide Organizational Learning:

Professional Development - Our 2023 goals for professional development included utilizing existing frameworks to hold at least five professional development workshops for Hillel campus professionals and a Community of Practice for campus professionals who have joined/are interested in joining the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition

- We conducted two virtual HillelU professional development workshops, one Hillel Torah Salon, and three in-person staff training programs at the 2022 and 2023 Hillel International Global Assembly (HIGA), all focusing on environmental sustainability and climate action. We partnered with Adamah, Dayenu, and Tikun HaYam/Repair the Sea to deliver these virtual and in-person professional

development offerings, which allowed campus Hillels to learn more about and sign up for the Coalition, as well as learn about programmatic opportunities like Adamah on Campus, Dayenu Circles, and Scubi Jew. This combination of virtual and in-person offerings engaged a total of 75+ Hillel campus professionals.

- We also partnered with Adamah to launch a new Community of Practice for Hillel professionals working in this area and/or whose Hillels are members of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. In 2023, there were three Community of Practice gatherings that engaged staff from 13 campus Hillels.

Campus Hillel Board Education - Our 2023 goals included providing regular updates to campus Hillel board chairs and executive directors through regular newsletter updates and two virtual workshops.

- We provided semi-regular written updates about the Coalition and progress reports on our Climate Action Plan in the HillelU Center for Volunteer Leadership newsletter, which reaches all campus Hillel Board Chairs and Executive Directors.
- We ran one educational session for campus Hillel Board Chairs and Executive Directors on climate action and the opportunities available through joining the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition.

Hillel International Board Education - Our 2023 Climate Action Plan included a commitment to engage the Hillel International Board in learning sometime during the 2023-24 academic year about opportunities for the Hillel movement to further engage in climate action.

- We have planned to run this session during the spring of 2024. However, given the many unpredictable challenges on the Board's agenda given current events, we may need to postpone this item to fall 2024.

Student Programming: Our goals included developing and running an Alternative Spring Break focused on climate action, and growing opportunities for student-driven learning and engagement through the Service Engagement Internship.

- We developed and piloted a comprehensive and impactful Chesapeake Bay Climate Action Empowerment Alternative Break. In partnership with Repair the World and Adamah, we created and implemented a meaningful curriculum that brought together Jewish spirituality, service, reflection, and learning for students to deepen their connection to environmental sustainability and climate action. The students who participated reported that this was a deeply impactful experience. One student shared, "As someone who often gets overwhelmed by the state of the planet, I found this trip able to empower me and make me feel like I could genuinely help the environment by working with others who care about the Earth as well." In this pilot year, we focused on developing a curriculum in order to lay the groundwork for expanding climate-focused Alternative Break opportunities for students in 2024. Now in 2024, we aim to significantly increase student participation.
- We continued the growth of student-driven, climate-focused education and engagement as part of Hillel's Service Engagement Internship, powered by Repair the World. All Hillel campuses with Adamah's Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM) alumni were given priority to apply for the Service Engagement Internship, with 14 internships set aside for JYCM alumni. In addition, Adamah and Dayenu ran the learning sessions for all Service Engagement Interns who selected "climate justice" as their issue area.
- In addition, we were able to support the launch of Adamah on Campus, Adamah's new campus initiative to engage Jewish environmental leaders on campus in community building, Jewish environmental education, and climate action. Hillel reviewed and advised on core program development and launch strategies, promoted the program across the Hillel movement, helped the new Adamah on Campus team build relationships with Hillel professionals and other partners, incorporated Adamah on Campus into the agendas for the Hillel community of practice, and helped plan and promote the Adamah Climate Activism Institute's Alternative Spring Break. As a result of these coordinated efforts, there are seven active Adamah on Campus chapters running through Hillels, with many more chapters in formation through campus Hillels.

Hillel International Climate Assessment:

- In 2023, we laid the foundation for readiness to begin work on our climate assessment, and identified student leaders who are interested in moving forward with the assessment, but were unable to begin in 2023 as planned. We are now better positioned to launch a comprehensive climate assessment in 2024.

Reduce the Climate Impact of Conferences and Gatherings:

- As planned, Hillel's conferences and events team worked with the Social Impact team to mitigate climate impact at HIGA. We hired a nutritionist to advise on how to incorporate more plant-based meals into our conference menus.
- We also utilized [Tikkun Ha'yam/Repair the Sea's Blue green initiative](#) to purchase and provide sustainable and compostable single-use dishware/flatware/cutlery for the HIGA conference whenever disposable materials were used.

Click [here](#) to see Hillel International's complete 2023 Climate Action Plan.

2024 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

Movement-Wide Organizational Learning:

- We will continue to partner with leading Jewish environmental experts like Adamah, Tikkun HaYam/Repair the Sea, and Dayenu to develop programming and information-sharing opportunities at HIGA and other in-person conferences.
- We will conduct three virtual sessions for Hillel professionals through HillelU and/or Hillel Torah Salons focusing on environmental sustainability and climate action.
- We will continue to share regular updates with campus Hillel Board Chairs and Executive Directors via the Center for Volunteer Leadership newsletter, highlighting the Coalition and progress on Hillel International's Climate Action Plan.
- We will run two educational sessions for campus Hillel Board Chairs and Executive Directors on climate action and resiliency.
- We will work with the Hillel International Student Cabinet's Sustainability Committee to conduct research to determine emissions reduction and sustainability goals, which the students will then present to the Hillel International Board of Directors.
- We will host at least two educational sessions for Hillel staff members about sourcing clean electricity for their homes and home offices, and steps they can take to reduce their personal climate emissions. We will provide written follow-up material for participants to learn how they can access financial incentives to reduce their emissions through electrification and other opportunities.
- We will support Adamah in their launch of a new three-year "train the trainers" program for Hillel professionals so they can develop skills to better support students around climate anxiety and mental health.
- We will continue to promote the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition as a key opportunity for campus Hillels to engage in climate action, aiming to have at least 10% of all staffed North American Hillels become members of the Coalition by December 2024.

Student Programming:

- We will expand our Alternative Spring Break programming, growing from one to three programmatic options for students to participate in immersive learning, service, and reflection around sustainability and climate action. Based on learnings from last year's ASB experience, we will increase geographic and financial accessibility, aiming to engage 75 students in these immersive experiences.

- We will make climate justice a more prominent offering in Hillel's Service Engagement Internship (SEI) by making it one of only four educational track options, increasing the number of SEI student interns who learn about climate justice with our partners Dayenu and Adamah on Campus.
- We will continue to support the expansion of Adamah on Campus, assisting Adamah in growing from seven to 15 chapters by June 2024.
- We will promote collaboration between the Adamah on Campus Student Board and the Hillel International Student Cabinet.

Hillel International Climate Assessment:

- In consultation with Adamah and comparably sized coalition members, we will conduct 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.

Reduce the Climate Impact of Conferences and Gatherings:

- We will hire a nutrition consultant to further incorporate plant-rich menus for the 2024 HIGA conference.
- We will support the Student Cabinet Sustainability Committee members to use Adamah's Climate Friendly Event and Conference resource guide to plan their annual gathering. We will share this resource guide widely with students across the Hillel Movement for their use in event planning.
- We will utilize Adamah's resource guides to develop recommendations for additional ways to mitigate climate impact at additional conferences and gatherings organized by Hillel International. This includes determining where we can reduce impact with swag, meals, travel, etc., as well as identify ways to raise climate awareness through displays and education.
- At all conferences/events, Hillel will try to partner with [Tikkun Ha'yam](#)/Repair the Sea to ensure fully compostable cutlery/dishware is used whenever possible.

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