



NETWORK
of Jewish Human
Service Agencies

**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, The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (The Network) 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 take 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](#).





The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, referred to as the “Network”, is an international membership association of more than 150 nonprofit human service agencies in the United States, Canada and Israel. Its members provide [a full range of human services](#) for the Jewish community and beyond, including healthcare, career, employment and mental health services, as well as programs for youth, families and seniors, Holocaust survivors, immigrants and refugees, persons with disabilities and caregivers.

The Network strives to be the leading voice for the Jewish human service sector. As the go-to resource for advocacy, best practices, innovation and research, partnerships and collaborations, The Network strengthens agencies so they can better serve their communities.

The Network’s Center for Innovation and Research (NCIR) leverages the strength and resources of over 150 member agencies in the Jewish human service sector. Together, the Center embraces opportunities that help Network member agencies to achieve greater impact for their clients, their agency operations, and in their communities. NCIR’s goal is to provide timely and responsive **solutions to challenges** faced by member agencies that enhance service quality, create operational and cost efficiencies, and transform agency cultures.

The Network is proud to participate in the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition as part of its commitment to the Jewish human service sector and the strategic goals of the NCIR.

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies 2023 Climate Action Plan

Actions Taken To-Date

Network member agencies sit on the frontlines of climate challenge, and as the natural source of social supports and of emergency responses for their respective cities and communities. Wildfires exacerbated by climate change, floods in Houston, hurricanes in New Orleans, all have disproportionately affected the vulnerable populations that are served by Network member agencies.

Climate action is often divided into two categories: *mitigation*, meaning reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses we produce to prevent further climate change, and *adaptation*, creating structures to support the most vulnerable who are already impacted and will continue to be impacted by climate change. The Network has supported its member agencies to take extensive action on *adaptation*, including developing disaster response plans for a range of potential emergencies. These plans have involved coordinating service partners across faiths and sectors, community-wide. They have inspired similar activity by non-Jewish partners including hospitals.

In general, the Network believes that our most significant impact will be in our ability to inspire and engage our member agencies to take action on climate.

Primary Energy Use

The Network’s offices are primarily remote, so this will not be a focus of our Climate Action Plan. However, we will encourage all our affiliate organizations, many of whom own their buildings, to measure their emissions from direct energy use and develop mitigation plans as part of their own Climate Action Plans.

The Network is also committed to learning more about how we and our affiliate organizations can accurately measure and monitor energy use. The Network will work with Adamah and pursue additional sources of training and support to best position itself to set realistic benchmarks and strategies for achieving them.

Renewables

We will encourage our member agencies by providing resources and guidance necessary to explore a transition to renewable energy as part of their CAPs.

Transportation

Our travel patterns changed significantly during the coronavirus pandemic. For the coming year, we commit to reexamining our work-related travel and factoring in climate impact as a decision point in each potential travel opportunity.

Food

We will use the resource guide being developed by Adamah along with Adamah staff support to mitigate the climate impact of our meals served at events and our conferences, by choosing lower-impact foods. We are prepared to make an explicit commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the food we serve by 10% annually, through participation with the Humane Society's new and free [ForwardFood](#) program.

Offsets

A carbon offset is a reduction or removal of emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. The Network is committed to learning more about off-setting without simply making excuses for its carbon footprint. The Network will begin to explore strategies for off-setting that are realistic, affordable and impactful. During this plan cycle, The Network will identify actions the agency can take to make positive contributions to the planet.

Education & Celebration

The Network holds a unique vantage point, as the network of agencies serving vulnerable populations in our communities that are on the front lines of the impacts of climate change. We will create a video that tells the narrative of how climate change is affecting our constituent agencies. This video will go out to the public to raise awareness of the issue of climate change and inspire the broader Jewish community to action.

Additionally, The Network's member agencies both have significant carbon footprints and potential opportunities to green their operations. The Network members as a whole are affected by climate change, as it has already begun impacting our work with vulnerable populations.

The Network will encourage and recruit member agencies to join the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition and participate in a dedicated cohort, facilitated by Adamah and The Network, to support those agencies in crafting their own Climate Action Plans. The development of this CAP is meant to serve as an inspiration for that process and a way for us to lead by example. We begin this cohort through outreach and recruitment of Jewish human service agencies and through offering an intro session to the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition starting in early fall.

Finance

This is an area of climate impact we as a field have not explored in depth. It is clearly important, and we will be on a learning curve. For this year's CAP, we will begin by learning about climate-smart investing on a staff and board level. We will dedicate time on the agenda of one board meeting to learning about climate-smart investments.

The Network will engage both board and staff to determine whether or not we have a problem. In the event that we discover a conflict, we will dedicate time on a future board meeting agenda to learning and make recommendations for change as necessary.

Advocacy

The Network engages in advocacy on a national level. Climate change has not been one of our issues, but it is increasingly impacting our member agencies and the clients they serve. For 2023/5783, we will formally incorporate climate advocacy as an issue area in our advocacy. We will leverage the video we create (see Education and Celebration) to tell the story of why combating climate change is so important. We will partner with the organization Dayenu for support.

Resiliency

We plan to continue our work on climate adaptation, supporting our agencies to develop disaster recovery plans and coordinating with local agencies to build community-wide safety nets in the event of natural disasters.

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

