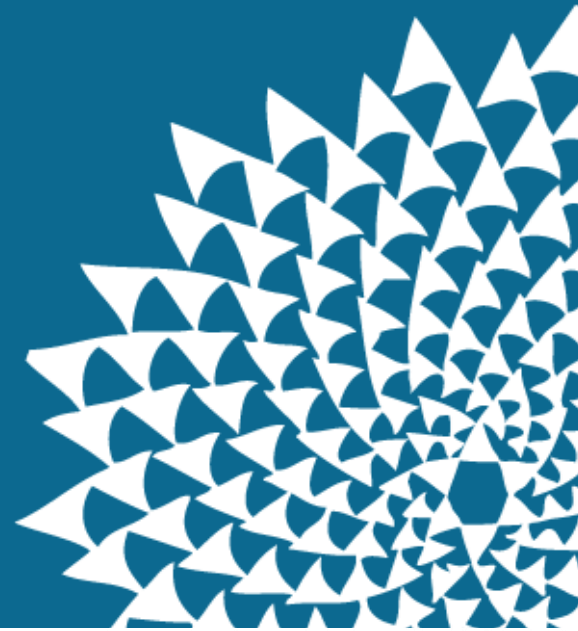




**Network of Jewish
Human Service Agencies**

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





NETWORK OF JEWISH HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

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.

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

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

2023 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS AND REPORTING

Primary Energy Use and Renewables

- Encourage affiliates to develop energy use mitigation plans.
- Learn more about how to accurately measure and monitor energy use to be able to set benchmarks and strategies to meet them.
- Encourage affiliates to explore transition to renewable energy.

Progress: The Network has shared multiple resources including action planning templates, webinars with subject matter experts, panel discussions with peer member agencies actively engaged in climate action initiatives, convening a Climate Action NETGroup and various tools and information through its newsletter and email listserv (which combined reach over 30,000 people) to encourage member agencies to 1) develop their own climate action plans; 2) explore funding opportunities; 3) attend educational webinars. In addition, NJHSA supported Adamah’s application to be a “primary recipient” in the Renew America’s Nonprofits (RAN) program, which would have given Coalition members access to significant funding for energy efficiency projects.

Transportation

- Reexamine work-related travel.

Progress: In general, The Network operates remotely, and staff travel is limited. However, the Network hosts one signature event per year, PowerNET, as such all staff generally attend. The CEO travels by train whenever possible. After re-examining the costs and climate impact of travel for all 14 staff members, The Network has made a decision to send less than half of its staff to its annual fall ExecNET conference, thereby reducing an estimated 2,000 miles in air travel for 7 people, an estimated 7.2 metric tons of emissions.

Food

- Choose lower-impact foods for events and conferences.
- Participate in Forward Food program and commit to goal of 10% reduction in emissions through food.

Progress: In general, The Network directs the procurement of food for conferences only twice per year. These events are always kosher and food vendors are often dictated by the hotel selected. The Network did not join the Forward Food program, however we did significantly decrease our emissions through food. For PowerNET 2023, we selected a hotel with “green” practices and finalized a “dairy only” menu for all 647 attendees. This choice made it possible for The Network to avoid all meat and related meat waste. Also noteworthy, the Network welcomed one new Jewish human service agency to its membership, this agency is the first “Food Rescue” service provider, Metro Food Rescue. Reducing wasted food is a top climate solution, so we are excited to have this expertise in our network and to support this organization’s efforts. The Network is also in discussion with another potential food rescue member and hopes to welcome them in 2024.

Carbon Offsets

- Learn more about carbon offsets and identify actions that are realistic, affordable, and impactful.

Progress: The Network has not yet explored the idea of carbon offsets and related solutions but will maintain this goal for 2024.

Education and Celebration

- Create video to tell narrative of how climate change is affecting constituent agencies and share publicly.
- Outreach to network to encourage and recruit Coalition membership.
- Support community of practice for human service agencies in the Coalition.

Progress: The Network CEO participated in Adamah’s Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition launch video and helped to promote it widely through our email listserve, social media and newsletter, reaching approximately 30,000 individuals. In addition, the Network has sent six “call to action” emails to our list of 11,000 unique contacts during the calendar year 2023 to encourage and recruit member agencies to join the Coalition. In addition, the Network started a Climate Action NETGroup as a community of practice that is open to all NJHSA members, not just Coalition members. The purpose of this NETGroup aligns with Adamah’s goals for its communities of practice and creates a space for member agencies to learn from one another and encourage increased participation in climate action. There are 48 individual members of the Climate Action NETGroup. This group hosted 4 meetings in 2023 with dates set for 4 meetings in 2024.

Finance

- Learn about climate-smart investing on a staff and board level; put time on agenda at one board meeting to learn about climate-smart investments.
- Assess whether we have a “problem”; if so, dedicate time in future board meeting to learn and make recommendations for change.

Progress: The Network has not yet done these things but will maintain this goal for 2024.

Advocacy

- Formally incorporate climate advocacy as an issue area in our advocacy.
- We will partner with Dayenu for support.

Progress: The Network Advocacy committee has not included climate action in its 2023 priorities but will continue to explore this in 2024.

Resiliency

- Support agencies to develop disaster recovery plans.
- Coordinate with local agencies to build community-wide safety nets in the event of natural disasters.

Progress: The Network has drafted an Emergency Preparedness Toolkit to support and strengthen our sector's ability and capacity to respond to emergencies, including climate change-driven disasters, through pre-planning and preparedness. The goal of the Toolkit is to provide member agencies with a roadmap that can be used to develop their own unique emergency plans to ensure the safety and security of their clients, staff and communities along with the maintenance of their operations. Designed as a thought-provoking workbook, the toolkit will guide organizations through a series of topics related to emergency planning, and through a set of related questions, will provide support and direction in drafting an emergency preparedness plan. This will be launched in early 2024.

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

2024 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

Transportation

- Continue to reduce unnecessary work-related air travel. In general, The Network operates remotely, and staff travel is limited. However, the Network hosts one signature event per year, PowerNET, as such all staff generally attend. The CEO travels by train whenever possible. After re-examining the costs and climate impact of travel for all 14 staff members in 2023, we decided to reduce the number of staff traveling by air. In 2024 we will continue with this reduction, preventing an estimated 7.2 metric tons of emissions.

Food

- As reducing wasted food is a top climate solution, we invited Metro Food Rescue, a Network member focused on food rescue, to present at a Climate Action NETGroup in December 2023 and will continue to spotlight their work and encourage other Network members to explore how reducing food waste can be part of their climate action. The Network is also in discussion with another potential food rescue member and hopes to welcome them in 2024.

Carbon Offsets

- We will learn more about carbon offsets and identify actions that are realistic, affordable, and impactful both in relation to our own staff travel as well as for our two conferences.

Education and Celebration

- We will continue to do outreach to our Network members to encourage their taking climate action. We have a goal of increasing participation in our Climate Action NETGroup by 25%, from 48 to 60 members, and to double membership in the Coalition from 5 to 10 members.
- We will continue to co-convene the community of practice for human service agencies in the Coalition. This community of practice is designed as a Climate Action NETGroup that is open to all NJHSA members,

not just Coalition members. The group will meet 4 times in 2024 and will bring relevant information and community-building to its members.

Finance

- Learn about climate-smart investing on a staff and board level; put time on agenda at one board meeting to learn about climate-smart investments.
- Assess whether we have a “problem”; if so, dedicate time in a future board meeting to learn and make recommendations for change.

Advocacy

- The Network Advocacy committee will explore opportunities to include climate action in its 2024 priorities.

Resiliency

- In late 2023, the Network wrote and launched the Emergency Preparedness Toolkit to support and strengthen our sector’s ability and capacity to respond to emergencies, including climate change-driven disasters, through pre-planning and preparedness and that agencies can use to develop their own unique emergency preparedness plans. In 2024, we will promote the Toolkit heavily to our network, including a series of Crisis Response and Emergency Preparedness webinars for the entire Network and focusing one Climate Action NETGroup on the toolkit. We have a goal of at least 50 members using the toolkit to develop their own emergency preparedness plans.

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