



**Jewish Climate  
Leadership Coalition**  
POWERED BY ADAMAH

# Temple B'nai Torah (Wantagh, NY) Climate Action Plan 2025

## Contact Information:

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## 2025 Climate Action Plan Submitted by:

sam star (starway3@aol.com, )

## Organization Stats:

How many people total does your organization engage over the course of a year?	<b>2000</b>
Are you planning to renovate or engage in new construction in the next 3 years?	<i>No</i>
How many buildings does your organization rent or own?	<i>1</i>

## Source Clean Electricity

### What actions have you taken, and/or are you going to take, to source clean electricity?

We installed a photovoltaic (PV) solar array.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We installed another form of onsite renewable energy production.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed onsite backup battery for electrical storage.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We purchased clean electricity through the grid or another program, such as community solar.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We rent and the building sourced clean electricity.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We rent and advocated for the landlord to source clean electricity	<i>Not applicable</i>
We educated our remote workforce about purchasing clean electricity for their home.	<i>Not applicable</i>

**Additional Information:** *in connection with our planned roof replacement, we are investigating solar panel financing options, including power purchase agreements.*

# Go Electric/Fuel Switching

**What actions have you taken, and/or are you going to take, to switch your building's appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles to electric?**

We took an inventory of our appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles, noting which use fossil fuels, the year they'll reach end of functional use, and made a timeline to replace with electric versions.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We electrified all our appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We assessed our electrical capacity and know if/where we need upgrades.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We upgraded the capacity of our electric panel(s).	<i>Not currently planning</i>
New construction/renovation was all electric.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We rent, and the building is all electric.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We rent and advocated with our landlord to fuel switch.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We educated our remote workforce about going electric/fuel switching.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We planned to switch to all electric but were derailed and purchased fossil fuel equipment this year.	<i>n/a</i>

**Additional Information:**

# Energy Efficiency

## What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce energy use at your facilities?

We switched to LED bulbs.	<i>Continuous</i>
We installed motion detectors for lighting (if religious observance allows).	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We installed and used programmable thermostats to optimize settings for energy use and comfort.	<i>In process</i>
We increased the useable power coming in through the electrical panel (known as power factor), reducing overall energy use.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed energy-efficient appliances.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed a geothermal heating and cooling system. Note: this pertains to Source Clean Electric and Fuel Switching, as well.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed solar water heaters.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We improved the building envelope with insulation and/or energy efficient windows.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We installed a white roof.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We installed a green roof.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We conducted an energy audit.	<i>Want to learn more</i>

**Additional Information:** *Replacing bulbs with LED, where possible.*

*Application for matching grant filed with Adamah NY in November to help fund installation of programmable thermostats. Approval received in December.*

*New roof will have insulation and TPO material (i.e., white roof which reflects heat, instead of absorbing)*

# Transportation

## What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation?

We installed bike racks.	<i>Completed</i>
We offered electric vehicle charging in our parking lot.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed signage to support cleaner modes of transportation.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We gave priority parking priority for electric cars, carpools, and/or bikes.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We provided public transit and biking instructions, along with EV charging and carpool resources, when available, on our website and communications for how to get to our site.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We implemented programs and incentives that encourage staff and members to commute via public transit, carpool, biking, or walking.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We limited staff or participant air travel to programs, events, and conferences; and/or we did virtual engagement; and/or bundled objectives when travel was needed.	<i>Not applicable</i>

**Additional Information:** *Our Green Practices policy addresses the use of carpools and reduction in idling.*

*Communications to Religious School parents on the benefits of carpooling are being developed. Registration forms for next year will inquire about interest in carpooling.*

*We have utilized our streaming capabilities for Shabbat and High Holiday services as well as Temple Board and Committee meetings and educational programs*

## Food We Serve

**What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with the food you serve?**

We exclusively served vegan (plant-based) food.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We exclusively served vegetarian (no meat or fish, but did serve dairy and/or eggs).	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We had vegan options at all meals.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We had vegetarian options at all meals	<i>Continuous</i>
We replaced industrial meat, dairy, and eggs with higher welfare, more regeneratively farmed versions.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We have a food policy that addresses climate impacts.	<i>In process</i>
We advocated for more plant-based options with local caterers, our food distributor, and/or other outside food providers.	<i>Not currently planning</i>

**Additional Information:** *At this time, food policy addressing climate impacts considers just composting (see below). Other actions to be considered.*

## Minimize Food Waste

**What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce the amount of food waste that is generated?**

We conducted a food waste audit.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We have a food waste policy.	<i>Completed</i>
We took steps to reduce food waste created on the catering/kitchen side.	<i>Continuous</i>
We took steps to reduce food waste in the dining area.	<i>Continuous</i>

**Additional Information:** *We implemented a composting system in our kitchen. Compostable scraps are utilized in our giving garden (see the Nature Based Solutions section for further details on the garden). Untouched desserts, snacks and other foodstuffs are used at future events or donated, if possible.*

## Food Waste Emissions

**What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with food waste going to the landfill?**

We gave surplus food to people.	<i>Continuous</i>
We gave surplus food to animals.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We composted surplus food (onsite or off-site).	<i>Continuous</i>

**Additional Information:** *See sections immediately above and below for additional details*

# Nature-based Solutions

**What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce the GHG emissions released from, and maximize the carbon sequestered by, natural spaces and resources you manage (e.g., lawns, woodlots, forests, waterways)?**

We assessed our facility's grounds to understand current land use.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We planted additional trees on our property.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We reduced lawn by converting lawn to native plantings, rain gardens, and/or sustainable food gardens/farms.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We managed our landscape, including lawns, without fossil-fuel powered equipment.	<i>Continuous</i>
We managed our landscape, including lawns, without using chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.	<i>Continuous</i>
We converted impermeable surfaces to green infrastructure, such as bioswales.	<i>Completed</i>
We restored degraded ecosystems on our property such as waterways, wetlands, and/or woodlots.	<i>Not applicable</i>
We sequestered carbon through other nature-based technologies, e.g. biochar production, composting toilets.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
How many additional trees did you plant on your grounds since 2000?	
How many acres of lawn have you eliminated since 2000?	0

**Additional Information:** *We let nature manage our landscape, i.e., no watering or fertilizing of the property.*

*We repurposed the nursery school playground into a giving garden which emphasizes the use or compostable materials and the repurposing of items that would otherwise be disposed of (e.g., headboards and garden furniture). A composting system utilizing food scraps from our kitchen and temple members' kitchens helps supply the soil for planting. Since 2021, we donated 2-3 thousand pounds of vegetables that were grown on site or gleaned from other locations to local food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and other food distribution organizations each year.*

# Offset Emissions You Can't Reduce

**What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to offset the GHG emissions produced from your operations, such as flying, use of fossil fuels in buildings, and programs?**

We categorized our GHG emissions.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We measured our GHG emissions by category.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We offset our GHG emissions.	<i>Not currently planning</i>

**Additional Information:**

# Education and Nature Connection

## What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to incorporate climate education and nature connection into your organizational work?

Produced programming for our staff and/or constituents about implementing climate action solutions in their homes and communities.	<i>Continuous</i>
Produced programming or other opportunities for our staff and/or constituents about nature connection.	<i>Continuous</i>
Developed staff or community capacity through training/professional development to incorporate nature connection and/or climate action.	<i>In process</i>
Publicized our climate action work to our networks and community, e.g. through newsletters, social media, press.	<i>Continuous</i>
Encouraged organizations within our network to join the Coalition.	<i>Not currently planning</i>

**Additional Information:** *Working with Adamah's Jewish Youth Climate Movement on a potential high school elective for Spring 2025.*

*Programing for Mazel Tots and Tot Shabbats include visits to our garden.*

*Other Religious school activities:*

*Kindergarten - 6th grade students learn about recycling and upcycling in art class, There is grade appropriate programming about early Kibbutz life and how we can live off the land. Tu biShvat discussions about sourcing food and planting. Passover discussions about waste and ethically sourced foods.*

*The Social Action/Social Justice Committee ("SA/SJ") made presentations to the Temple Board and various Arms as well as the congregation (at the SA/SJ Shabbat and through SA/SJ articles) regarding the 2024 Climate Action Plan and the Adamah organization. Similar presentations are being planned for 2025.*

*We publish earth sustainability tips each month (e.g., using organic sheets and towels, reef friendly sunscreen and low flow showers heads) in our weekly and monthly congregational communications as well as our external website and Facebook page.*

# Advocacy

## What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to engage in climate advocacy or direct action?

We partnered with others to bring climate advocacy opportunities to our community, e.g. Jewish Youth Climate Movement, Adamah on Campus, Dayenu Circle, or Jewish Earth Alliance.	<i>Continuous</i>
We participated in climate change-related demonstrations, e.g., rallies, marches, climate strikes, direct actions.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We engaged climate-concerned voters, e.g., through postcard campaigns, hosting candidate forums, participating in "Get Out the Vote" work.	<i>Continuous</i>
We published op-eds, letters to the editor, or other articles on climate change.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We lobbied elected officials and/or regulatory agencies on climate policy.	<i>Continuous</i>
We communicated with our community about climate advocacy opportunities.	<i>Continuous</i>

**Additional Information:** *We connected with Nassau County Dayenu Circle through a fellow JCLC member and participated in post carding events for voting and the NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act ("NY HEAT Act").*

*We are planning to host a Dayenu workshop on climate change for our congregation and outside community.*

# Finance

## What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to shift your institutional dollars from fossil fuel to climate-smart banking and investments?

We created an organizational process of learning and dialogue about socially responsible investing and climate-smart banking.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We moved our banking to an institution that aligns with our values around climate action.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We moved our investments out of fossil fuels.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We moved our investments to climate-smart funds.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We had a climate-smart investing fund available in our 401k/retirement plan.	<i>Completed</i>
We set a climate-smart investing fund as the default for our 401k/retirement plan.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We funded other Jewish organizations to invest in GHG emissions reductions and cost-saving climate action, through grants, loans, or financing.	<i>Not currently planning</i>

**Additional Information:** *The RPB (which is where the pension fund is) does not have a specific climate smart fund, however they do have a Jewish Values fund that does consider climate change issues*



# Optional Questions to Support Electrification

Adamah is working with a leading electrification nonprofit that is focused on electrifying our homes, businesses, and communities. They develop accessible, actionable data and tools to make going electric easier, with a mission to help us save money, tackle climate goals, improve health, and build the next generation of the clean energy workforce. They are working to understand the broader emissions-mitigation and cost-saving potential of electrification. Our partnership will bring insight into the nonprofit sectors of America and, we believe, invaluable opportunities for our community.

You are not required to answer the following questions; however, if you are able to provide us with this information, it will help us better understand our Jewish communal landscape, which will help inform our collaborative work with this nonprofit and ultimately provide greater resources to Coalition members. The information requested below will be available on energy bills. Once you have these on hand, we ask that you save these documents for potential future engagement. If you are not able to provide this information at this time, there will be future opportunities to share your data.

**Please share below the total money you spent and total energy consumed over the past 12 months of each of the energy types below.**

Utility	Dollars Spent	Amount Consumed
Electricity	\$31000 (USD)	136000 kWh
Methane/natural gas (from a utility)	\$14000 (USD)	27000 Therms
Heating Oil Delivered	(USD)	
Propane Delivered	(USD)	
Other - Replacing bulbs with LED, where possible.  Application for matching grant filed with Adamah NY in November to help fund installation of programmable thermostats. Approval received in December.  New roof will have insulation and TPO material (i.e., white roof which reflects heat, instead of absorbing)	(USD)	

**Would you consider surveying your community about household energy use to support this project, if provided with the resources?**

No

## Strategic Planning and Governance

**Incorporating climate action into the everyday systems that guide your organization can ensure that climate considerations outlive any one action, policy, administrator. It can be woven into strategic planning, governance documents, and capital campaigns. Please use this space to address how you have, and how you will, weave climate action into your organization in these ways.**

See Education and Nature Connection section for actions taken. Continual reminders to leadership and congregants about the climate action plan and accomplishments to date will be implemented to help ensure climate action is considered as a matter of course in our day to day operations and events..

**Those in our society with less power and fewer resources, already more vulnerable, are hit hardest by the impact of climate change. Climate action planning is an opportunity to address such harms and inequities through the pursuit of a just transition to a fossil fuel-free future, and ensure they are not recreated in the future. Like everything else in your climate action plan, incorporating climate justice is a process of learning and growth that develops year-over-year. Please use this space to share the principles, processes, and practices that your organization uses, or will use, to promote just outcomes through climate action. (Learn more about a just transition at [What is 'climate justice'? » Yale Climate Connections.](#))**

Our SA/SJ Committee has been tasked with leading the climate action planning process and, with Temple clergy and leadership, will promote just outcomes through climate action

## Conferences and Retreats

**Gatherings are high-profile opportunities to reduce your climate impact and inspire your community by modeling climate action. Please use this space to share the ways you have reduced, or hope to reduce, the climate impact of retreats or conferences you host.**

Not applicable

## Resiliency

**According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) it is an established fact that the climate crisis has led to an increased frequency and/or intensity of some weather and climate extremes. From power outages to increased storm intensity to sea level rise to drought, scientists are connecting our experiences of natural disasters to climate change. Please include ways your organization has prepared, or will be preparing, to be resilient in the face of our changing climate. Please also specify climate disasters your organization and/or community has navigated.**

Last major storm was Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Want to learn more about climate disaster planning.

## Sustainability

**There may be other important environmental sustainability actions you are taking that don't fit into the Coalition climate action planning framework above. Please use the space below to note other environmentally positive measures that you have undertaken, or plan to take, such as reducing single-use plastics, recycling, or litter clean-ups.**

In addition to the Earth Sustainability tips noted in the Education and Nature Connection section, we held our first "reverse" Tashlich (i.e., removing waste from the beach and local waterway). Additionally, we included another beach cleanup as one of our annual Mitzvah Day activities .

The Religious School is considering ways to utilize more technology to mitigate use of paper.

# Program Feedback

## Rating 1-5

Community of Practice Quarterly Meetings	4	Direct Staff Engagement (phone, email, etc.)	5
One-on-one Coaching and Consultation		Accountability from being part of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition	5
Climate Action Fund	5	Monthly Coalition Newsletter	3
Resource Guides	4	Being part of the larger Jewish climate movement	5
Climate Action Overview (our framework for climate action)	5	Working with an Adamah Community Impact Hub, (NY, Atlanta, Detroit, Baltimore, and SoCal)	5
Online Seminars and Workshops	5	Being part of the local Jewish climate movement.	
Climate Action Plan Submission Form	5		

## Optional Text Response

**What else, if anything, would be useful to help you create and/or implement a climate action plan?**

**If you're happy, please let us know. Your written testimonial will help us tell our story, reach out to others, and grow the program.**

Going through this process helped us develop a more coordinated approach amongst Temple leadership and the Arms and provides a congregation wide focus. The template helped identify actions we never would have thought of on our own.