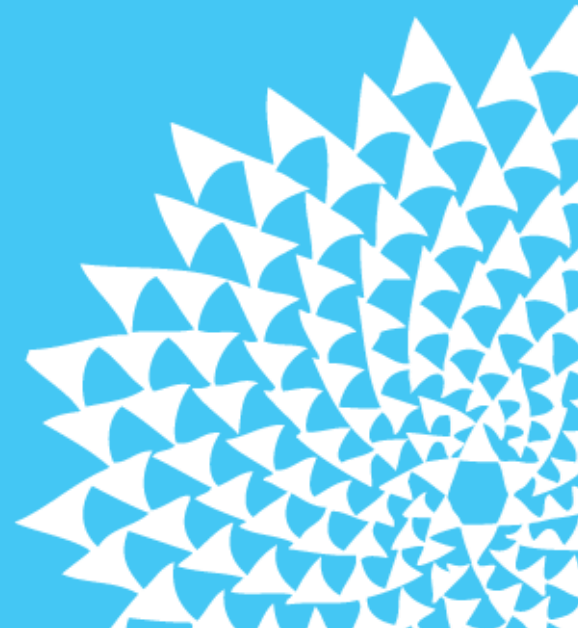




**MOISHE  
HOUSE**

Inspiring  
Jewish  
Homes

# 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, Moishe House 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](#).





# MOISHE HOUSE 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

Moishe House is what being Jewish in your 20s and 30s is all about. We provide space for over 75,000 young adults around the world to create meaningful, welcoming Jewish communities for themselves and their peers each year. Moishe House began in 2006 in Oakland, CA and is now the largest organization in the world engaging Jewish young adults - training young adults to lead their own communities, offering them deep immersive Jewish learning experiences, and connecting them to rabbis and Jewish educators to help them grow in their own Jewish identities and learning.

In 2023, Moishe House proudly released our first Climate Action Plan, outlining our strategic priorities for both reducing Moishe House'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

The following are Moishe House's successes and challenges implementing the climate solutions identified in our [2023 Climate Action Plan](#):

### Net-Zero Emissions:

**Primary Energy Use:** In our 2023 CAP, Moishe House named a goal of creating a proposal to transition our houses/offices to the cleanest energy option available by September 2025. This past year we developed plans for next steps (see below) to achieve our goal.

### Transportation:

- Moishe House has a significant transportation footprint, as we run multiple retreats each month including various staff and participants from around the world. For 2023, we committed to reexamine our work-related travel with climate in mind, and research carbon offsets. Not only did we review our flying, we began a pilot, to be fully rolled out in 2024 (see below) to reduce airplane travel while maintaining community building. Staff reviewed the possibility of purchasing carbon offsets to balance out the climate impact of flying, yet named the challenge of finite financial resources and chose not to purchase offsets this year.
- A more indirect source of our greenhouse gas emissions are the products we purchase and ship across the globe, including swag and Judaica. In 2023, we successfully developed a plan and protocol to nearly eliminate the global shipping of Judaica. Instead of buying Judaica in one place and sending around the globe, Moishe House will be giving micro grants for houses to buy Judaica locally. This will reduce shipping costs and climate impact, while supporting local Judaica economies. Swag has proven to be trickier. Local production for many of our Moishe Houses is challenging. Where available, Moishe Houses have started to implement local production.

**Food and Food Waste:** We had visions of incorporating this climate solution into core Moishe House education. Though Moishe House has not yet developed a resource for the entire system, many individual homes have initiated and run an array of programs. Additionally, we found other ways to support climate-smart food choices and reduce food waste.

- Moishe House offered an “eco-kosher grant,” which offered \$50/month/house to run a public program that answered: “what does eco-kosher mean to you.” Examples of funded programs include CSA subscription, farmers markets purchases, compost subscription. This was piloted in 10 houses.
- We began a partnership with local organizations, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, to donate leftover supplies and food after our immersive programs such as retreats and camps, eliminating associated landfill emissions. Previously, leftover materials such as snacks, pens, soccer balls, etc. would have gone in the trash for the landfill.

## Expanding Impact

### Education and Nature Connection:

- We met and exceeded our goals of offering 3 trainings related to climate change, climate justice, and spiritual resilience. In 2023 we hosted:
  - 25 participants gathered at Urban Adamah in Berkeley, California, to gain a deeper understanding of food justice through a Jewish lens. Repair the World and Moishe House educators led participants in innovative and engaging programming.
  - 31 young adults participated in an environmental justice focused retreat over President’s Day Weekend in deep partnership with Repair the World: Miami and Tikkun HaYam in Miami and Key Largo. During the retreat, participants explored environmental justice through a Jewish lens, discussed their responsibilities, examined short term/long term solutions, took part in direct service, and building community. The group took part in 8 different direct volunteering projects, including beach clean-ups, urban farming, and mangrove preservation.
- A multitude of smaller trainings throughout the year, such as Volunteer Day with Trees for Oakland and Torah on Tap: Why should we care about sustainability? focused on climate justice education. 24% of all Tikkun Olam Grants were used to bolster programs engaging with environmental issues and global climate change.
  - Though Moishe House did not provide emotional/spiritual climate-resilience wide-spread programs as planned, many individual Moishe Houses led such programs.
- Moishe House social media team successfully promoted the launch of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition and fun tidbits for National Energy Efficiency Day.

**Advocacy:** In 2023, we named the importance of advocacy and partnership. This year we successfully included advocacy in our food justice and Florida environmental programs. These efforts included letter writing on the Food Bill and water policies respectively. Additionally, Moishe House began dialogue with Dayenu about potential collaboration.

**Finance:** We named a goal of creating resources on the Moishe Mindset of investing wisely as an environmental mindset. We were not able to make the Moishe Mindset resource on investing and revised a goal for meaningful action in 2024.

## 2024 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

Building on our successes, and learning from our challenges in 2023, the following are Moishe House’s climate action goals for this year:

### Getting to Net-Zero Emissions

#### Source Clean Electricity

- In following with our named 2023 goal, we will create a proposal to transition our houses/offices to a clean energy option by September, 2025. In more detail for 2024, we will:
  - Examine the one owned space, which is in Charlotte, NC.

- Map out US houses and note which houses can choose their electricity source. Bonus: for those who can choose their electricity source, we will research clean-energy options.

## Food and Food Waste

- Maintain the distribution of 10, and explore expanding, the eco-kosher grants.
- For larger gatherings of retreats, camps, and staff ensure there is always a plant-based option available.
- Pilot Blue-Green Initiative in partnership with Tikkun HaYam to increase the use of compostable plates in Houses/Pods programming.
- Moishe House to share out resources on low-impact foods and reducing food waste. We will explore drafting our own or framing and branding or run educational sessions at the conference in partnership with Adamah.

## Transportation

- Pilot 1-day tikkun olam retreats for local communities to gather. We will run four of these in 2024 in communities across the United States. This will replace two weekend-long retreats where people would have otherwise flown. Moishe House will then reassess how to continue and explore similar solutions for the global communities.
- Roll out the local sourcing of Judaica program. Across the board, we will continue to look into more sustainable swag production.

## Expanding Impact

### Education and Nature-Connection:

- Highlight climate programs on social media and use Moishe House social media channels to share educational resources.
- Continue climate, climate justice, spiritual resilience programming. Some of these programs will be Moishe House-led and others will be offered directly by the houses.
- Develop at least one “plug-n-play” climate-focused program resource, developed by Moishe House, that communities can easily adopt.
- Offer two environmental justice focused immersive experiences that will be grounded in Jewish tradition both new and old. Community builders will volunteer with environmental organizations and learn about sustainability.

**Advocacy:** Continue the conversation with Dayenu and/or Repair the World around what advocacy can look like, especially focused on voting (Get Out the Vote).

**Finance:** We will share climate-smart investing and retirement resources with community builders for programs such as Adulting 101.

## Other

We're holding a general question for 2024, wondering what opportunities there are for engaging participants who come to any one Moishe House around climate action.

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