

## Hazon CSA Program

The Hazon CSA program is the first ongoing effort in the American Jewish community to support local, sustainable agriculture. CSA stands for Community-Supported Agriculture, a partnership where a community commits to purchase an entire season of produce from an organic family farm. Hazon launched the first Jewish CSA in Manhattan in 2004; we now have over 55 sites in the United States, Canada, and Israel, making us the world's largest faith-based CSA network. Hazon CSA sites are a partnership between Hazon and a synagogue, Jewish Community Center, or other Jewish institution.

**Hazon** is Hebrew for "vision." Founded in 2000, Hazon is America's largest Jewish Environmental group. We work to create healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond.

## Hazon CSA Goals

The Hazon CSA is a powerful way to build stronger, healthier Jewish communities. Hazon CSA serves to:

- Put Jewish purchasing power behind local family farms.
- Bring healthy, locally-grown food into Jewish homes.
- Create engaging, high-quality adult and family Jewish education around food and agriculture.
- Encourage Jewish participation in the sustainable agriculture movement while both broadening the Jewish commitment of those already Jewishly involved and creating an accessible gateway into Jewish life for those who have less or no involvement in the organized Jewish community.
- Build a cadre of volunteer leaders in the Jewish community.
- Spur Jewish people to re-examine what it means for food to be kosher – "fit" for us as well as for the community and the earth.
- Work towards a better understanding of just food systems, informed by the Jewish agricultural mitzvot of Pe'ah, Leket, Shekecha and increasing access to healthy food.

As Rabbi Eve Ben Ora from JCC San Francisco wrote *"I was looking for teaching opportunities in my JCC community that would fill a gap between connection to Judaism and connection to land. I wanted to bring in a community oriented program that would draw in members and be open to the outside community. The Hazon CSA filled that niche."*

## Bringing your Jewish CSA into the Hazon CSA community

This application is designed to identify existing CSAs who wish to benefit from Hazon's program and networking support, but do not need assistance in starting up a CSA. If you would like to bring the Hazon CSA program to your community and think that your synagogue, JCC, or other Jewish institution would be a great partner, **please complete the following application and send it to: [CSA@hazon.org](mailto:CSA@hazon.org)**. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

# Hazon CSA Network Application 2014



## Support Offered by Hazon

### Education and Community Building

- Ideas and guidance for innovative educational programming. You will have access to the Hazon CSA Hub, with how-to instructions for a range of adult and family programs, such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations, Tu B'shvat seders, "greening" your synagogue/JCC oneq Shabbat, Jewish text study, and more.
- Weekly articles and materials for Tuv HaShavua ("best of the week" weekly CSA newsletter)

### Training and Support

- Hazon staff are available for consultation and advice with CSA logistics and event planning
- Access to monthly training calls on all aspects of CSA administration (distribution, programming, marketing, etc.)
- Membership in the Hazon CSA network of Jewish CSAs in North America and Israel, including access to listerv of CSA coordinators.
- Two \$100 discounts for the Hazon Food Conference for your core group members, and additional registration discounts for other Hazon events, including our multi-day bike rides.

## Requirements for Existing CSA Sites joining the Hazon Network

### Most Important Components

- An active CSA arrangement, including members, a farmer, and staff/volunteers to manage the project
- Commitment to Hazon's mission of creating healthier and more sustainable communities, in the Jewish world and beyond.
- Interest in bringing innovative programming to your community around the intersection of Jewish life and contemporary food issues.

### Support from Your Synagogue, JCC, or Other Institution

- Organizational commitment to the Hazon CSA, including support from the Rabbi or Executive Director.
- Agreement to use Hazon's logo and/or name in marketing materials, and to help publicize Hazon events to your membership
- One time \$500 program fee, or \$180/yr for three years, which includes two \$100 discounts for the Hazon Food Conference for your core group members.
- Although not a requirement, we strongly encourage our partner institutions to subsidize key CSA staff or volunteers attend the Hazon Food Conference. Registration fees are generally ~\$500.

### Season Logistics

Established CSAs may have different set ups from the one described below. However, in our experience, these are key components of a successful CSA program, and we encourage you to adopt the following practices at your CSA:

- A key staff person or volunteers who make sure distribution runs smoothly throughout 20-25 week season: communicating weekly with the farmer, writing weekly reminder emails to members, printing and copying the weekly newsletter to distribute at the share pick-up.
- A local emergency food provider (EFP) – soup kitchen, shelter – takes surplus food every week.
- Volunteers/staff to keep track of funds and member information to ensure that that the farmer gets paid
- Volunteers/staff to arrange the distribution space, email access, photocopying, and custodial support.
- Volunteers/staff to coordinate with Hazon to send out end-of-year member survey.

### Education and Community Building

- The creation and distribution of a weekly newsletter. Ideally a volunteer will take charge of this.
- A plan to execute educational events for the Hazon CSA community during the season.

# Hazon CSA Network Application 2014



## Application Instructions

Please answer the questions below. Return via email to [csa@hazon.org](mailto:csa@hazon.org). If you have any questions about the application, please feel free to call 212-644-2332 x326.

Payment is required to complete application. Please send checks made out to "Hazon" to:  
125 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor, New York NY, 10038 Attn: Anna Hanau  
Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

## Basic Info

- Primary contact for the application:
- Email:
- Phone number:
- Host Site:
- Website:
- Mailing address (Street/State/ZIP):
  
- Relationship of the application contact person to the synagogue/JCC:
- Rabbi/Executive Director of the JCC/synagogue:
- Email:
- Phone number:
  
- About how many families does your JCC/synagogue serve?:
- About how many people are on the JCC/synagogue's staff?:
- What is the annual budget of your JCC/synagogue?:
- (JCCs only) Does the JCC have a single site or multiple sites?:

## Specific Info (please keep answers to 3-5 sentences)

1. Describe how you heard about the Hazon CSA program and why your synagogue or JCC community would be a good fit for a Hazon CSA.
  
2. Do you have one or two synagogue/JCC staff members or lead volunteers who could potentially spend time organizing a Hazon CSA?
  
3. What evidence do you have that your synagogue/ JCC has sufficient interest or demand for this type of programming?
  
4. How might your synagogue or JCC incorporate Hazon CSA – and the ideas of Judaism and sustainable agriculture –into its educational programming (e.g. cooking classes, Shabbat dinners, trips to the farm around Shavuot and Sukkot...)?
  
5. How might your synagogue or JCC incorporate social justice, in the form of tzedakah or through community programs, into your Hazon CSA?