

## ***The Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition Founding Statement***

*Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years. Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach. It is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change, making extreme climate events, including heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts, more frequent and severe. Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with further warming... However, some changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming. To limit global warming, strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and other greenhouse gases are necessary. This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change but also improve air quality. The climate we experience in the future depends on our decisions now.*

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (August, 2021)<sup>1</sup>*

***G'd took Adam and placed him in the garden of Eden, to serve and protect it.  
Breishit (Genesis) 2:15***

The climate crisis is real, and it is here. Nearly one-third of Americans lived through a weather disaster last summer.<sup>2</sup> The overwhelming global scientific consensus confirms what we see with our own eyes: hurricanes, superstorms, wildfires, drought, dangerous air quality for months at a time - each year worse than the last.

The impact does not affect us all equally. Those in our society with less power and fewer resources, already more vulnerable, are hit hardest by the traumatic impact of climate change. Jewish values compel us to confront this crisis, and our commitment to Jewish community compels us to do so together.

Our coalition represents major Jewish organizations engaging millions of people of all ages and backgrounds, across the world. Together we recognize the urgency of the climate crisis and our obligation to do more. **We commit to climate action.**

Over the next six months, we will come together to learn, share, and support each other as we plan to take on new climate actions in the years ahead. By Rosh Hashanah 2022-5783, we will release our Action Plans, with commitments from each of us. (Organizations that join the JCLC after Feb 24, 2022, will release their Climate Action Plans by Passover 2023-5783). We will continue to meet regularly and to publicly report on our activities, accomplishments, and commitments at least twice a year.

***We invite and welcome all Jewish organizations everywhere to participate.***

The Jewish people have a long history. Our ancestors endured suffering and calamity, then rose to meet the next challenge. It is now our generation's imperative to confront this existential crisis together with communities across the world. Our children and grandchildren need us. Our hope is not yet lost.

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<sup>1</sup> "Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group 1 - The Physical Science Basis." *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. August 2021. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Press\\_Conference\\_Slides.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Kaplan and Andrew Ba Tran. "Nearly 1 in 3 Americans experienced a weather disaster this summer." *Washington Post*. September 4, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/04/climate-disaster-hurricane-ida/>

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