

Chief Rabbi tells EcoSynagogue we must all bear responsibility for addressing 'horrifying' climate change

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis has told a pre COP26 EcoSynagogue event that we all need to share responsibility for addressing climate change, describing it as a "horrifying situation which threatens our world, and which threatens our grandchildren and our great grandchildren".

Chief Rabbi Mirvis was speaking at an event entitled Carbon Zero, If Not Now When? at the Jewish Museum on Sunday. He said: "No one is an island, no one can say this has got nothing to do with me - we have to bear the responsibility individually and collectively for this horrifying situation which threatens our world and which threatens our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. All of us together must play our part in guaranteeing that we fulfil our religious obligation to do what we can."

Board of Deputies President Marie van der Zyl said that this was "one of the most important subjects not just for the Jewish community, not even just for humanity but for the entire planet - it threatens to upend life as we know it, that our impact on the environment has led to deterioration of climate control - but we can all still make a difference, it's not too late." She added that the Board of Deputies recently passed a resolution with 85 per cent in favour of declaring a climate emergency and taking appropriate steps alongside EcoSynagogue to achieve net carbon emissions.



Chief Rabbi at Carbon Zero event

As part of the event there was an expert panel discussing the subject, featuring Jonathan Waxman, an entrepreneur with 35 years' experience in electrical engineering, financial market options trading and renewable energy and Dr Michal Nachmany, an international climate policy and governance expert with background in law, finance, and multinational project management.

Following the expert panel, Jewish Environmental Organisations and initiatives were spotlighted including: OLAM, Commonwealth Jewish Council, World Jewish Relief, EcoSynagogue, JTree, Sadeh, and the Social Justice Committee of The Board of Deputies of British Jews.