



IN CONVERSATION: Rabbi David Mason and Tamar Zandberg

CLIMATE change is the greatest challenge of our generation – and Israel can contribute a huge amount by developing technologies to counter the problem, Tamar Zandberg said this week.

Israel's Minister of Environmental Protection was in conversation with EcoSynagogue founder and co-chairman Rabbi David Mason at a pre-COP26 Climate Conference event.

She explained: "The environment is the greatest challenge our generation. It's happening here and now. The importance and urgency of climate is sharpening and is more urgent every month.

"We are already world leaders in several technologies – in desalination, energy storage and alternative proteins, for example.

"We are investing heavily and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is pushing us to put more focus on it.

"The countries of the Middle East share one climate, which means we have a common interest in developing technologies together."

Ms Zandberg also told the event, organised by EcoSynagogue and the Board of Deputies: "In terms of water conservation, waste disposal and other matters, we have been talking to the Palestinian leadership. We can do good for our respective

No 1 challenge is climate change

societies without even discussing the politics of the situation."

Ms Zandberg, who describes herself as a vegan "for environmental reasons", said that despite being a government minister, she remained an activist.

She added: "Some activists have the privilege to serve in an elected position. I see myself as a messenger and I will do everything in my power to bring that message to government.

"The world is united about the notion that COP26 is the last chance for the world to stop from crossing the 1.5 degree threshold.

"We are striving for net zero by 2050. Our current target is an 85 per cent carbon reduction by 2050, but we would like to increase that target to zero."

Board of Deputies chief executive Michael Wegier said that climate change is a communal priority.

"It feels like the world is finally waking up to the urgent reality of a climate emergency," he added.