

The EcoJudaism Environmental Leadership, Education & Training Programme

Deepen your passion, widen your knowledge, take action together

The aim of this course is help equip potential Jewish leaders with Jewish and general knowledge and access to good contacts on key issues of environment, sustainability and biodiversity, enabling them to take leadership roles in their peer groups, work and social communities and in the public square.

There is almost universal concern about the environment, particularly with young people, and individuals and communities are struggling to know how best to respond. The momentum for climate engagement is coming from young people in the community, yet we don't have enough trained and inspiring leaders and resources with skills in local organising and national lobbying to support our synagogues, organisations, youth movements, charities and schools to do this crucial work.

The EcoJudaism Environmental Leadership, Education & Training Programme offers high level input in key areas of climate concern. It will also provide skills in local organising and national lobbying and aims to establish a team of EcoJudaism Ambassadors, able to provide environmental leadership both inside and out of our community. It will create fellowship among participants and wide networking opportunities.

A 10 part course of evening sessions.

In person predominantly, online if necessary.

All food offered will be vegan.

The cost of the course is £60.00, unwaged £20.

Places limited. Registration closes Tuesday 10th October.

EcoJudaism is a multi-denominational Jewish community initiative established to raise awareness and educate communities on sustainability, climate change and environmental awareness at the local, national and global level – specifically in our worship spaces and our communal organisations, schools, youth groups and charities.

Unit 1- Why Climate Leadership?

Sustainability and Climate Adaptation: An Ethos of Self-Interest?

International Online 15 October 23, 18.00 – 19.00

The Tools We Need to Be Jewish Climate Leaders

UK in person

Thursday, 19 October 2023, 19.15 – 21.30 over dinner Venue will be shared with participants once they have registered

With Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg and Dr Michal Nachmany

Dr Michal Nachmany is the founder and CEO of Climate Policy Radar, a not-for-profit Al startup on a mission to organise, analyse, and democratise data on climate law and policy. Previously, she spent ten years at the Grantham Research Institute at LSE, where she led the work on the Institute's structured datasets and tools, building evidence-based decision-making tools for national legislation and policy and low-carbon investment. Michal holds a PhD from the London School of Economics, as well as an MA in Energy Policy, an MBA and an LLB in Law.

Unit 2 - Climate Justice

Climate Justice: Assessing Our Environmental Duty to Others

International Online 19 November 23, 18.00 – 19.00

Loss, Damage and the Need for Adaptation

UK in person

Wednesday, 29 November 2023, 19.30 - 21.00

Venue: Near Waterloo. Full details will be shared with participants once they have registered

Canon Giles Goddard and Dr Shanon Shah from Faith for the Climate will introduce and discuss their work with faith groups and environmentalists in the UK.

Climate change is a crisis because it is rooted in injustice and inequality, and it drives injustice and inequality. What can people of faith do in solidarity with those who have done the least to cause climate change yet are suffering its worse impacts? How can we create change by engaging with those who have contributed the most to climate change but are denying or deflecting responsibility?

And with Sam Greene, expert consultant and advisor in climate adaptation and climate finance in the developing world. And Laura Hendy, Climate and Resilience Programmes Manager at World Jewish Relief.

An Opportunity to Connect

UK in person

3 December 2023, 19:00 - 21:00

Venue: The home of Rabbi Wittenberg

A light buffet supper social.

Unit 3 – The International Situation: The Politics and the Money

The International Situation: The Politics and the Money

UK in person only

This session will take place in early December during COP 28 with guest speakers. Wednesday 13 December 19.30 – 21.30

Venue and speakers TBC. They will include Laura Hendy, Climate and Resilience Programmes Manager at World Jewish Relief, and Rabbi Jeff Berger, EcoJudaism trustee for the S&P Sephardi Community. Jeff has been involved in Eco advocacy since 2017 through fellowships with KAICIID and 1000 Abrahamic Circles. His work includes helping create a fish farm in Central Java Indonesia after agricultural land was flooded.

Unit 4 – What We Consume

What We Consume

UK in person (with online option) Monday 15 January 19.30 – 21.30 Details to be confirmed

From our personal responsibilities, to the local, national and systemic

With guest speakers on ethical food, clothing, travel and energy, including Tim Motz who has worked in and written a blog about sustainable travel, as well as being knowledgeable in the food waste industry and is a civil servant in Westminster and Brussels. Also including Robin Clark, Senior Global Director responsible for marketing and sustainability at Just Eat Takeaway which delivers 1 billion meals a year around the world.

Unit 5 - Protecting Biodiversity

Protecting Biodiversity: Our Duties to Other Forms of Life

International online 21 January 18.00 – 19.00

The Challenges of Biodiversity Protection and Gain

UK in person

Thursday 8 February 2024 7.30 - 9.30

Venue: 10 Amberden Avenue, London N3 3BJ over dinner

With guest speakers, including Hugh Warwick, author, ecologist, spokesperson for the British Hedgehog Protection Society and Visiting Fellow at Oxford Brookes University, and

And with Andy Lester, Head of Conservation at Arocha UK, ecologist, economist and public speaker, commencing a rewilding project near Carlisle, online or in person...

Unit 6 "For All the Earth Is Mine"

Faith-Based Contributions to a Spiritual Eco-Movement

International Online 10 March 2024 18.00 – 19.00

Our Contribution as Faiths

UK in person Monday 25 March 2024 19.30 – 21.30 Venue and details TBC

OPTIONAL EXTRA

Jewish Backgrounds to Climate concern

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Trustee of EcoJudaism and Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism will be leading a programme in Israel and worldwide online for 4 key sessions examining Jewish backgrounds to the core concerns. This will serve as introductions for further exploration locally, in Israel through the Conservative Yeshivah (further units can be followed online) and in the UK through in person meetings.

This is offered as an optional extra with an additional Orthodox focus being planned,