

Kehilla Resolution on Acting in the Face of Climate Change

Approved by the Kehilla Board of Trustees, 4/29/14

Whereas Jewish tradition teaches us that if the earth has any proprietor at all, that such ownership is in the hands of the Divine, and that we are merely sojourners upon the earth and must treat it with sacred responsibility;

And whereas profit-driven technological development over the last two centuries has been powered by the indiscriminate use of fossil fuels causing a severe increase in the greenhouse gasses in the earth's atmosphere;

And whereas the greenhouse effect of indiscriminate fossil fuel consumption has been warming the atmosphere at an alarming rate causing severe weather patterns affecting life on land and in the sea, and also causing a rise in sea levels which threaten the lives and cultures of people living in coastal and island communities, and causing alterations in the earth's climatic regions thus threatening the continued viability of many species of flora and fauna;

And whereas those who have profited financially from these developments have acquired disproportionate power which has been used to block effective steps necessary to repair or minimize the damage which continues to be done to the earth's environment;

And whereas communities already suffering from economic injustice are also disproportionately affected by climate change;

And whereas Kehilla Community Synagogue affirms the Jewish traditions that mandate living by the values of *bal taschit* (the prohibition of causing avoidable waste); *pikuach nefesh* (the affirmative mitzvah to preserve life); and *lo ta'amod al dam rey'echa* (the prohibition against inaction in the face of jeopardy to life);

THEREFORE, Kehilla Community Synagogue hereby affirms the [Green Menorah Covenant of Kehilla Community Synagogue](#) as a guideline for our values and actions as a congregation; And therefore we affirm our individual and collective responsibility to participate in the effort to repair the earth's environment;

And therefore we empower the appropriate committee(s) to guide us in reducing our contribution to global climatic change, and especially to provide leadership for the congregation to participate in appropriate collective actions to support environmental healing and to resist those forces that maintain ecological degradation.