

IN A NUTSHELL: 18 TEACHINGS ON JEWISH ECOLOGY

Jewish Eco Seminars (JES) undertakes this Jewish Environmental Education Project to develop infographics on each of the eighteen topics, print the materials as books, and provide professional development seminars for Jewish educators on Judaism and ecology.

GENESIS AND HUMAN STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH	God commanded humanity to find a balance between serving, guarding and subduing nature; as part of an ethically responsible life.
NOAH AND THE FLOOD: LESSONS FOR OUR TIMES	The ancient story of Noah and the flood relates to many ecological issues facing the modern world. For example, the preservation of our environment depends on individuals taking accountability for their deeds.
THE JEWISH VALUE OF APPRECIATING WATER	In the 21st century the seemingly increased accessibility of water makes it easy to forget Who provides it. Jewish sources emphasize the need to appreciate water and use it wisely.
A JEWISH APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE	Reuse before you recycle. Our forefathers have been reusing objects and elevating the physical for thousands of years, a path we must try to follow in today's disposable society.
TOWARD A WISER USE OF ENERGY	Jewish sages called for a path of prudent energy consumption, which can teach us to reduce our excessive fuel use.
GRAPES, GOATS, AND OPEN SPACES: SUSTAINABILITY IN SETTLING THE LAND OF ISRAEL	Rabbinic teachings on Yishuv Eretz Yisrael (settling the land of Israel) highlight the common Jewish duty to live sustainably. Our Sages made short-term sacrifices in order to preserve their resources, actions we should emulate to help us find ways for today's reality on the Land.
BAL TASHCHIT	The commandment not to waste (Bal Tashchit) applies to dress, energy, water, money, and every usable resource. One modern-day example- the throwing out of edible food – contains great relevance to our everyday lives.

COMPASSION FOR ALL CREATURES	Judaism stresses the need to treat animals with compassion. Pointless pain is strictly prohibited and Jewish law instructs us to go out of our way to avoid an animal's suffering.
SHABBAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	On Shabbat, we stop and allow us to turn inward– to family, community, and God. Without the distractions of day to day life, Shabbat rejuvenates people and the environment.
SPIRITUAL ROOTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS	Our environmental crisis stems from a spiritual root. We can address the problem with the Jewish values of taking responsibility, being satisfied, focusing on the present and being conscious of the future.
TREES, TORAH, AND CARING FOR THE EARTH	Jewish tradition teaches on the importance of planting trees, protecting them, and using them responsibly.
PREVENTING DAMAGE AND POLLUTION	Jewish teachings instruct us to actively prevent harm towards people, animals and our ecosystems. The Talmud in particular contains many laws on preventing damage to one's neighbor
CONSUMERISM, DO NOT COVET, AND KORACH	The challenge that wealth-driven over-consumption poses is of both a spiritual and physical nature. The spiritual challenge is to overcome wealth's pull towards self-gratification and a sense of entitlement, or be overcome by it. The physical challenge manifests in environmental problems like species loss and pollution.
JEWISH FOOD ETHICS	The Jewish tradition's description of the food production of the Tribes of Israel reveals the importance of both knowing and improving the increasingly complex journey of our own food. Jewish tradition has much to offer on where our food comes from and what it means to eat.
EXPLORING NATURE THROUGH TRADITIONAL JEWISH PRAYERS	What can we learn about nature and our relationship to it from its use in traditional Jewish prayers? Nature themes are repeated often in our traditional prayers, which communicate a message of nature's grandeur as created by God.
HUMAN HEALTH	The Jewish tradition places a strong value on being healthy. The Torah states, "Guard yourself and guard your soul very much" and "You shall guard



	<p>yourselves very well.” The Sages explain that these verses refer to the mitzvah of protecting one’s physical health.</p>
<p>PRESERVING SPECIES AND MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY</p>	<p>The Torah greatly values the lives of all of God’s creatures. From commandments such as “Shiluach Haken” and “Kilayim” we learn the importance of species preservation and limitations on human exploitation of the world’s ecosystems.</p>
<p>THE MITZVAH OF SHEMITAH</p>	<p>During the Shemita year we let the land rest and allow ourselves to reevaluate our relationship with God and His precious gift of creation. The principles of Shemita contrast with current rainforest deforestation in order to satisfy demand for beef, wood, and soybeans.</p>

ABOUT US

Jewish Eco Seminars (JES) engages and educates the Jewish community by revealing the powerful connection between modern Israel, ecological innovation, and Jewish values.

JES is a branch of the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD), a registered non-profit organization. Based in Jerusalem, ICSD unites faith communities, teachers and leaders to promote co-existence, peace, and sustainability through advocacy, education and action-oriented projects.

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