



— JEWISH RESOURCE FOR —
TU BISHEVAT

SHOW THE LOVE

2021

[SHOWTHELOVE.ORG.UK](https://showthelove.org.uk)



THE
CLIMATE
COALITION

| #SHOWTHELOVE



And God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image and after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle and all the earth; over every creeping thing which creeps upon the earth'.

– Bereshit 1:26

'To claim that [this verse] provides 'justification' for the exploitation of the environment, leading to the poisoning of the environment, the pollution of the atmosphere, the poisoning of the water, the spoliation of natural resources, is...a complete distortion of the truth. On the contrary, the Hebrew Bible and Jewish interpreters prohibit such exploitation. Judaism goes much further and insists that humans have an obligation not only to conserve the world of nature but to enhance it, because humanity is the 'co-partner with God in the work of creation'.

– Robert Gordis

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof

– Psalm 24:1





Tu B'shevat, which began as a date in the agricultural tax year, has become the Jewish day for celebrating and planting trees. There is little more urgent. Almost every country on earth needs reforestation. The great rainforests of the Amazon, Congo and Indonesia need preserving, protecting and restoring.

But it's no longer just a question of saving the trees. By now it's a matter of the trees saving us. Our planet is having its lungs ripped out. Trees are part of the ultimate pikuach nefesh, saving the life of the very earth. Celebrating the New Year for Trees marks our commitment to our shared home, this world with all its wonder, beauty and multitudes of species of plants, insects and animals.

Action by governments, industry and NGOs is essential. So too is the commitment made by each of us to respect, cherish and care for God's earth. Our planet is of universal, inter-religious, Jewish, spiritual, practical and personal concern to each and every one of us.

We are all invited, this Tu B'shevat, to celebrate the beauty and importance of trees on our planet, and to speak up for their protection, and for reforestation to protect the Earth's climate.

The Climate Coalition is the national umbrella body working on Climate Change. They invite us all around this time to show the love for what we want to protect from climate change by having conversations, and celebrating climate solutions.

The past year has been a year like no other. The devastating impacts of the pandemic have impacted us all, and made us value what we love more than ever. We know our best chance at rebuilding goes hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis. We need our leaders to protect everything we love and deliver a healthy, green and fair recovery.

Later this year, the UK will host the United Nations climate summit. This is our opportunity to lead the world into a cleaner, greener future, but first we need to invest in the solutions to the climate crisis at home.

When we raise our voices together, we are a force for change that is impossible to ignore. The rest of this pack is full of ideas on how to take part in Show the Love and take action to protect the people, place and live we love from climate change.





Ways to #ShowTheLove

During Kiddush after the Tu B'shevat Service please invite everyone to:

TALK TO SOMEONE DURING KIDDUSH ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

What do you care about? What do you love that you want to protect from climate change? What actions do we need to take together?

If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself and share it online with the hashtags #showthelove and #TuBishevat - this is a way that we in the Jewish community can be part of the national campaign online, alongside people of other faiths and none, showing our love for trees and for the climate.

During February, you could also:

1

MAKE, WEAR, SHARE GREEN HEARTS

Get creative and make a green heart - you can find ways to do this in our Green Heart action pack at showthelove.org.uk. You can then wear or share your green heart with your friends and family. You can even send one to your MP to encourage them to #ShowTheLove for a cleaner, greener future. There is a postcard to send to your MP at the back of this pack.

2

CREATE A GREEN HEART DISPLAY

Window displays have brought joy to many communities over the past year as we've spent much more time at home. Create green hearts and use them to decorate a window, noticeboard or front garden over the Valentine's Day weekend- the 12th- 15th of February- to show the love to your community.

3

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Connect with your community - Although life remains unusual, there has never been a better time to club together with your local community. This February, connect with others in your area such as community groups and local faith communities. Organise an online talk about why you care about climate change, the work you are doing to tackle climate change, and explore how you can work together to help create a cleaner, greener future this year.

4

SHARE THE LOVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself with a green heart and share it online with the hashtag #ShowTheLove. This is a way of coming together as part of the national campaign online, alongside people of many faiths and none.





GOING BEYOND TU BISHEVAT

Eco Synagogue is a Jewish cross-community response to the environmental crisis we all face, designed to change the relationship of our Synagogues with the environment. It provides an online survey tool for Synagogues to assess how we use our buildings and land; how we eat and consume; how we use the opportunities of the liturgical year; how we teach and preach; and how we change the behaviours of our congregations. 5 pilot Synagogues launched Eco Synagogue on Tu B'Shevat 2018; 20 more have registered their interest since. If you're not already registered, please do get involved!

JTree is an Eco Synagogue project, set up as the collective Jewish response to the vital need to plant and protect forests. Find out more at jtree.global



Notes to organisers and congregational rabbis:

You can download additional postcards like the one featured in the back of this pack on showthelove.org.uk if individuals want to print out their own and send it to their MP.

Additional resources are also available on showthelove.org.uk if you would like to get more involved in Show the Love, for example with craft or youth and children's activities.

To find out more about Eco Synagogue, and register your Shul's interest please go to www.ecosynagogue.org





The Time Is Now For A Cleaner, Greener World That Works For Everyone

Our declaration brings together people from all walks of life with businesses, community groups, MPs, local decision makers to send a strong and unified message that **#TheTimeIsNow** to take urgent action to protect what we love from the climate crisis.

We want to reach one million voices before the UN Climate Summit. Encourage your congregation to add their name to the declaration at thetimeisnow.uk, and send a postcard to your MP to ask them to commit to **#ShowTheLove** by championing climate action. You can also sign up to the Declaration as a Synagogue.



STEP 1

Add your name to the declaration at thetimeisnow.uk - you can sign up as an individual and as a community too.



STEP 2

Fill in the postcard and add a bit about why you've signed the declaration so your MP knows why you care about climate action.



STEP 3

Fold your postcard, attach a crafted green heart if you've made one.



STEP 4

Pop the postcard in an envelope and send it your MP. You can find their constituency surgery address at members.parliament.uk or alternatively send it to (addressed to them) to House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.



STEP 5

Keep an eye out for their response.

Dear **MP**

I want to see urgent action to protect what I love from the climate crisis. I've added my voice to The Climate Coalition's Declaration because I care about...

Before the UK hosts the world at the UN Climate Summit in November, we need to show global leadership by ensuring our recovery gets us on track to a cleaner, greener world that works for everyone. **Will you #ShowTheLove by championing climate action this year?**

Please show your support by:

- Signing The Climate Coalition's Declaration for a Healthy, Green And Fair Tomorrow (please email campaigns@theclimatecoalition.org to sign)

- Sharing a photo of this green heart on Twitter pledging your support to protect all that we could lose to the climate crisis - don't forget to tag [@theclimatecoalition](https://twitter.com/theclimatecoalition) and use [#ShowTheLove](https://twitter.com/ShowTheLove)

Thank you,

Name:

Postcode:

Email/Phone:

Organisation/Group:

theclimatecoalition.org



#SHOWTHELOVE

The time is now to protect what we love from the climate crisis.

theclimatecoalition.org