



Touro Synagogue (New Orleans, LA)

Climate Action Plan 2026

Contact Information:

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2026 Climate Action Plan Submitted by:

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Organization Stats:

Do you own or rent any buildings? If you both own and rent, please answer "Own."	Own
Are you a landlord or do you manage a campus of buildings?	<i>No</i>
How many buildings does your organization rent or own?	<i>1</i>
How are they used? Please consider how they are used and with what frequency. <i>Worship, education, congregation and community gatherings</i>	
What is the estimated total square footage of all buildings you rent or own?	<i>36347</i>
Are you planning to renovate or engage in new construction in the next 3 years?	<i>No</i>
Approximately how many people actively participate in your programs, including prayer services (virtual or in-person)?	<i>2200</i>
Approximately how large is your digital audience?	<i>1300</i>

Source Clean Electricity

What actions have you taken, and/or are you going to take, to source clean electricity?

We installed a photovoltaic (PV) solar array.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We installed another form of onsite renewable energy production.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed onsite backup battery for electrical storage.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We purchased clean electricity through the grid or another program, such as community solar.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We educated our remote workforce about purchasing clean electricity for their home.	<i>Want to learn more</i>

Additional Information: *At this time we are not able to install rooftop solar due to our building's structural issues, but we will continue to explore opportunities going forward.*

Go Electric/Fuel Switching

What actions have you taken, and/or are you going to take, to switch your building's appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles to electric?

We took an inventory of our appliances, equipment, and/or vehicles, noting which use fossil fuels, the year they'll reach end of functional use, and made a timeline to replace with electric versions.	<i>Continuous</i>
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We electrified our HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning).	<i>Continuous</i>
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We electrified our water heaters.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
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We electrified other equipment.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
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We assessed our electrical capacity and know if/where we need upgrades.	<i>Completed</i>
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We upgraded the capacity of our electric panel(s).	<i>Completed</i>
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New construction/renovation was all electric.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
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We planned to switch to all electric but were derailed and purchased fossil fuel equipment this year.	<i>No</i>
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Additional Information: *Water heaters and equipment will be electrified during replacement process*

Energy Efficiency

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce energy use at your facilities?

We switched to LED bulbs.	<i>Completed</i>
We installed motion detectors for lighting (if religious observance allows).	<i>Completed</i>
We installed and used programmable thermostats to optimize settings for energy use and comfort.	<i>Completed</i>
We installed energy-efficient appliances.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We improved the building envelope with insulation and/or energy efficient windows.	<i>Completed</i>
We installed a geothermal heating and cooling system. Note: this pertains to Source Clean Electric and Fuel Switching, as well.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed a white roof.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We installed a green roof.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We conducted an energy audit.	<i>In process</i>

Additional Information: *The roof is new and white but is not high albedo reflective roof.*

We have not done a third party energy audit, but are benchmarked energy use after completion of the renovation.

Transportation

What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation?

We provided public transit and biking instructions, along with EV charging and carpool resources, when available, on our website and communications for how to get to our site.	<i>Continuous</i>
We implemented programs and incentives that encourage staff and members to commute via public transit, carpool, biking, or walking.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We limited staff or participant air travel to programs, events, and conferences; and/or we did virtual engagement; and/or bundled objectives when travel was needed.	<i>Continuous</i>
<i>Do you have a parking lot? (If yes, please answer the four questions below)</i>	<i>No</i>
We installed bike racks.	
We offered electric vehicle charging in our parking lot.	
We installed signage to support cleaner modes of transportation.	
We gave priority parking priority for electric cars, carpools, and/or bikes.	

Additional Information: *We plan to educate our congregation and staff on carpool and transportation alternatives throughout the year.*

Do you serve food? If yes, please complete the three sections below.

Yes

Food We Serve

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with the food you serve?

We had vegetarian options at all meals	<i>Continuous</i>
We exclusively served vegetarian or pescatarian food (no meat, but did serve dairy, fish, and/or eggs).	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We eliminated industrially-raised beef and lamb from all meals.	
We have a food policy that addresses climate impacts.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We advocated for more plant-based options with local caterers, our food distributor, and/or other outside food providers.	<i>Want to learn more</i>

Additional Information: *We would appreciate guidance from Adamah regarding food policies.*

Minimize Food Waste

What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce the amount of food waste that is generated?

We conducted a food waste audit.	<i>Continuous</i>
We have a food waste policy.	<i>Continuous</i>
We took steps to reduce food waste created on the catering/kitchen side.	<i>Continuous</i>
We took steps to reduce food waste in the dining area.	<i>Continuous</i>

Additional Information: *Our practice is to implement less wasteful food ordering and preparation but we do not have a formal policy at this time.*

We have a hunger committee that focuses on providing our community fridges with leftover foods.

Food Waste Emissions

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce GHG emissions associated with food waste going to the landfill?

We gave surplus food to people.	<i>Continuous</i>
We gave surplus food to animals.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We composted surplus food (onsite or off-site).	<i>Not currently planning</i>

Additional Information: *As an urban synagogue we are currently not able to compost food scraps.*

Do you maintain any outdoor space on your property, e.g. lawns, parking lots, woodlands, etc.? If yes, please complete the section below.

Yes

Nature-based Solutions

What actions have you taken and/or are you going to take to reduce the GHG emissions released from, and maximize the carbon sequestered by, natural spaces and resources you manage (e.g., lawns, woodlots, forests, waterways)?

We assessed our facility's grounds to understand current land use.	<i>Continuous</i>
We planted additional trees on our property.	<i>In process</i>
We reduced lawn by converting lawn to native plantings, rain gardens, and/or sustainable food gardens/farms.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We managed our landscape, including lawns, without fossil-fuel powered equipment.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We managed our landscape, including lawns, without using chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We converted impermeable surfaces to green infrastructure, such as bioswales.	<i>In process</i>
We restored degraded ecosystems on our property such as waterways, wetlands, and/or woodlots.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We sequestered carbon through other nature-based technologies, e.g. biochar production, composting toilets.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
How many additional trees did you plant on your grounds since 2000?	0
How many acres of lawn have you eliminated since 2000?	0

Additional Information: We received a grant from the city of New Orleans to plant new trees on the 3 exposed sides of our property. Planting to be completed in 2026.

Offset Emissions You Can't Reduce

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to offset the GHG emissions produced from your operations, such as flying, use of fossil fuels in buildings, and programs?

We categorized our GHG emissions.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We measured our GHG emissions by category.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We offset our GHG emissions.	<i>Want to learn more</i>

Additional Information: The New Orleans utility is a monopoly and does not currently offer the opportunity to buy renewable energy. Our community is starting to adopt community solar but it is not yet available.

Education and Nature Connection

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to incorporate climate education and nature connection into your organizational work?

Produced programming for our staff and/or constituents about implementing climate action solutions in their homes and communities.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
Produced programming or other opportunities for our staff and/or constituents about nature connection.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
Developed staff or community capacity through training/professional development to incorporate nature connection and/or climate action.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
Publicized our climate action work to our networks and community, e.g. through newsletters, social media, press.	<i>Continuous</i>
Encouraged organizations within our network to join the Coalition.	<i>Not currently planning</i>

Additional Information: *Our congregants participates in programming with Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and Sustaining Our Urban Landscape (SOUL). We will plant trees on the streets surrounding our property.*

Advocacy

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to engage in climate advocacy or direct action?

We nominated/recruited one or more other organizations to join the Coalition.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We partnered with others to bring climate advocacy opportunities to our community, e.g. Jewish Youth Climate Movement, Adamah on Campus, Dayenu Circle, or Jewish Earth Alliance.	<i>Planning to next year</i>
We participated in climate change-related demonstrations, e.g., rallies, marches, climate strikes, direct actions.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We engaged climate-concerned voters, e.g., through postcard campaigns, hosting candidate forums, participating in “Get Out the Vote” work.	<i>Continuous</i>
We published op-eds, letters to the editor, or other articles on climate change.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We lobbied elected officials and/or regulatory agencies on climate policy.	<i>In process</i>
We communicated with our community about climate advocacy opportunities.	<i>In process</i>

Additional Information: *The 3 groups that we are currently aligned with advocate on the local, state and national level: Together New Orleans, Jewish Earth Alliance and Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition.*

Finance

What steps have you taken and/or are you going to take to shift your institutional dollars from fossil fuel to climate-smart banking and investments?

We created an organizational process of learning and dialogue about socially responsible investing and climate-smart banking.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We moved our banking to an institution that aligns with our values around climate action.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
<i>Do you have investments or endowments? (If yes, answer the following two questions.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>
We moved our investments out of fossil fuels.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
We moved our investments to climate-smart funds.	<i>Want to learn more</i>
Do you offer a 401k/retirement plan? (if yes, answer the two questions below)	<i>Yes</i>
We had a climate-smart investing fund available in our 401k/retirement plan.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We set a climate-smart investing fund as the default for our 401k/retirement plan.	<i>Not currently planning</i>
We funded other Jewish organizations to invest in GHG emissions reductions and cost-saving climate action, through grants, loans, or financing.	<i>Want to learn more</i>

Additional Information: *We will work with our endowment foundation to obtain information and see if any of the above steps are feasible.*

Optional Questions to Support Electrification

Adamah is working with a leading electrification nonprofit that is focused on electrifying our homes, businesses, and communities. They develop accessible, actionable data and tools to make going electric easier, with a mission to help us save money, tackle climate goals, improve health, and build the next generation of the clean energy workforce. They are working to understand the broader emissions-mitigation and cost-saving potential of electrification. Our partnership will bring insight into the nonprofit sectors of America and, we believe, invaluable opportunities for our community.

You are not required to answer the following questions; however, if you are able to provide us with this information, it will help us better understand our Jewish communal landscape, which will help inform our collaborative work with this nonprofit and ultimately provide greater resources to Coalition members. The information requested below will be available on energy bills. Once you have these on hand, we ask that you save these documents for potential future engagement. If you are not able to provide this information at this time, there will be future opportunities to share your data.

Please share below the total money you spent and total energy consumed over the past 12 months of each of the energy types below.

Utility	Dollars Spent	Amount Consumed
Electricity	\$63,004.28 (USD)	364800 kWh
Methane/natural gas (from a utility)	\$1,834.15 (USD)	1036 Therms
Heating Oil Delivered	(USD)	
Propane Delivered	\$250 (USD)	150 Pounds
Other - The roof is new and white but is not high albedo reflective roof. We have not done a third party energy audit, but are benchmarked energy use after completion of the renovation.	(USD)	

Would you consider surveying your community about household energy use to support this project, if provided with the resources?

Yes

Strategic Planning and Governance

Incorporating climate action into the everyday systems that guide your organization can ensure that climate considerations outlive any one action, policy, administrator. It can be woven into strategic planning, governance documents, and capital campaigns.

Do you have a position on your Board for a "Sustainability Officer" or a similar title?	Yes
Do you maintain a building maintenance fund for repairs, on-going maintenance, and equipment replacement?	Yes
Did your board review your climate action plan?	Yes
Do your by-laws include climate action as a value to be considered while making decisions?	No
Is there a group who works on climate action or environmental issues generally?	Yes

Additional Information: The CAP has provided us with a framework to continue and grow our environmental activism.

Our climate action task force includes our synagogue's Tikkun Olam chairs (who are members of the Board) as well as other Board members, active members as well as clergy and staff.

Climate Justice

Those in our society with less power and fewer resources, already more vulnerable, are hit hardest by the impact of climate change. Climate action planning is an opportunity to address such harms and inequities through the pursuit of a just transition to a fossil fuel-free future, and ensure they are not recreated in the future. Like everything else in your climate action plan, incorporating climate justice is a process of learning and growth that develops year-over-year. Please use this space to share the principles, processes, and practices that your organization uses, or will use, to promote just outcomes through climate action. (Learn more about a just transition at [What is 'climate justice'? » Yale Climate Connections.](#))

This year the congregation has been focussed on food insecurity and the pressures on our immigrant community due to the presence of ICE in our city. We continue to engage with community groups that further climate justice.

Conferences and Retreats

Gatherings are high-profile opportunities to reduce your climate impact and inspire your community by modeling climate action.

Does your organization run conferences or retreats? (If yes or planning to next year, please answer the seven questions below.) **No**

We hired an event planner with expertise in sustainable events.

We considered climate impact while selecting a venue and/or caterer.

We provided low-impact local transportation.

We applied best practices to reduce the impact of food service and food waste.

We purchased vetted carbon offsets to account for the direct impacts of the event itself and participants' travel.

We offered opportunities for participants to offset the climate impact of their participation in the event.

Additional Information:

Resiliency

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) it is an established fact that the climate crisis has led to an increased frequency and/or intensity of some weather and climate extremes. From power outages to increased storm intensity to sea level rise to drought, scientists are connecting our experiences of natural disasters to climate change. Please include ways your organization has prepared, or will be preparing, to be resilient in the face of our changing climate. Please also specify climate disasters your organization and/or community has navigated.

To minimize disruption to your organization's operation during a crisis event, staff need to know their families are taken care of. Have you encouraged your staff to prepare family crisis plans, like the ones provided by FEMA? *No*

Is it part of a staff person's role to coordinate your staff in the event of a crisis? *Yes*

Have you created an organizational conversation about how to respond in the event one of your physical locations is compromised unexpectedly in a crisis? *Yes*

What climate-related disasters has your community experienced in the past year?

0: 0

Impact on your organization or community

Thankfully we did not experience a hurricane this year, however, we recognize that this is an anomaly. We did experience extreme heat, drought and salt water intrusion concerns. Another concern is the electrical grid resilience as we experienced a load shedding event. None had a serious impact on our synagogue but may affect us meaningfully in the future.

Additional Information: In New Orleans, we face multiple hurricanes and tropical storms each year. Responding to climate disasters (such as flooding, extreme heat) is something we face continually.

Sustainability

There may be other important environmental sustainability actions you are taking that don't fit into the Coalition climate action planning framework above. Please use the space below to note other environmentally positive measures that you have undertaken, or plan to take, such as reducing single-use plastics, recycling, or litter clean-ups.

During the past year our congregational dinners have transitioned to using reusable cups, compostable plates and reusable silverware. We have a glass recycling bin on-site for our members and we have recycling picks for paper/plastics/aluminum. During the Mardi Gras season we will work to generate less waste collaborating with Ground Krewe to reduce and reuse parade throws by giving our members special collection bags.

Program Feedback

Rating 1-5

Community of Practice Quarterly Meetings	0	Direct Staff Engagement (phone, email, etc.)	4
One-on-one Coaching and Consultation	0	Accountability from being part of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition	4
Climate Action Fund	0	Monthly Coalition Newsletter	3
Resource Guides	0	Being part of the larger Jewish climate movement	4
Climate Action Overview (our framework for climate action)	0	Working with an Adamah Community Impact Hub, e.g. NY, Atlanta, Detroit, Baltimore, San Francisco, and Los Angeles	0
Online Seminars and Workshops	4	Being part of the local Jewish climate movement.	4
Climate Action Plan Submission Form	4		

Optional Text Response

What else, if anything, would be useful to help you create and/or implement a climate action plan?

The ability to print out individual progress pages while working on the CAP. We'd like to see a more user friendly version to be shared with our Board and congregation. A help section would be useful. Some sections would have benefitted from more answer options i.e. "maybe, or n/a, fill in..blank"

If you're happy, please let us know. Your written testimonial will help us tell our story, reach out to others, and grow the program.