

# Adat Shalom DRAFT Statement on Climate & Ecology

(approved by the Board for communal consideration, 12/18/2018)

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation sees climate change and ecological concerns as central Jewish, American, and human challenges facing us and future generations.

Our tradition asks us to live lightly on God's good Earth, to serve and to protect it (Gen. 2:15), to minimize waste (בל תשחית), to limit our impact and respect the Earth as God's (Lev. 25). Despite the timeless wisdom of requiring reasonable precautions (see Deut. 22:8), today's society consumes and pollutes in unprecedented and unsustainable ways – leading us, per an overwhelming scientific consensus, toward irreversible catastrophe.

Core Jewish values point to global warming, environmental injustice, species extinction, and other ecological disasters as true spiritual and moral crises. We stand with poor and minority communities, who bear the brunt of environmental degradation and are the first and worst-hit victims of climate change. We stand with the millions of other species with whom we share this imperiled interdependent biosphere, each with its own divine right to exist. And we stand with future generations, *l'dor vador*, knowing that today's (in)actions put our own progeny at risk.

To fulfill our responsibility as enlightened stewards of Creation, we must not be silent. Adat Shalom has long embraced being a green congregation – from its 2002 EPA Energy Star award, to being the first area Jewish institution to install solar panels (43kw), to our pioneering Mishnah Garden, Sacred Grounds, Shmita Orchard, and more. We now add our collective advocacy voice, as well.

Adat Shalom stands with our long-time partner IPL (Interfaith Power and Light), IPL's Faith Action for Climate Solutions, and other such multi-faith efforts. We join the work of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Hazon, Reconstructing Judaism, and other Jewish communities addressing these issues. We raise our spirited voices in the political, social, corporate, religious, and personal arenas, seeking no less than justice and sustainability for all people and all of Creation.

Adat Shalom members, as individuals, are urged to act, eat, work, vote, and live in line with these values. As an institution, Adat Shalom pledges to continually reduce its ecological footprint, and become an even greener congregation. And in the broader community, Adat Shalom takes an active advocacy role in defense of Creation and a livable world.