

SHABBAT MESSAGE JANUARY 27, 2023



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week. You've probably heard many times before that Rhode Island has more than 400 miles of coastline. As the Ocean State, the threat of rising oceans from climate change is very real. And our Jewish community has certainly felt the effects. I still remember the torrential rains last fall that turned our highways into rivers. I remember our staff at the Alliance working together to dry carpets and squeegee water out of the JCC when Providence's infrastructure couldn't handle the amount of rain and water backed up into our building. Unfortunately, these types of events are becoming more common.

But there is something we can all do about it. In fact, the Jewish community is well positioned to be a leader when it comes to responding to climate change and its impact on our state. At the Alliance, we've already acted. For over a year now all our electricity at the Dwares JCC has come from solar power. We've had a recycling program in place for years, and in the next few months, in partnership with Congregation Beth Sholom, we'll be implementing a composting program as well.

With problems as large and existential as climate change, it can sometimes be a struggle to know where to start. And that's where the Alliance wants to help as well. On Tuesday, February 7, the Alliance will be hosting our friends from Hazon, the largest Jewish organization in the country focused on environmental sustainability. We'll hear from their CEO, Jakir Manela, and their Chief Development Officer, Rachel Siegel, on the work Hazon is doing nationally, and the steps that our Rhode Island Jewish community can take right now that will make a difference.

Some of you may remember Rachel, as she used to work for our Jewish Federation here in Rhode Island. It will be so wonderful to welcome her back to town, and I'm grateful to our event chair, Mitzi Berkelhammer, for helping us with the planning.

More details about the event are included with this email, and I hope you will join us. When it comes to climate change, I think a lot about my daughters and the world they will inherit. And I think about the words of Rabbi Tarfon from Pirkei Avot: It is not your duty to finish the work, but nor are you free to ignore it either. I hope you'll join us for this event, and work with us to continue building a better world.

Until next time, I wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam".

Adam Greenman
President & CEO