

## Responsibility for the Earth: Jewish Perspective

God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden to till it and tend it.  
(Genesis 2:15)

When the Blessed Holy One created the first human, God took him and led him round all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: “Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no-one to repair it after you. (Kohelet Rabbah 7:13:1)

What to do to limit climate change

### 1. Track your carbon

First, spend a few minutes inputting your details into a carbon calculator like WWF’s Footprint Calculator.

The website is:

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>

Travelling on holiday by train, holidaying in the UK or continuing with video conferencing for business meetings instead of flying could make a significant dent in your annual emissions.

### 2. Repair, don’t throw away.

Manufacturers are now required to make spare parts for products available. Extending the lifespan of the stuff you own is one of the most effective things you can do to offset emissions created in manufacturing them – or use a repair café at [repaircafe.org](http://repaircafe.org).

### 3. Make it summer at home

Turning your thermostat down by 1C.

### 4. Put yourself on a plastic diet

Consume less plastic, and prioritise buying more non-plastic packaging, including tins, cardboard and glass — all easily recyclable — and, indeed, naked, packaging-free.

### 5. Ditch disposables

Use refillable cups or water bottles. Use a reusable mask wherever possible.

### 6. Clean up your laundry — get a Guppyfriend

When synthetic clothes are washed in a machine, they shed microfibres. You can wash synthetics in a Guppyfriend — a fine mesh bag that you pop clothes into.

### 7. Change your Bulb

Swap your electricity supplier to a green one.

### **8. Swap your loo roll**

Use toilet roll brands made from recycled paper

### **9. Eat more plants**

Change to a plant-based diet or introduce meat-free months or weeks.

### **10. Drive an EV (but don't own one)**

Every new car causes 636kg of carbon dioxide emissions. Switching to an electric car is better for your carbon footprint but joining a subscription service means you don't need to buy a new car and just drive one when you need to.

### **11. Eat ugly veg**

We know that food waste is a huge climate crisis driver. Shop ugly and rejected fruit and vegetables.

### **12. Go cold turkey on Amazon**

Wean yourself off online deliveries and introduce no-buy periods.

### **13. Turn the tap off**

Don't leave the tap running, save water.

### **14. Scale your efforts**

Support environmental projects around the world.

### **15. Implement your own peat ban**

In the UK peatland is our rainforest: it locks in billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide and methane. Extracting peat releases these gases and as the land dries out the problem is exacerbated. Use an alternative to peat compost for your garden.

### **16. Grow your own**

Growing tomatoes, peppers and aubergines — crops that have a relatively high carbon footprint — in your garden or allotment. .

### **17. Invest in the soil**

Buy regenerative crops farmed in a way that creates healthy soil, like locally grown pulses and grains.

### **18. Change your pension**

Invest your money in assets that have pledged to divest from fossil fuels.

### **19. Tackle your pets' pawprint**

Feed dogs insect protein – it has 96 per cent less greenhouse gas emissions than a beef equivalent. Regular cat litter is from strip-mined clay and is environmentally destructive (plus 2.5 million tonnes a year go to landfill). Find an eco-alternative.

### **20. Boost your eco literacy**

Do a short course with the Carbon Literacy Project.