



**Sukkot Presentation on Climate
for Central Reform Temple & Emmanuel Church**

**by Gina Coplon-Newfield
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Who I Am

- Longtime climate advocate committed to **תִּיקוּן עוֹלָם**
- Biden Admin alum
- Currently at Sunstone Strategies helping NGOs with climate communications
- Daughter/step-daughter of Central Reform Temple members
- Mom of strong daughters



This Session

- Intro
- Impacts of Climate Change
- Causes of Climate Change
- Solutions: Policy -Federal
- Solutions: Policy -State
- Solutions: Lifestyle
- Discussion



Impacts of Climate Change: Storms

- Massive storms like Milton, Helene, Katrina & superstorm Sandy
- Flooding in Vermont
- California's atmospheric flooding
- As storms travel across warm oceans, they pull in more water vapor & heat. That means stronger wind, heavier rainfall & more flooding when storms hit land



Impacts of Climate Change: Heat Waves/Fires

- Climate change leads to warmer, drier conditions = increased heat, extended droughts, and more and worse fires.
- From 2001 to 2023, the area burned by forest fires increased by about 5.4% EACH YEAR.
- In places like California, Colorado, and Oregon, evacuations have become common.
- Schools without air conditioning have become difficult places to learn.



Causes of Climate Change: Dirty Electric Sector

- Electricity powered by
 - Coal: 20% in US
 - Natural gas: 38% in US
(67% in MA)
- Backed up transmission queues



Causes of Climate Change: Dirty Transportation Sector

- Cars/trucks/buses powered by
 - diesel
 - gasoline
 - natural gas
- Airplanes
- Ships



Causes of Climate Change: Dirty Buildings Sector

- Intensive emissions due to:
 - construction
 - cement/steel/aluminum
 - heating/cooling
 - inefficient insulation



Causes of Climate Change: Industrial Sector

- Intensive emissions due to:
 - manufacturing & refining products
 - high amounts of electricity & heat powered by dirty sources/inefficient equipment



Causes of Climate Change: Corporate & Political Power

Oil & Gas Industry

- Enjoy \$14 billion per year in tax breaks.
- Spent \$124 million in lobbying in 2022.
- Are spending \$152 million in 2024 election cycle (88% to Repubs)



Solutions: Policy -Federal

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (passed 2021) & Inflation Reduction Act (passed 2022) invest hundreds of billions in clean energy loans, grants, and tax breaks for individuals, companies, states, cities, and Tribes.
- Combined, they are expected to reduce GHG pollution by about 40% by 2030.



Solutions: Policy -Federal -Examples of BIL/IRA Investments

- Consumer tax breaks for solar panels, EVs, battery storage systems, insulation, etc.
- Corporate tax credits/loans/grants for manufacturing/investing in clean energy/clean energy products.
- Extra incentives for companies to provide workers with apprenticeships & a living wage.
- Grants for electric school buses & EV charging infrastructure
- \$35+ billion for environmental justice projects



Solutions: Policy & News -Massachusetts

- Major new federal funds recently announced for MA offshore wind & transmission.
- Big MA climate bill failed in summer but was just revived. Will require:
 - State regulators/utilities to consider whether an area serviced by leaky natgas pipes could be converted to geothermal energy or an all-electric heating system — before approving repair or replacement to gas line.
 - More investment in battery storage.
 - EV charging to be more accessible.
 - Speedier approval for clean energy projects.



Solutions: Personal

- Get federal and/or state tax credits/rebates for switching to:
 - Electric vehicles
 - Solar panels
 - Battery storage systems
 - Heat pumps
 - Insulation
- Additional efforts:
 - Induction stoves
 - Public transit
 - Biking
 - Changes at work
 - Policy advocacy/activism
 - Voting





Discussion

