

News from the Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO)

We hope to see many of you this Sunday as JECO officially launches our Shavu'a Tov booklet on Jewish sustainable living. As mentioned last month, this is a great opportunity to meet with others in our community who are involved in environmental awareness and action. Enjoy a Kosher afternoon tea and hear about the significance of Australia's first Jewish sustainable living guide from Rabbi Shamir Caplan. If you haven't already let us know you're coming, please do so for catering purposes.

***** Bring any unwanted mobile phones to our Launch for reuse or recycling *****

The launch will be followed by our AGM - more details below and attached.

4-6pm Sun 6th November at Port Phillip Eco Centre, St. Kilda

4-5, Celebratory Launch of JECO's Shavu'a Tov (good week sustainable week) - see flyer attached
5-6, JECO Annual General Meeting - all invited - documentaion sent previously but minutes of last AGM attached

2-4pm Sun 20th November, Mitzvah Day clean-up of St. Kilda Beach

JECO is joining with the Kedem community in a Mitzvah Day activity under the auspices of JNF. There will be a clean-up along the beach between St Kilda Baths and Elwood. The meeting place is St Kilda Baths at 2pm. Protective gloves and rubbish bags will be provided to all volunteers. See flyer attached

An American ecologist has criticised a 'big Australia' policy, saying there are just not enough resources in a country already hit by climate change. Stanford Professor Paul Ehrlich delivered the annual Jack Beal Lecture at the University of New South Wales in Sydney last night as the world marks a population of seven billion. "Australia is already over-populated... Look at the Murray-Darling situation. You are deforesting the country. You have got salinity problems in the wheat-lands of the west," he told SBS. "The climate is changing and Australia is a major producer of greenhouse gases which threatens all future generations everywhere. So the idea that you should add more people to add to all of these problems is just plain-silly". He said climate change is already impacting food production in a world were almost a billion people are hungry, and has called for world leaders to take urgent action. See <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1601351/Ehrlich-slams-%27big-Australia%27-policy>

Coral Sea could be world's largest marine park

Labor is considering proposals to establish the world's largest marine protected area with 972,000 square kilometres of the Coral Sea to be given differing levels of environmental cover. The Age believes the draft proposal for the tropical waters between the Great Barrier Reef and the edge of Australian territory will place about half the total region in "no take" reserves, stopping fishing. The rest of the Coral Sea will be made multi-use, single-use and wilderness conservation areas allowing recreational fishing, some commercial fishing, or both, to differing degrees. See <http://www.theage.com.au/national/coral-sea-could-be-worlds-largest-marine-park-20111102-1mvpv.html>

Sanctuary 17: Green Kitchens issue

If you're planning a new or remodelled kitchen, this issue's special kitchens feature offers plenty of design inspiration. We profile green kitchens from around Australia, from pre-loved kitchens given new life to kitchens with all the eco bells-and-whistles, and look at a handful of overseas projects too. Green design experts give their top tips for kitchen design and materials, and eleven pages of product profiles bring you a selection of top star-rated appliances from dishwashers to induction cooktops and 6-star kitchen taps.

<http://sanctuarymagazine.org.au/>

City of Port Phillip - Community Environment eHub

This is a wonderful example of how sustainability is being encouraged at the local council level. What is happening in your local area?

<http://www.envirohub.com.au/>

Aldi has marked olive oil products with their carbon footprint

ALDI was the first company to join Planet Ark's Carbon Reduction Label Program in Australia and ALDI's everyday olive oil range became the first products in Australia to be certified by the Carbon Trust. Now ALDI has become the first retailer in Australia to launch a carbon footprint label in its stores, with the everyday olive

oil range now featuring a Carbon Reduction Label. This informs consumers of the total carbon footprint of a product, from raw materials and manufacturing right through to disposal or recycling of packaging. The carbon footprint is measured on a ‘per 100mL’ basis for ease of comparison. The Label helps people understand how they can reduce their own carbon footprint and combat climate change. See <http://www.aldi.com.au/au/html/15854.htm>

Jewish Environmental Program Bank at the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

As the field of Jewish environmental education and action grows, educators and activists are on the lookout for new and creative programs to bring to their communities. We are pleased to provide a virtual gathering place for Jewish environmentalists to share successful programs and helpful resources. Browse through the program bank and see the range of curricular materials, programmatic resources, sermon ideas, and action initiatives that have been implemented by leading Jewish environmental activists and educators around the world. Adapt programs to your needs, and submit your own programs so that others can learn from your successes!

<http://www.coejl.org/programbank/index.php>

Inform: building environmental literacy

Inform is a national non-profit that produces short films designed to educate the public about the effects of human activity on the environment and human health. Our goal is to empower citizens, businesses and government to adopt practices and policies that will sustain our planet for future generations. INFORM's mission is predicated on the belief that a well-informed citizenry is the foundation of a high-functioning society. See <http://www.informinc.org/pages/index.php#>

For example: The Secret Life of Cell Phones

<http://www.informinc.org/pages/media/the-secret-life-series/the-secret-life-of-cell-phones.html>

regards, Tom Osborn for the JEKO Committee

www.jeco.org.au / www.jeco.com.au

JECO highlights the connections between Judaism & Environmentalism, providing a uniquely Jewish perspective on addressing environmental issues. We believe there is a religious as well as a moral obligation to protect the environment and that environmental responsibility can be woven into the fabric of daily Jewish life.

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Note: you should do your own appraisal of products or services reported as JEKO cannot take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided.

JEKO acknowledges the support of the Jewish Australia Online Network: www.jewishaustralia.com