



JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

What an amazing couple of weeks

A very successful outcome at JECO's AGM was closely followed by a very encouraging outcome at the COP21 Paris climate talks! Both require further work to see through the commitments but there is great potential.

Internationally this could be a real start on an 'end of the fossil fuel era' but former Californian Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's comment "Republicans need to stop treating climate change like a political issue" must be applied in all countries. The social justice and environmental sustainability needs for clean energy and climate change solutions have to be seen as moral issues above and beyond any political differences.

Getting back to our AGM, if you read the last couple of JECO emails you will realise we approached it with some uncertainty about our future. So it was wonderful to see about 20 people turn up who believed there was an important role for a specifically Jewish environmental organisation in Australia and who wanted (perhaps now more than ever) JECO to continue and flourish.

We have an enhanced and reinvigorated Committee plus others who can't commit to the committee but are getting involved in specific projects. Now we can get on with more of the great things we want to do plus consider some exciting new possibilities. You'll hear more about all that when 'normal transmission' of JECO eNews resumes in 2016.

I'd like to introduce you to our new Committee - see photo, L to R.



Back: Tom Osborn (Immediate Past-President); Malcolm Flitman; Frank Goldstein (Treasurer); Jonathan Keren-Black; Liz Raab.

Front: Karen Neumann; Evelyn Flitman (President); Jaclyn Kuran (Secretary); Tammy Taylor (Vice-President).

I'll finish with a few words from our incoming President and then our incoming Vice-President.

"What would you say if someone joined a committee for the first time after limited previous involvement with the organisation, and took on the role of president? Chutzpah? Stupidity? Or maybe a bit of both ... Anyway, for better or for worse, that's what I've done.

At the JECO AGM what I witnessed was a large group of people who were happy to be involved, but didn't want to take on the role of president. So with that in mind, I see my role in JECO like that of a conductor in an orchestra, not actually making the music, but helping to keep the different players together.

And there's always room for more players to help enrich and expand the repertoire. So if you have an idea of something you would like JECO to be involved with, please let us know. We are open to new ideas, and I personally particularly like the idea of having small 'sub-committees' to work on specific projects that the people involved are particularly passionate about.

Please email me with your ideas, interests and ways you would like to be involved."

[Evelyn Flitman](mailto:flitman@optusnet.com.au) [JECO President: flitman@optusnet.com.au]

Tammy Taylor is JECO's new Vice-President and the linked article of her's, on the lead-up to the Paris climate talks, was published by Stand Up (Jewish Group committed to Social Justice): [Change is in the Air](http://www.atthewell.com.au/article/change-is-in-the-air)
[<http://www.atthewell.com.au/article/change-is-in-the-air>]

regards, Tom Osborn

for The Jewish Ecological Coalition Inc. (JECO)

PS. I see the last couple of weeks as a Win for the planet, a Win for JECO and a Win for the Australian Jewish community.

You can now make an online tax deductible donation to JECO at <http://www.givenow.com.au/jeco>.

JECO is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/JECO.AUS>.

JECO works to deepen the Jewish community's commitment to caring for the earth. We believe there is a religious as well as a moral obligation to protect the environment. To this end we work with Jewish, secular and multi-faith groups in supporting activities that promote sustainability.

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