



JECO
The Jewish Ecological Coalition

JECO eNews for December 2012

Erez Feinberg, the JNF Education Director, spoke at the JECO annual general meeting on how he teaches people to take responsibility for the environment.

Erez deconstructed the Hebrew word for responsibility *AKHRIOT*. This word starts with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, ends with the last letter and contains the following words:

Brother/Sister	אח
Other	אחר
After me	אחרי
After him/her	אחריו
Responsibility	אחריות

Is the message in *AKHRIOT* that taking personal responsibility for living a more sustainable life starts with ourselves, but extends to others including future generations?

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

Calendar

Monday 3 December 6:30 - 8:30 pm BZE Monthly Discussion Group

Professor John Wiseman, Professorial Fellow, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) at The University of Melbourne will speak on post carbon economy transition plans and strategies. Fritz Loewe Theatre (entry via level 2), McCoy Building, University of Melbourne, Cnr Elgin & Swanston Streets, Carlton

December 8 - 16 Hanukkah

A time to think lights, energy, renewal and miracles. The US organisation, COEJL, has a Hanukkah Energy Scavenger Hunt for children. It is written for the northern hemisphere, but could be modified to use in Australia.

Read more at <http://coejl.org/resources/hanukkah-energy-savenger-hunt/>.

Ideas for making your own *hanukiah*/menorah from recycled materials can be found at

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/recycled-menorah-from-steel-pi-71488>.

Happy Hanukkah from JECO.

News

Taking our temperature

Dr Jonica Newby of the ABC's Catalyst team asks "has our weather changed in the last 100 years or not"? If you missed this Catalyst episode you can watch it at <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/3633447.htm>.

Coal seam gas - dirtier than coal?

We're sorry that we had to postpone screening of the movie "Gasland" and hope to re-schedule it. In the meantime you can read more about coal seam gas at <http://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/coal-seam-gas/leaks/dirtier-than-coal?t=dXNlcmlkPTY2Mjg0MyxlbWFpbGkPTEwNzY=>, and <http://theconversation.edu.au/dealing-with-the-health-risks-of-unconventional-gas-10987>.

Why isn't eating less meat to reduce your carbon footprint talked about?

We are a society obsessed with the subject of food yet we don't want to look at the implications of our Western diet. Judith Friedlander, a post-graduate researcher at UTS's Institute for Sustainable Futures, writes about how eating less red meat doesn't get much media attention although it has been recommended by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, epidemiologists writing in The Lancet and a host of other highly-regarded researchers

and organisations. Read more at <http://theconversation.edu.au/why-arent-we-talking-about-meat-and-climate-change-6725>.

What is upcycling?

Wikipedia defines upcycling as "the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or for better environmental value". If you missed the Impact for Women/kogo/JECO Mitzvah Day activity you can learn how to upcycle an old t-shirt into a scarf at http://www.cutoutandkeep.net/projects/recycled_tee_circle_scarf.

Update on the Israeli cardboard bicycle

It looks like the cardboard bicycle designed by Izhar Gafni is about to be mass produced. Read more at <http://nocamels.com/2012/10/20-recyclable-cardboard-bicycle-is-now-a-reality/>.

What's happening in your shtetl

Council	Date	Event	Link
Glen Eira	December 2 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Free e-waste collection Gen Eira Town Hall	Ring 9524 3333
Port Phillip	December 9 10:30 am	Gardening for Kids Port Phillip Eco Centre	http://www.enviroehub.com.au/whats-happening-in-your-hood/events-calendar/event-item?eventId=536
Stonnington	December 13 10:00 am - noon	Biodiversity Tour of Glen Iris Wetlands Departing TH King carpark, High St, Glen Iris	To book phone 8290 1333 or book online http://www.stonningtonbookingform.com.au/
Boroondara	ongoing	Walking Groups	http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/cycling-walking/walking/walking_groups

Green Tip

Mulch your garden beds and save as much as 70% water loss. Check if your local council has free mulch.

You should do your own appraisal of products and services reported. JECO cannot take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided.

The JECO Committee welcomes input to and comments about JECO eNews.

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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