

JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

JECO eNews for July 2012

The saddest day on the Jewish calendar is Tisha B'Av (July 28, 2012) when we as a community mourn the destruction of the first and second Temples in Jerusalem.

The following paragraph is from an article by Richard H. Schwartz entitled "RELATING TISHA B'AV TO TODAY'S ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES".

"In view of the many threats to humanity today, it is important that Jews enhance their commemoration of the spiritually meaningful holiday of Tisha B'Av by making it a time to begin striving even harder to live up to Judaism's highest moral values and teachings. On this solemn occasion, we should learn from our history and heed a basic lesson of the holiday -- that failure to respond to proper admonitions can lead to catastrophe. The Jewish people must make tikkun olam (the repair and healing of the planet) a major focus in Jewish life today, and consider personal and societal changes that will reduce environmental threats. By doing this, we would be performing a great kiddush Hashem (sanctification of God's Name) by helping move our imperiled planet to a sustainable path, and by showing that Judaism's eternal values have relevance to today's critical issues."

News

The Carbon Tax and Nana Rugs

The carbon tax begins on July 1. We can expect an increase in our electricity bills due to the carbon tax filtering down and increases in infrastructure costs. That's where the nana rug comes in. The following article lists 30 simple ways to cut your electricity bill. <http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2012/06/26/3532627.htm>

National Container Deposits Campaign

Thirteen billion recyclable bottles are used in Australia each year, but only five billion are recycled. A container deposits scheme works in South Australia with an 87% recovery rate. How can we make a National Container Deposits Scheme happen? Read the article in the Sydney Morning Herald <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/green-groups-hold-their-bottle-on-deposit-scheme-20120625-20yu8.html> or check out the Boomerang Alliance website. <http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash-for-containers.html>

Israeli - Australian Joint Venture to Turn Brown Coal into Clean Fuel

Solar technology developed by Professor Jacob Karni of the Weizmann Institute is used to reduce greenhouse gases when brown coal is burned. Using this technology CO₂ is dismantled to carbon monoxide and oxygen. At the same time water is separated into hydrogen and oxygen. Carbon monoxide and hydrogen can then be mixed to make Syngas, which can be used as gaseous fuel, <http://www.greenprophet.com/2012/06/karnin-solar-energy-brown-coal/>

"If a Tree Falls" Documentary

This powerful and disturbing documentary on the radical US environmental group the Earth Liberation Front and ecoterrorism in general was screened on the ABC program Sunday Best. If you missed it you can watch it on iView. <http://www.abc.net.au/iview/#/docs>

Calendar

BBRamblers Tree Planting Day - Sunday, July 15

This year's planting site will be held in Korobeit. You can register before Tuesday, July 10 at <https://register.eventarc.com/event/view/9007/tickets/annual-grow-west-community-planting-day>. After you have registered contact Michael of BBRamblers for a full information kit and to arrange carpooling. madler1@bigpond.com

National Tree Day - Sunday, July 29

During National Tree Day 2011, Australians planted over 1 million native trees, shrub and grasses. Find a group and plant some trees at <http://treeday.planetark.org/about/>.

What's happening in your shtetl

Council	Date	Event	Link
Glen Eira	Ongoing	"Walking in Glen Eira" brochures - Nine self guided walks	Ring 9524 3333 for copies
Port Phillip	July 1	Eco Trivia Afternoon, 2:00 pm, PPEC	http://www.ecocentre.com/node/802
Stonnington	July 31	Follow Your Recyclables Tour, 9:30 am - 12:30	http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/explore-stonnington/sustainability/environmental-education-and-events/
Boroondara	Ongoing	Recycling and waste minimisation survey results	http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your_council/waste-recycling/waste-survey-results

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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