

JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

JECO eNews for June 2012

This week we celebrated Shavuot. One Shavuot tradition we look forward to every year is having dairy meals. Who can resist those ice cream parties organised by many synagogues? Shavuot teaches us that eating meat at every meal is not necessary. In the following weeks perhaps we can consider the environmental impact of eating meat and extend the eating of some dairy meals from Shavuot to the shavua (week)?

News

Weeds no longer

JECO member, Tamara Taylor and her family went on an Edible Weeds Walk run by [Very Edible Gardens](#). They learned that dandelions, chickweed and blackberry nightshade are not pesky weeds to be eradicated from the garden, but rather are delicious, nutritious additions to salads and soups. Most annual weeds are not only edible but also taste good and are nutritionally dense. Dandelions are the second most nutritionally dense vegetable ever tested by the US Department for Agriculture. Many weeds also have significant medicinal benefits. If you want to learn more about edible weeds read [Edible Weeds and Garden Plants of Melbourne](#) by Doris Pozzi.

Which country has set a new solar power record?

It would be great to answer Australia, but Germany has nearly as much installed solar power generation capacity as the rest of the world combined. After the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the German government decided to abandon nuclear power and closed eight plants. Their solar power plants produce 22 gigawatts of electricity which is equal to 20 nuclear power stations running at full capacity. To read more click [here](#).

Israel's electric car network begins

Better Place has rolled out four electric car charging stations in northern Israel. The company plans to expand the network quickly so that every place in Israel will be close to a charging station. Better Place has already sold 1800 Fluence electric cars to leasing companies and individuals. To read more click [here](#).

Los Angeles bans plastic bags

Los Angeles is the largest US city to ban plastic bags. The city will phase out plastic bags over the next 12 months which is a major victory for environmental and clean water groups. Have to ask why it hasn't happened here. To read more click [here](#).

Calendar

Limmud Oz - Sunday, June 10, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

How Green is Judaism? – Are Good Jews Ignoring the Environment?

JECO is hosting a panel of two rabbis, two environmental engineers and a community sustainability advocate who will ask what guidance does Judaism give, and what practical and ethical steps does it demand of us to meet the environmental challenges facing humanity?

Global Wind Day - Thursday, June 15

The day to learn more about wind power. To read more click [here](#).

What's happening in your shtetl

Council	Date	Event	Link
Glen Eira	Wed, June 13	Identify and garden with indigenous plants	Plants
Port Phillip	Ongoing	eHub TV - Watch people living more sustainably	eHub
Stonnington	Ongoing	Water refill station at Kooyong Park	Water
Boroondara	Ongoing	Get it right on bin night	Bin

You should do your own appraisal of products and services reported as 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.