

# Support Project Solarize Kehillah

## Our Community Launches a Fundraiser for Social Good!

Days after Hurricane Sandy, Bloomberg Businessweek's cover was a photo of the flooded Lower East Side, with huge block letters saying: "It's Global Warming, Stupid." Southern California is bone dry and burning. The Southwest gets its drinking water from rivers fed by runoff from rapidly disappearing mountain snowpack. These historic storms, floods, and droughts are happening with record-setting frequency, exactly as climate science predicts.

According to the UN's biggest-ever study of climate change, to avoid its most dire consequences, we need to triple the share of energy production that's clean, i.e., get off coal, natural gas, and oil.

Two thousand years ago the Babylonian Talmud similarly suggested cleaning up our act: "anyone who does not properly adjust the airflow of a lamp, thereby causing unnecessary fuel consumption, has violated the bal tashchit - do not destroy - prohibition." In her Rosh Hashanah sermon, Rabbi Jen pointed out that "we may use the land for our needs, but within limits. ... Rather, in the words of the psalmist, 'The earth and all its fullness are God's.' "

The time is now to put our Jewish communal values into practice. How do we do that?



Well, the biggest catalysts for action in the US have been at the state and local level. As a community, we have to Find Our Power. The Social Action Committee believes they have found our power up on the Kehillah's big, sunny roof. Soon they will be initiating an exciting project to cover that roof with solar panels. Once installed, these panels will reduce our synagogue's contribution to global warming and will demonstrate -- to our children, ourselves, and others -- our moral commitment to the health of our planet. A significant reduction in the Kehillah's annual utility bill would be nice, too!

Several factors make this effort particularly timely. The cost of solar panels has dropped 80% since 2008 and the panels are more efficient. And, for a limited time, 35% of any contribution you make to this project comes back to you as an NC income tax credit! That is in addition to the usual Federal charitable contribution deduction.

To raise the \$50,000 to \$120,000 needed to replace a significant portion of our fossil fuel-generated power with renewable solar power, Project Solarize Kehillah will need donations of all sizes from across our community. The more members who make contributions, and the more money we raise, the more we can reduce our collective carbon footprint and fulfill the commandments Rabbi Jen discussed so eloquently.

To hear more about this important and exciting project, join us at one of our fundraising kickoff events scheduled for Sunday, December 7th at 9:30 AM and again at 7 PM at the Kehillah. Hear details, watch a short movie, and nosh! More details on this project and how to donate are available at <http://kehillahsynagogue.org/solarize-kehillah/>.

Let's take some fossil fuel offline forever, together, and Find Our Power as a community!