

Let there be renewable light



8

days

8

actions

This *Hanukkah*, join Jews around North America in 8 simple actions to help conserve energy, slow global climate change, and save you money!

DAY 1: Change one regular bulb in your home to a CFL (compact fluorescent light). Though CFL bulbs cost more, they last 10 times as long and use only about a quarter of the energy to produce the same light. Over their life, they will more than repay their cost!

DAY 2: Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120° F). Water heaters are the second largest energy users in most homes. Lowering the temperature also reduces the risk of scalding!

DAY 3: Lower your thermostat 3° F. For each degree lower in winter you cut your energy use by about 3% - 3° F = almost 10%! (The same applies to raising your thermostat in summer.)

DAY 4: Skip a car trip. Transportation, especially in automobiles, is responsible for US dependence on foreign oil and about a third of US greenhouse gas emissions. Run, walk, bike or take public transit instead!

DAY 5: Start a scrap paper pile. Producing paper from wood uses lots of energy, destroys forests, and fills up landfills. Use what you can as scrap, recycle, and close the recycling loop by buying paper products with recycled content!

DAY 6: Give your home a Hanukkah gift from Energy Star. Appliances with the "Energy Star" logo are significantly more efficient—especially refrigerators, cooling and heating units, dishwashers, and washing machines.

DAY 7: Write a letter to Congress. Let your representative and Senators know that you've taken action at home to conserve energy and urge them to support policies to promote conservation, efficiency, and the development of clean and sustainable energy sources. See www.coejl.org for sample letters.

DAY 8: Have a candlelight dinner. The electricity used in the US just for lighting is more than the entire continents of South America and Africa combined use for all purposes. Turn off your lights and enjoy your last evening of latkes by candlelight. (You might want to light a few extra candles; it is traditional not to use the menorah as a functional lamp.)

Traditional Blessings

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצוותיו וצונו
להדליק נר של הנזקה

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohaynu, melekh ha-olam asher keed' shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzeevanu l'had'lik neir shel Hanukkah.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy by mitzvot and instructed us to light the *Hanukkah* candles.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohaynu, melekh ha-olam she-asah neeseem la-avotaynu ba-yameem ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors at this season in ancient days.

FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקיימנו והצניענו לזמן הזה

Barukh atah Adonai, Elohaynu, melekh ha-olam she-hecheeyanu v'keey' manu v'heegeeyanu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us to reach this day.

Let There Be Light: A New Blessing

By Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

READ RESPONSIVELY:

“And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:16-18)

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

“Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose lovingkindness extends eternally.” (Psalm 136:1,7)

May we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

“With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun’s] heat.” (Psalm 19:7)

May we stop over-heating Your creation, and learn instead to sustainably harness the power of the sun.

“Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned—the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine.

May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.

