

# HANUKKAH

# Let there be renewable light

8 days

8 actions

**DAY 1: Replace an outdoor light fixture with one that has a motion-detector.**

Outdoor lights that are left on all night waste electricity, increase your energy bill, and add to night-time "light pollution." A fixture with a motion-detector will turn on only when needed.

**DAY 2: Make a plan to decrease your car use.** Automobiles emit greenhouse gas emissions (CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>) and contribute to U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Examine your driving habits and see if you can tele-commute, walk, bike, take public transit, or combine errands to reduce the amount you drive.

**DAY 3: Make your own Hanukkah gifts!** Take a photo and design a frame for it, knit a scarf for the winter, or make a set of beeswax candles. You can find lots of great books about homemade gifts in your local library. Use recycled materials if you can.

**DAY 4: Eat less meat and buy organic, locally-grown foods.** Large-scale meat production uses a huge amount of natural resources, particularly grain, topsoil, and water. Eating organic food is better for your health since it reduces your exposure to pesticides and antibiotics. Buying food grown close to home supports family farms and reduces the amount of energy used to prepare and transport food.

**DAY 5: Give your furnace a tune-up.** Forty percent of home energy use is for heat. An inefficient heating system can waste 30-50% of the energy it uses. Oil

furnaces should be serviced annually and gas furnaces every two years. A heating technician can do the tune-up for \$50-100.

**DAY 6: Save paper by sending environmentally-friendly Hanukkah e-cards.**

To create an e-card, visit <http://www.care2.com/send/cathanukkah1.html>. Or, if you're feeling artistic, make your own paper cards with recycled paper.

**DAY 7: Wash a full load of clothes and use cold water for the rinse.** Washing machines use 32-59 gallons of water per cycle, so waiting until you have a full load of clothes will save both water and energy. A warm water wash and a cold rinse will clean nearly all clothes well.

**DAY 8: Question: What three things can you give, which after you give them, will give back to you at least as much and perhaps more of what you gave?**

Answer: Knowledge, light, and love.



Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

To make a tax-deductible donation to COEJL, you can give online at [www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org) or contact our New York office at 443 Park Avenue South, 11th fl., New York, NY 10016 (212) 532-7436.

*This Hanukkah give gifts to nature and the future.*

## Traditional Blessings

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, asher keed'shanu b'meeztvotav v'tzeevanu l'had'lik neir shel Hanukkah.*

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

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

*Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, she-asah neeseem la-avotaynu ba-yameem ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.*

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

### FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁהֲחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵי הַזֶּה

*Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, she-hecheyanu v'keey'manu v'heegeeyanu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

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

## Let There Be Light: Readings from Tradition and Today

*Compiled by Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb*

*“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.