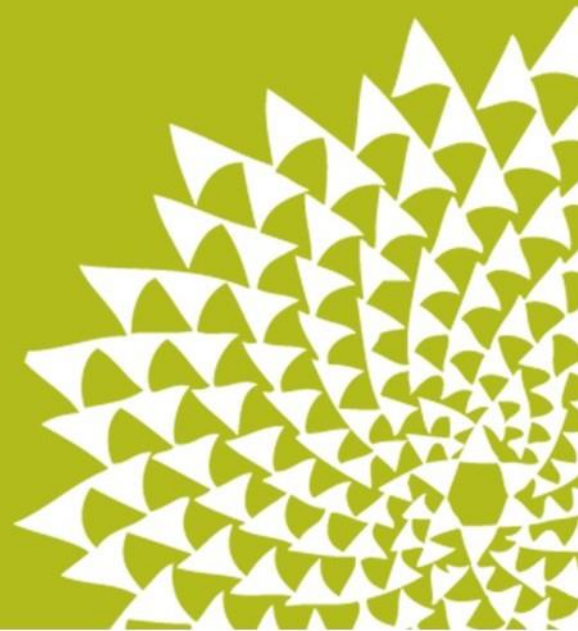




The **Associated**

Jewish Federation of Baltimore

CLIMATE
ACTION
PLAN
2024



Proud member of the



**Jewish Climate
Leadership Coalition**

POWERED BY ADAMAH

CALL TO ACTION

The global climate crisis is an historic inflection point for our planet, our communities, and our people.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body that assesses the science of climate change, estimates that we have fewer than five years to take urgent and meaningful action to avoid locking in the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

Jewish tradition compels us to respond.

JEWISH CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COALITION

In 2022, the Associated signed on as a founding partner to the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, along with twenty other national and international umbrella organizations of Jewish life.

Powered by Adamah, the Coalition is a network of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commit to taking action.

Coalition members develop **Climate Action Plans** that outline our strategic priorities of our climate work. Our Climate Action Plan details action taken to date and sets goals for both reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and mobilizing our networks around climate action in the year ahead.

Inspired by Jewish values, we are working to do the Jewish community's part to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and build a livable future together.

We invite Jewish community organizations everywhere to join us.

For more information about the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, watch the [Coalition launch video](#) or visit Adamah's [website](#).



ASSOCIATED 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The Associated strengthens and nurtures Jewish life by engaging and supporting community partners in Greater Baltimore, Israel and around the world.

In 2023, the Associated proudly released our first Climate Action Plan, outlining our strategic priorities for both reducing the Associated's organizational greenhouse gas emissions and mobilizing our broader networks to engage in climate action.

This year's Climate Action Plan includes a reporting on our 2023 climate action priorities, both successes and challenges, as well as our goals for expanding our climate action work in the year ahead.

2023 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS AND REPORTING

In 2023, we set out to undertake the following climate solutions. Below are the Associated's 2023 goals and updates on our successes and challenges:

Reducing Emissions

- **All-in on solar.** In 2023, we fully launched our \$4.5 million 4-megawatt solar array producing electricity roughly equivalent to half of the Associated's total electricity usage across all our properties. As well, we began the process of initiating a second Power Purchase Agreement to generate power equivalent to the other half of our electricity needs, with a goal of becoming the first Jewish federation entirely powered by solar.
- **Tree planting and nature-based solutions.** As stated in our 2023 Climate Action Plan, the Associated's goal is to partner with the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland to meet their respective goals of planting 500,000 and 5 million trees over the next five years. In 2023, over 500 trees were planted at the Associated's Pearlstone Center campus.
- **Transportation.** In 2023, we anticipated moving offices, which would shorten the commutes of many Associated employees. That move has been delayed. That being said, we continue to offer hybrid working options, which dramatically decreases emissions associated with commutes by reducing the number of days employees are travelling to the office.

Expanding Impact:

- **Scaling up the Baltimore Green Loan Fund.** In 2023, we set out to scale the Associated's Baltimore Green Loan fund into a national Jewish Climate Action Fund. This was achieved, growing the Baltimore Green Loan fund from \$500,000 to a \$1 million national Climate Action Fund, overseen by Adamah's Climate Action department. The Associated's Mark Smolarz served on the Climate Action Fund Advisory Committee and helped oversee the evaluation of applications and disbursement of \$300,000 in interest-free loans in 2023. These loans will fund climate solutions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 480+ tons annually, and result in an anticipated yearly savings of \$260,000 through reduced utility bills.
- **Community of Practice.** The Associated continues to participate in quarterly community of practice meetings of both the Coalition founding partners and the Coalition's members representing Jewish federations. In both communities of practice, we have shared our successes and challenges implementing and scaling climate solutions.

- **Letter of Support for Renew America's Nonprofits.** While not a goal in our 2023 Climate Action Plan, in 2023 we did write a letter of support, along with our colleagues at Jewish Federations of North America, JCC Association of North America, Interfaith Power and Light, and Dayenu, for Adamah's application to be a prime recipient of the Renew America's Nonprofits grant fund on behalf of the American Jewish community. While Adamah's application for \$3.45M was not selected, we understand that the data collected in the grant writing process will inform the development of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition's resources and supports and we are eager to continue partnering together on the decarbonization of American Jewish community institutions.

Click [here](#) to see the Associated's full 2023 Climate Action Plan.

2024 CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

Reducing Emissions

- **Completing Phase 2 of Solar Farm.** This will entail generating power to cover all The Associated's electricity usage.
- **Nature-Based Solutions.** This year, we will develop opportunities for community tree plantings that leverage volunteer energies and excitement. We are working on collaborations with other not for profits like Baltimore Tree Trust to work on community tree plantings as well as the importance of nature-based solutions.
- **Campus Decarbonization.** We are progressing on the move of our current headquarters to the Park Heights campus. This move, which is likely to not be completed until early 2025 will reduce overall commuting times, improve hybrid capability, and provide electric car charging stations. We are also in the planning stages for updating the Owings Mills campus with decarbonization being an important aspect being considered. Part of this process includes cataloguing all current fossil-fuel appliances at all Associated properties and developing a plan for transitioning those appliances to electric at the end of their expected (and unexpected) lifespan.

Expanding Impact

- **Baltimore Climate Action Committee.** In partnership with Adamah, we will convene a committee of local Jewish lay leaders focused on the integration of climate action into Baltimore Jewish community organizations and programs (such as JCCs, day schools, synagogues, Hillels, the Baltimore Jewish Council, etc.). We are excited about the possibilities that this committee may undertake across the Central Maryland region – both Jewish and otherwise.

For more information about the Associated and our climate work, visit our [website](#).