



JECO

The Jewish Ecological Coalition

ABN 52 768 480 221

I write on behalf of the Jewish Ecological Coalition (JECO).

JECO was set up to emphasise and deepen the Jewish commitment to sustainability and to raise awareness within and beyond the Jewish community about Judaism’s strong environmental message.

JECO aims:

- To educate and encourage individuals to “tread softly on the face of the earth”; i.e. to minimise their environmental footprint
- To work with individuals and organisations to prevent and repair environmental damage
- To build bridges between the Jewish and wider community by working together for sustainability.

In the last year we have been working to:	How the Government can best support this effort
Help reduce landfill and waste through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of the St Kilda Repair Café • Collection of items that might otherwise go to landfill, directing them instead to various organisations that reuse or recycle them (see https://www.jeco.org.au/reuse-repurpose-recycle/) 	Encourage manufacturers to take greater responsibility in being part of a circular economy.
Encourage and support Jewish organisations to put solar panels on their rooftops	Provide interest-free loans to cover the initial outlay required for these
Educate community groups about the most sustainable ways to cater for functions	Provide grants for community buildings to be fitted with commercial dishwashers, so that catering can be carried out more easily using reusable rather than disposable crockery and cutlery
Promote and encourage recycling	Introduce a deposit on drink bottles and cans
Encourage ‘sustainable parenting’ through the Facebook page ‘Jewish Sustainable Parenting Australasia’ and a ‘cloth nappy workshop’ to show how easy and cost-effective it is to use reusable nappies	Promote the use of cloth nappies through infant welfare centres

Demonstrate sustainable/edible gardens	Encourage tree/vegetable planting, perhaps by offering seedlings to people with gardens Provide support for nature strips being planted with more than one tree/plant.
Support groups planting trees and cleaning up litter from the environment	Encourage and support groups that organise these activities (e.g. Love our Street, Clean up Australia)
Have articles published in our community newspapers to encourage sustainability in various areas	

We are currently working on producing a video to take some of the confusion out of recycling – what can and cannot be put in the home recycling bin?

Some other areas in which we would like to see the Government acting to support sustainability issues are:

- Providing subsidies/training to meat producers to transition to vegetarian crops
- Educating farmers in the benefits of crop diversification
- Setting up of programs to reduce meat consumption, e.g. meat-free day/week; propagation of easy-to-make vegetarian recipes
- Subsidising or offering major tax concessions to businesses that offer employment opportunities through renewable energy and other long-term sustainable industries
- Providing retraining in renewable energy and other long-term sustainable industries for people displaced by the demise of fossil fuel industries.

Evelyn Flitman

President, JEEO