

How We Can Help Protect our Aquatic Ecosystems and Precious Water Sources

“It is not up to you to finish the task, but neither are you free to dissociate from it.”
Rabbi Tarfon, Mishnah Pirkei Avot 2:21

Creating Social Change

Find out the causes of pollution in your local river, lake or watershed, plus also conservation and restoration projects under consideration. Get involved in a local campaign to protect or restore the waterway. Examples of initiatives include contacting elected officials, conducting education campaigns in the community, volunteering for a local organization cleaning up river beds, etc.

Creating Communal Change

Our schools and synagogues are settings where we use large quantities of water and create pollution. How our community behaves in these spaces articulates how we view the issues of over-consumption and pollution. Have your class pick a project within your school or synagogue to help conserve water or eliminate pollution.

Creating Personal Change

The average American household uses 69.3 gallons of water a day for personal consumption, and toxic products dumped down the drain account for a major source of water pollution. How individuals and families behave in their homes can have a huge impact on protecting our water sources. Choose two things you can do in your own life, one to save water and one to reduce pollution.

My Brit Mayim, Covenant with the waters.

I _____ in order to fulfill my commitments to protect **Mayim Chayim**, the waters of life, herby promise to: (choose one from each category)

Water Conservation

- Turn of tap when brushing your teeth
- Take shorter showers
- Stop using disposable bottled water
- Switch to ‘low flow’ faucets and shower
- Other: _____

Pollution Reduction

- Use biodegradable household cleaners
- Buy local organic food
- Dispose of hazardous waste properly
- Drive less (use public transit, bike, walk)
- Other: _____

Signature

Date