

Celebrating Shabbat Through Energy Conservation

“The solution of humanity’s most vexing problem will not be found in renouncing technical civilization but in attaining some degree of independence from it. On the Sabbath we live, as it were, independent of technical civilization: we abstain from any activity that aims at remaking or reshaping the things of space. Man’s royal privilege to conquer nature is suspended on the seventh day. “

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*

Imagine...

If every Jewish person in America kept Shabbat. No TV, no computer, no driving. None of the technology we have come to rely on so heavily.

How much energy could we save? How much CO2 could we reduce? Let’s find out.

The Numbers

Average daily technology usage statistics for individuals in the United States of America:

TV watching – 3 hours per day,

Computer usage – 6 hours per day

Vehicle driving - 33 miles per day.

Let’s do the math

3 hours of TV at an average emission of 0.25 lbs CO2/hr = _____ lbs CO2/day

6 hours of computer at an average of 0.21 lbs CO2/hr = _____ lbs CO2/day

33 miles of driving at an average of 1.00 lbs of CO2/mile = _____ lbs CO2/day

Add these 3 together for -----

Average American Daily Total = _____ lbs CO2/day

_____ lbs CO2 / person per person (from above)

x 6,000,000 American Jews = _____ lbs CO2/day

_____ lbs CO2/day (from above)

X 52 Shabbats / year = _____ lbs CO2/year

If every Jew in America didn’t use a TV, computer or drive on Shabbat we would eliminate _____ lbs of CO2 each year!