



# How to Give a D'var Torah about Climate Change

If you're interested in giving a D'var Torah about climate change to your *kvutzah*, here are some tips to get started. You can also invite a different member to give a D'var Torah each time your *kvutzah* meets. If you decide to do so, be sure to share these tips! This can be a powerful way to bring Jewish tradition into your meetings.

- 1 Decide which text you want to discuss.** Maybe you have to give a D'var Torah about the weekly parsha, or maybe you can choose! Look [here](#) for resources in the Tanach, Talmud, and other teachings that you can use.
- 2 Make sure that your D'var Torah draws directly from the text.** Good interpretation pulls from the text instead of projecting onto it. Search in the text for the lesson it teaches about the environment. Maybe there's not an immediately clear link to climate change, but look for a moral about how we should behave as Jews and consider how that relates to the environment.
- 3 Include an anecdote about yourself or an experience you've had.** Hearing about a personal experience related to the D'var Torah's topic will interest the listeners and ground the speech in the modern world. Consider telling your climate story.



- 5** **Connect the lesson from the text to an element of climate change.** This will be most effective if you include a few statistics or examples—such about how much sea levels have risen, the timeline to decarbonize, or the plight of climate refugees.
- 6** **Provide a call to action at the end of the D’var Torah.** You should mention specific ways to help alleviate the climate crisis and direct actions that people can undertake right away. Encourage listeners to join the movement!
- 7** **Practice beforehand.** If you are going to read your D’var Torah to an audience, make sure you are rehearsed! The speech will be most impactful if you are comfortable enough to make eye contact with your audience. You also don’t have to stick to the exact words you wrote, as long as you get the message across. When you deliver the D’var Torah, speak slowly, clearly, and loudly.
- 8** **Follow up with your audience.** After you share your D’var Torah, talk with individual members of the audience to remind them what they should do to make a change.
- 9** **Consider delivering the D’Var Torah outside your *kvutzah*.** Perhaps your synagogue congregation, youth group chapter, school, or even your extended family. Pitch to your clergy and advisors/teachers—they will appreciate your energy and passionate for connecting Judaism with social justice. Send them a copy ahead of time to demonstrate your preparation.