

Energy - 1977

In 1973 the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, mindful of our Judaic tradition of stewardship for resources which enhance the human condition, adopted a resolution on the energy crisis. In the intervening years the problems of depletion of oil and gas fuels, the rapid increases in energy consumption, the slow rate of development of alternative energy sources and often extravagant wastages have intensified the dangers.

In the face of this continuing crisis the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges all its members to become strongly sensitive to energy conservation not only in their own homes and private lives but also in all areas of their activities, whether in synagogues, public or commercial buildings or transportation. It has been estimated that by conservation and improved efficiency of production and usage, the United States, for example, could provide the current level of service as of today at a rate of consumption reduced by one-third to one-half.

Further we urge legislative and executive action toward increased research and development of renewable energy sources. We are mindful of the grave problems of nuclear energy with the attendant risks of waste disposal and possible threats to peace. Therefore we urge public and private agencies and scientists to run toward non-nuclear alternatives until the hazards and threats to humanity now involved in nuclear and plutonium breeder reactors are overcome.

Above all, we urge that the burdens of any energy crisis should be spread in equal measure among all people and not become an especially harsh penalty for those of limited income who, in the face of rising costs, may deny themselves heat in the midst of cold, or other necessities.

Without needlessly turning the clock back we suggest that persons in developed countries should experiment with simpler lifestyles which consume less energy. Finally, we encourage broad educational, legislative and enforcement activities to protect the environment and to avoid all harmful forms of pollution whether from fuels or other sources.

Conservation

1. For the sake of conservation of resources for present and future generations, we urge Sisterhoods to undertake study of the following often interrelated complex subjects:
 1. The preservation of remaining farm land, forests and grazing lands;
 2. Development of financial support programs to increase the possibility of farms of small to middle-range size remaining viable so that farmers may remain on the land that may have been tilled by their forefathers.
2. In an industrialized society there is also need to study the perplexing questions relating to the preservation of cities and urban life. We therefore urge study of these problems:
 1. Rehabilitation of urban buildings and housing, mass transportation, safety, and containment of urban sprawl which affects the quality of life;
 2. The need for industries to develop strong social conscience regarding the transfer of their bases of operations from one place to another when these transfers may involve great economic and social dislocations and hardships.

In convention assembled in San Francisco, November, 1977, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

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adopts this resolution and urges its Sisterhoods to develop appropriate discussion and study sessions on these subjects.