

## CLIMATE ACTION TIP FOR CHESHVAN

Did you know that according to [Climate Change: Global Sea Level](#), sea levels have risen significantly since 1880 and the rate of increase is continuing to accelerate? In 1880, the sea comfortably sat at -200mm. As of 2020, it sits at 65mm. Sea levels will continue to rise as temperatures increase, polar ice caps and glaciers melt, and hurricanes and storms become more extreme.

During the month of Cheshvan, we read *Parshat Noach*. In this *parsha*, after God brings a flood on the earth, God creates a rainbow as an agreement and promises that God will never flood the world again. God says:

### Genesis 9:11-12

**11** And I will confirm My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. **12** And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I give between Me and you, and every living being that is within you, to generations forever."

יָא וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְלֹא-יִכָּרֵת  
כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר עוֹד מִמִּי הַמַּבּוּל וְלֹא-יְהִי עוֹד מַבּוּל  
לְשַׁחַת הָאָרֶץ. יֵב וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים זֹאת  
אוֹת-הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין  
כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם לְדֹרֹת עוֹלָם.

As we enter the month of Cheshvan and read *Parshat Noach*, we are reminded of our part as human partners in the covenant with God to prevent the destruction of the earth. In a piece written in 2016 called ["Noah, Superman, and Global Warming."](#) Rabbi Dov Linzer, Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, writes "God has taken an oath that God would no longer bring another flood to destroy the world. God will not send another flood, and God will not send another Noah. It is all in our hands now. We will either bring the next flood, or we will save ourselves from it. But the water is rising, and we must act before it is too late. We must be the custodians of the world that God has charged us to be."

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), almost 30% of the U.S. lives in areas where rising sea levels threaten critical infrastructures such as roads, bridges, subways, water supplies, oil and gas wells, power plants, sewage treatment plants, and landfills. Higher background water levels mean that destructive storm surges, such as those associated with Hurricane Katrina and "Superstorm" Sandy, push farther inland than they once did. We can no longer wait before we act.

### **Climate Action Tip for the month of Cheshvan:**

Learn more about the [Green Bond Act \(Proposal 1\)](#) which will be on the New York ballot this November. The Act allocates over \$1 billion towards flood-risk reduction, coastal and shoreline restoration, relocating and repairing flood-prone infrastructure and roadways, and ecological restoration projects. To learn more about how to prepare for flooding and other extreme weather conditions, look at the [Hurricane Guide Checklist](#) created by [NY Renews](#).