

Theory of Change
JOFEE
Jewish Outdoor, Food, Farming, & Environmental Education

We Believe

An active connection with the Earth is necessary in response to today's most pressing issues, and connection is available through Jewish tradition.

Jewish tradition and our natural world are intertwined and inseparable.

An authentic and engaging relationship with Jewish teachings lead to a renewal of interest in Jewish community and Jewish organizations.

By living and learning Jewishly we set an example for the world to live in synchronicity with one another, our finite resources, and our future.

Vibrant, spiritually alive, communally connected Jewish tradition is made possible by exploring the relationship between Jewish teachings and the Earth.

We Value and We Are Seeking

A spiritually vibrant relationship with Jewish tradition grounded in a relationship with the Earth.

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A renewed appreciation of Jewish teachings as a vessel for bringing forth healing and guidance for a modern world.

An entry point to community and/or Jewish life for those who have previously felt unwelcome.

An opportunity for long-time Jewish learners to deeply engage with Jewish text, wisdom, and community.

A world where all are mutually responsible for the care of the Earth, the Self, and One-another

Strategies for reaching our potential

Leverage national convenings of Jewish Communal Farms and the JOFEE Network Gathering to increase cross-pollination among organizations, strengthen relationships with funders, and expand outreach to regional communities

Utilize the JOFEE training programs as a professional pipeline for further program expansion and field-wide training. Including but not limited to farming apprenticeships, Fellowship participation, Leaders Institute participation, seasonal Teva employment, and extended volunteer opportunities.

Strengthen the physical homes of JOFEE organizations enabling broader community engagement and event hosting capabilities.

Short-Term Goals

Create an awareness that the Jewish community is committed to addressing the social, political, environmental, interpersonal injustices of this world through direct and hands-ons Earth-centered work.

Renew interest in Jewish tradition through vibrant Earth-centered engagement, locally.

Witness increased community engagement of young-adults, young families, and youth where JOFEE programming has been implemented.

See increasingly positive returns on investment for funders financing the JOFEE space

Create new JOFEE initiatives around the continent to fill regional and communal needs

See increased collaboration among Jewish farming organizations and broader JOFEE organizations to promote the overall strength of this field.

Create a relationship with JOFEE orgs in the land of Israel

Identify sustainable revenue models for JOFEE organizations that are not dependant on grants or donations

Long-Term Goals

Foster a sense of wonder and awe for the world around us leading to an active, respectful, and caring relationship with the Earth and its resources.

Increase funding, primarily for overhead and ongoing programmatic support.

Increase partnerships and dialogue with 'traditional' and 'mainstream' Jewish institutions.

Increase the positive impact our organizations have on the Earth setting an example for our communities and partners.

Strengthen the collective Jewish community and the world

Strengthen the physical homes of JOFEE organizations enabling broader community engagement and event hosting capabilities.

Evaluating our progress

Organizations maintain an accurate count of participants experiencing programs

Organizations strive to understand the impact those programs have on participant's relationship to Judaism

Organizations calculate funds raised as a result of local, regional, and national JOFEE programming

Organizations attempt to quantify the actual environmental impact, resource reduction, or carbon offset committed to by organizations