

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

ENERGY CONSERVATION

1980

In the face of OPEC's gouging on the cost of oil and the blackmail tactics of certain Arab countries, resulting in the use of petroleum as a multi-barreled economic weapon against Israel and the United States, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association declares its commitment to advocate and work toward reducing our country's dependency on foreign energy sources.

We call upon the President of the United States to spare no effort in the investigation and development of local natural resources and alternative energy sources, and in implementing aggressive energy conservation measures.

We call upon our colleagues, the congregations which they serve, and the Federations of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot to implement practical and effective programs of energy conservation.

We call upon our members to make personal commitments to diminish gasoline consumption and, in their private residences, to make every possible effort to reduce energy consumption.

We call upon the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot, and upon congregations and agencies within the Jewish community to search actively for ways to reduce energy utilization through practical and significant conservation methods, and to urge their members to do the same.

In keeping with our tradition's teachings concerning the respect for the physical universe and its resources (bal tash-hit) and in order to promote a more responsible, disciplined and peaceful society, we declare these steps to be nothing less than a religious imperative (mitzvah) incumbent upon Jews and all responsible people today.