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Activism



- Combining religion with environment

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Modern Orthodox



Combining Judaism with environmentalism Photo: Gil Yohanan


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Ask the (environmentalist) rabbi

Rabbi Carmi Wisemon, director at Sviva Israel environmental organization successfully combines religion and environment
by Yael Ivri-Darel

Jewish Law and our Sages of Blessed Memory had a lot to say about the environment and not only locally but globally as well, said Executive Director of [Sviva Israel](#), ("Israel environment"), Carmi Wisemon. His organization works to connect Judaism and environmental activities.

Wisemon stated that, "this project's goal is to cause the religious and ultra-Orthodox to become conscious of the environment and listen to what Jewish law has to say on the subject."

As editor of the organization's annual journal entitled, "The Environment in Jewish Thought and Law". Wisemon compiled 30 articles in Hebrew and in English written by rabbis and scientists from [Israel](#) and abroad.

The issues tackled in these articles include, global warming, urban planning, prevention of animal cruelty, vandalization of property, cleanliness of public property and even how the Torah views compost.

Wisemon's article deals with modern consumerism and its problematic connection with Halachic principles. "In the last 100 years advertising agencies' budgets increased mainly in the United State by 100%," he said. "Gradually, advertising has taken over and teaches us to be needy and not human beings."

Practicing what he preaches, Wisemon searched high and low for environmentally-friendly paper for the book's publishing. His search for paper was doubly challenging since his goal was to find Halachically and environmentally acceptable paper.

Finally, after four months and numerous consultations, he found what he was looking for. The book was printed on unbleached, tree-free paper at a local manufacturer whose production did not include desecrating the Shabbat.

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