

MJC  
ENERGY POSITION  
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Whereas: The energy crisis is a reality. The United States economy was founded on an unlimited supply of cheap energy. Our most important source of energy, about 44% of what we use, is oil. We are presently importing roughly one-half of what we use at prices that have increased six fold since 1970 with new price increases on the horizon. All other conventional sources of energy are also becoming increasingly costly. This is a leading cause of inflation and has the potential of causing serious dislocations in our economy and in our society. Energy expert, Daniel Yergin, has stated that "conservation certainly buys the United States time, and given the difficulties that attend the other sources, provides more immediate relief than do high capital, high-technology alternatives."1 In addition to conserving energy, many experts predict that mass conservation efforts will be a great stimulus to economic growth and employment.

RESOLVED: THE JEWISH COMMUNITY MUST BY ITS STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS DEMONSTRATE THAT IT KNOWS THE ENERGY CRISIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND THAT IT WILL SUPPORT SENSIBLE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH IT, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ASK FOR PERSONAL SACRIFICE. WE AS JEWS IN OUR COMMUNITY MUST TAKE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE THAT IS CLEANER THAN COAL, SAFER THAN NUCLEAR, AND CHEAPER THAN OIL. CONSERVATION MEASURES IN PRIVATE HOMES, IN INDUSTRY AND IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR CAN SAVE THIRTY TO FORTY PERCENT OF THE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES SUCH AS GAS EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND TRUCKS, ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR ALL APPLIANCES AND ENERGY STANDARDS IN LOCAL BUILDING CODES. ENERGY AUDITS MUST BE CONDUCTED IN BUILDINGS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THESE ACTIONS MUST BEGIN NOW.