




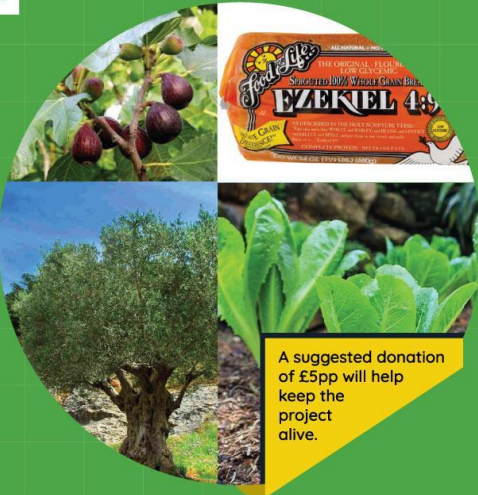
<https://www.ehcong.com/jewish-edinburgh/green-team/>



Issue 5: Ellul 5785 / August-September 2025

Welcome to EHC's Green Team News. Contributions are welcome from any member of the community – if you have visited an interesting environmental project, discovered a relevant book, radio programme/podcast or TV show or if you have ideas from your garden that you would like to share. Please contact The Green Team through notifications.ehc4@gmail.com. The deadline for the next edition is **15th September**. The most recent newsletter will be uploaded to the [Green Team page of the EHC website](#) shortly after publication.






A suggested donation of £5pp will help keep the project alive.

Invitation to THE EHC BIBLICAL GARDEN TOUR

Featuring Fig leaf underwear, life giving bread, honey dew sugar, bay trees and the red heifer, prophecies, miracles, commandments, words of wisdom and of course plants!!

A 45 minute tour will allow you to hear some of the fascinating stories of the plants and their sources in the Hebrew Bible.



Email ehc.enquiry@gmail.com for further details and/or to book your visit.

Fallen Leaves

Fallen leaves offer numerous benefits, acting as natural fertiliser, providing habitat for wildlife, and helping to retain moisture in the soil. Instead of discarding them, leaving or composting fallen leaves can significantly improve soil health and support local ecosystems.

Here's a more detailed look at the benefits:

1. Soil Enrichment:

As leaves decompose, they release essential nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, enriching the soil and promoting plant growth. This natural fertilisation process can reduce the need for synthetic fertilisers.

Leaves improve soil structure, enhancing its ability to retain moisture and nutrients.

Decomposing leaves create a layer of leaf litter, which helps maintain healthy pH levels and moderate soil temperature.

2. Wildlife Habitat:

Fallen leaves provide shelter and overwintering habitat for insects, worms, and other beneficial organisms. Many insects rely on leaves for protection from predators and harsh weather conditions.

Some insects, like butterflies and moths, overwinter in leaves as eggs, caterpillars, or other stages of their life cycle.

Leaf litter also serves as a food source for various wildlife, including micro-organisms that break down the leaves.

3. Moisture Retention:

Leaf litter acts as a mulch, helping to retain soil moisture by preventing evaporation, especially during dry periods.

This can be particularly beneficial for plants during hot summer months or in areas with limited rainfall.

4. Weed Suppression:

Fallen leaves can act as a natural mulch, suppressing weed growth by blocking sunlight from reaching weed seeds. This can reduce the need for herbicides and manual weeding.

5. Other Benefits:

a) Leaves can be used to create compost, which can be used to further enrich garden soil.

b) Chopped leaves can be used as mulch around plants, providing insulation and moisture retention.

Leaves can be used to protect bare soil from erosion and degradation during winter months.



Eco Judaism One Green Step Ellul



EJCC Interfaith Learning for All

Wednesday 17th September 7.30 pm

City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (and online)

To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FCGZ>

Join us for a meaningful interfaith dialogue exploring ecological responsibility through the teachings of Judaism and Islam.

Rabbi Dr Natan Levy and Kamran Shezad will share how their respective faiths view humanity's role as stewards of the Earth, drawing on sacred texts, traditions and ethical principles. This event offers a unique opportunity to discover shared values, deepen mutual understanding and reflect on how spiritual wisdom can inspire action in the face of today's ecological challenges.

Rabbi Dr Natan Levy is the Campus Rabbi at Syracuse University. He holds a PhD from Bristol University in environmental theology.

Kamran Shezad is the Director for the Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences.

Please note that the speakers will be presenting remotely.

A poster for 'EJCC Interfaith Learning for All' with a green background. It features logos for EJCC (Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre) and Westhill. The title is 'Caring for Creation: A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue on Ecology'. The date and time are 'Wednesday 17th September, 7.30pm'. The location is 'The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX and online'. A paragraph describes the event as a meaningful interfaith dialogue exploring ecological responsibility through the teachings of Judaism and Islam, featuring Rabbi Dr Natan Levy and Kamran Shezad. Below this are two portraits: Kamran Shezad on the left and Rabbi Dr Natan Levy on the right. Under each portrait is a short bio. At the bottom, it says 'To sign up: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FCGZ>' and includes a QR code.

eJCC
EDINBURGH JEWISH
CULTURAL CENTRE

Westhill
make things happen

Interfaith Learning for All

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A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue on Ecology**

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Kamran has asked us to circulate the following message:

Dear Friends,

The final round of negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty has officially begun and it's a critical moment. We're all hoping for a strong, legally binding agreement that tackles the entire lifecycle of plastics, from production to disposal.

I warmly invite you to [sign the Multifaith Statement](#) in support of the Plastics Treaty negotiations. The statement includes essential [policy priorities](#) developed by the UNEP Faith for Earth *Multifaith Working Group on Pollution*, which brings together voices from *Green Anglicans, Tearfund, SGI Gokkai, Islamic Foundation for Ecology & Environmental Sciences, Quakers UN Office, Islamic Help, Bahu Trust, Centre for Earth Ethics, and the Human Dignity and Environmental Care Foundation*.

This statement will be formally submitted to the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** on Plastic Pollution, a collective call from faith communities around the world for urgent and meaningful action.

As you may know, powerful interests, including plastic producers and oil companies, are lobbying for a weak treaty that focuses only on recycling, avoiding accountability and allowing production to continue unchecked. This would lead to more pollution, greater health risks, and even deeper harm to vulnerable communities.

As people of faith, we are united by a shared responsibility to care for our common home. The time to act is now.

What Else Can You Do?

We've created a range of **faith-based resources** to help you engage in the Plastics Treaty process and speak up for a strong and just agreement:

1. Watch & Share: 60-Second Explainer Videos

- [Video 1 – Context and History](#)
- [Video 2 – The Current Situation](#)
- [Video 3 – What if we adopt the plastic treaty? What if we don't?](#)

2. Urge Your National Policymakers to Act - [National Policymaker Letter Template](#)

3. Advocate Locally - [Local Policymaker Letter Template](#)

Available in English, French, Swahili, Punjabi, Urdu, and Arabic. (Hindi coming soon!)

4. Catch Up On Our Webinar

- [Watch: INC5.2 and the Power of Faith Communities](#) - Learn more about the negotiations and hear powerful examples of faith-based action around the world.

5. Get to Know the Working Group - [About the Multifaith Working Group on Pollution](#)

Thank you for standing with us, **please share widely among your networks and encourage others to sign the multifaith statement**, your voice matters more than ever. Please remember us all in your prayers as we work towards a safer, healthier and more compassionate planet for all beings.

With gratitude and faith,

Kamran Shezad

On behalf of the UNEP Faith For Earth Multifaith Working Group on Pollution

Microplastics

A 2017 [report](#) found that two sources were overwhelmingly the largest origins of microplastics – synthetic clothing (including polyester) and car tyres.

Microplastics come off synthetic fibres such as polyester in the wash, meaning clothing accounts for 35% of all plastic pollution.

Tyre abrasion, where small particles come off tyres while driving, particularly when cars are braking or cornering, means that tyres account for 28% of microplastics (while tyres are made of rubber, this is often mixed with synthetic polymers).

These plastic fibres infect our soil, air and waterways, so we inhale them but also eat them unknowingly as they are in the food chain.

"When you eat shellfish that have eaten plastic fibres, you are essentially eating them too.

"Another way that we involuntarily load up on plastics is by inhaling them from the air; when we wear nylon or polyester clothing, which are plastic textiles, we inhale the tiny plastic fibers they shed. Or if we sleep on synthetic sheets, walk on synthetic carpets and rugs or use drapes and curtains made from plastic textiles."

Why are microplastics from tyres and clothes a problem?

Microplastics from clothes and car tyres are all around us, and we inhale microplastics from clothing all the time in our homes, Charron said. Even when not directly inhaled, micro and nanoplastics accumulate in household dust and are inhaled from that.

Outside of the home, microplastics leach into waterways, carried by the wind and rivers.

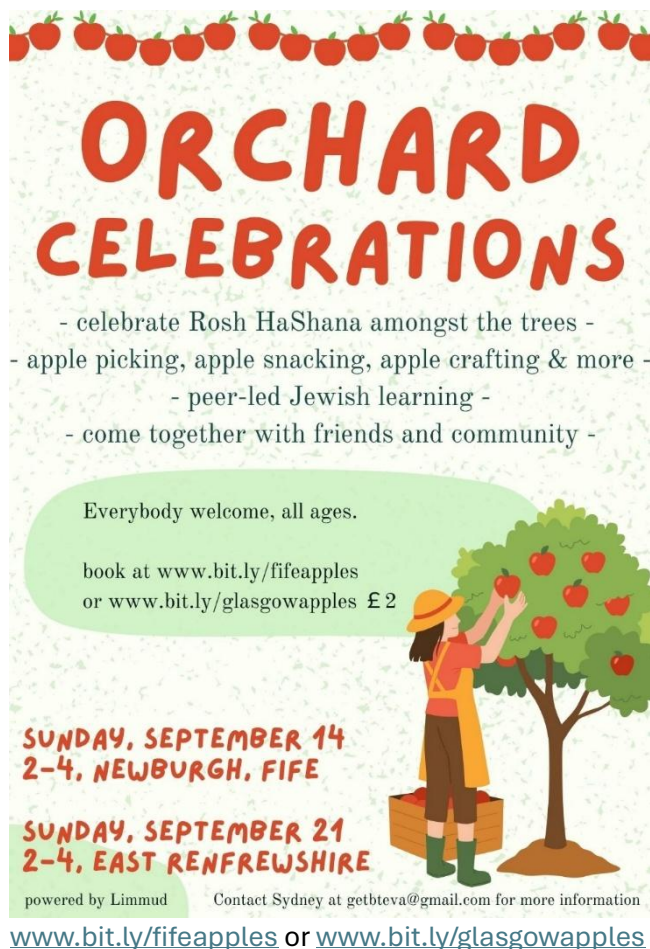
Charron said: "Outside of the home, tyre microplastics, for example, are carried by the wind and poison our waterways.

"Every intricate natural system that we rely on is essentially carrying and moving these microscopic fibres around the environment so that they now permeate every inch of the planet."

How can microplastics harm people?

They're linked to [miscarriages](#), birth defects, [heart disease](#) and [cancer](#). Plastics are harming people at every stage of the plastics lifecycle – from initial oil extraction to the production and use of plastic products, and their eventual disposal via landfill, incinerator or just being left in the environment.

JCoS Rosh HaShana Celebrations



ORCHARD CELEBRATIONS

- celebrate Rosh HaShana amongst the trees -
- apple picking, apple snacking, apple crafting & more -
- peer-led Jewish learning -
- come together with friends and community -

Everybody welcome, all ages.

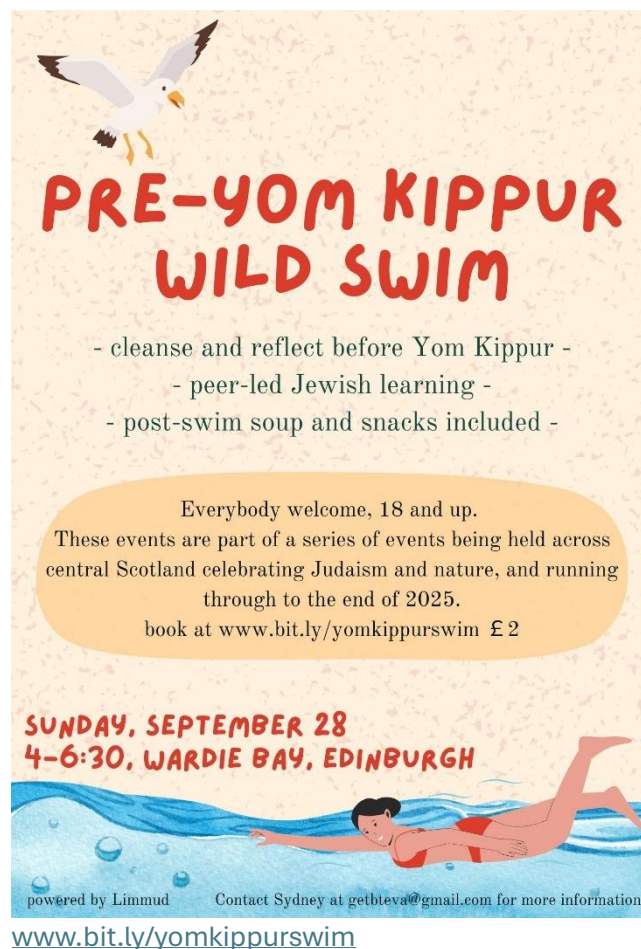
book at www.bit.ly/fifeapples
or www.bit.ly/glasgowapples £ 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
2-4, NEWBURGH, FIFE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
2-4, EAST RENFREWSHIRE

powered by Limmud Contact Sydney at getbteva@gmail.com for more information

www.bit.ly/fifeapples or www.bit.ly/glasgowapples



PRE-YOM KIPPUR WILD SWIM

- cleanse and reflect before Yom Kippur -
- peer-led Jewish learning -
- post-swim soup and snacks included -

Everybody welcome, 18 and up.

These events are part of a series of events being held across central Scotland celebrating Judaism and nature, and running through to the end of 2025.

book at www.bit.ly/yomkippurswim £ 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
4-6:30, WARDIE BAY, EDINBURGH

powered by Limmud Contact Sydney at getbteva@gmail.com for more information

www.bit.ly/yomkippurswim

The Good Life

For those of us who are old enough to remember the comedy TV programme 'The Good Life' which highlighted the rewards and trials of being self-sufficient in London suburbia, this BBC Radio 4 episode of 'The Food Programme' documents Leyla Kazim and her husband's move to Portugal to run their own small holding and farm to 'live the self-sufficiency dream'.

<https://www.bbc.com/audio/play/m002fwjs>

