

AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Celebrating Action from Local to National



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HOW-TO GUIDE

Golda Och Academy (GOA) Chapter of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM)

[Golda Och Academy's Jewish youth group campaigns for a Climate Action Plan](#)

For over a year and a half, the chapter of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM) at Golda Och Academy (GOA), a K-12 Jewish day school in West Orange, NJ, has been campaigning for a Climate Action Plan (CAP), detailing their school's efforts for greening, education, and advocacy.

GOA's JYCM chapter assembled a coalition of 10 student-led organizations, obtained Student Council endorsement, and organized a meeting with their Head of School and the Director of Facilities and Operations. Both endorsed a CAP after hearing their pitch, and they formed a tripartite "CAP Committee," bringing together students,

faculty, and administrators to draft specific CAP provisions over three months.

Throughout the drafting process, they shared updates about the CAP in Upper School assemblies and the school newspaper. Keeping with their belief in transparency and participatory democracy, they organized a Community Town Hall event where students, parents, faculty, and administrators asked questions and gave feedback. They are now working on obtaining final ratification from the school's Board of Trustees.

Replicate This!

How To Get Started

1. Assemble a coalition
2. Ensure leadership buy-in and endorsement
3. Write a plan
4. Include key provisions
5. Ensure internal communication and careful stakeholder engagement as you draft and refine your plan