

"TANAIM": Yaakov Consor YC, [Shaul Judelman](#) SJ, [Yedidya Sinclair](#) YS, Elan Margulies EM, [Micha Odenheimer](#) MO, Michelle Raz MR, Matthew Mausner MM, Gershon Gottlieb GG, Shlomo Wollins SW, David Drapkin DD, Yitzhok Marmelstein YM, Jesse Berkowsky JB, Sarah Warner SA

DD: By 2050, pop. will be 5x as high as 1950

YS Walmart required their 60K [suppliers to fill out questionnaire](#) on sustainability of their products

SW - Conflicts of interest- "[Who Killed the Electric Car](#)" - documentary about how General Motors deliberately delayed

YS: conservatives & liberals break down across all issues: tend to be on opposites sides of relig/secular, GW debate, abortion, Israel/Palestine, taxes, corporate power, etc.

DD Middle class uses far more resources than poor (compare CFC emissions in western countries vs. developing countries). MM 'Zoom Out': Sustainability: Vision

MO: reliance on oil is the paradigm that needs to change

DD Asylum, refugees from repression, or from poverty? Identify as a Jew only, or as 'all' Egyptian/ Somali/ Chinese/ NZ e.g. all would matter to me/ you/ us?

YS: Which issue to focus on: inequality, consumption, etc.?

JB Societal choices- really do these lead to a more sustainable society?

****CLIMATE CHANGE**

Global Warming: Human-Caused: Is it happening (fast?): It's bad/ dangerous for us/ life on earth

SJ/MM What bothers each of us personally about climate change, global warming? Is it human suffering? What does climate change mean to YOU /ME? DD: Identity: when there's a crisis, who are you?

SJ - Need change in economic paradigm. MM Need to BREAK the issue down into its separate parts.

LEVELS: Gov't: NGO: Individual: Bioregion: Nation: Planet MO Local vs. Global effects: can we regionalize it? EZ/ MM PARADIGM: Is CC the problem?: Maybe GW should happen: it's natural:

EM: We're accelerating natural rate of change, some species can't adapt.

EM GW plus other pollution & impacts is leading to major extinction.

YC Role of [land surface changes](#) versus greenhouse gases- Carbon dioxide: Carbon footprint: Fossil fuels:

YC [Satellite data may not support simple GW](#): Land up more than Oceans

YC: Models used by IPCC as basis for predicting future climate have overestimated warming. Models show more clouds and predict reinforcing heating effect but that's not always so, [sometimes clouds moderate/cool](#).

YC There is a disagreement in atmospheric science community whether clouds amplify or mitigate warming effect of greenhouse gases!

YM: Last 200 years we have been spewing pollution into a semi-closed system.

SJ: need to re-phrase environmentalism as less threatening [to whom?]. Teach love of planet -don't make people fill guilty for past actions

YM: Rav Kook Orot ha Tchuva: physical tchuva is something you do when you sinned against the laws of nature, the 'chukei chaim'

YC Solutions: Technological fixes

EM Coral Reefs: Algal blooms:

YC Short-term: [El Nino](#): [Glaciers](#): MM: Is apocalyptic thinking paralyzing?

YC [Global](#)

development of electric car

YS- Companies have scale to make changes on their own in much quicker way than can be accomplished via gov't regulation.

YS: This issue dramatizes our interconnectivity like nothing else, as both problem and solution, stimulating our imagination.

YC: Most deaths in the [deadliest natural disasters](#) are attributable to faulty policy (e.g. letting such highly dense population live in Bay of Bengal delta) and inadequate disaster response/preparedness (Cuba has very few deaths from hurricanes/flooding compared to other Central American countries due to better planning)

[Humanitarian Forum](#) argues that gradual rise in temp. kills ~315K people per year, but it is unclear how much greenhouse gases directly contribute to this.

YS 4-11-81 Lubavich Rebbe Birkat ha Hama: how can we better receive the sun's shefa.

MO- Proper intention is critical on part of companies- otherwise someone will figure out how to own the sun!

MO: GW is a good paradigm to guide global enviro. policy MO: Stopping GW & its associated pollution reinforces other inherently good things and positive changes.

MM [Al Gore movie](#):

SW Golan wind, Negev sun, Wave Mediterranean, Geothermal Dead Sea rift. [Electric car Agassi](#).

YS: Thomas Friedman plus Lubavich Rebbe. [TF nasty regimes assoc. with oil](#), have no incentive to encourage freedom -> wealth; own, fight, kill over Fossil Fuels. Basic spiritual difference FFuels vs. solar: Nobody can own the sun.

YS: Capitalism is the only actor that has the scale, speed, & flexibility to make the global changes that are necessary. When they move beyond greenwashing it has huge effect.

YC: CC is a "silent killer" - [sea level rise](#) and drought/[desertification](#) occur gradually.

MM [Al Gore movie](#): MO privatization of prisons illegal b/c economics/ efficiency NOT the only measure. A change in economic thinking not technological per se but away from the virtue of selfishness (reinforced worldwide by the economic crash of '08-09). Realization that Ayn Rand selfish absolutism doesn't/won't work.

JB: in [Denmark](#) they charge for plastic bags, individual wealth is discouraged, high minimum wage, social pressure to not be super-rich.

MM [Overpopulation](#) MR: modern medicine we live longer :

EZ: Is the planet ill? Is GW symptom of bigger malaise? Like fever to rid earth of 'virus'? EZ: Rising temp. is a symptom. Need to treat causes as well.

MM Disaster: Apocalypse: YC Ice caps: [Ocean Currents: Gulf Stream->Europe](#): Ice age: YC: We're in an [interglacial period](#)

MO: even if not warming per se, unpredictability alone can be devastating in Nepal where they depend on [monsoon cycle's reliability](#).

MM Deforestation : Pollution - air, water: Overfishing: Invasive species :Food scarcity: desertification

EM: Even if CC not most pressing problem, not excuse for inaction. Also, CC is a global issue that requires lots of coordination

MM Tendency to lump all together into polarized sides, e.g. believing GW 'facts' necessitates agreeing to liberal world government regulation & coercion. Or agreeing to GW-not-happening 'facts' would mean agreeing to Dick Cheney's

YS Werbach, Nordhaus, Schellenberger: ['Death of Environmentalism'](#): MM [Clive Ponting](#): [Steven](#)

SJ was struggling with [car/

MM Carrying Capacity: Water: Food: Energy: Biodiversity

SW: 9 What is Israel's special role in this? Israel best natural setup for

consumption], then
felt free driving
Oregon open road w/
music on...

YM: the Jewish imperative
is to care for all.

SJ Each of these 1-2
extremes represents strong
torah values: prat & klal

SJ: Progression from [Etz ha
Dat](#) & free choice but as part
of klal & consequences.

alternative energy:

YS Billion-year-old sunlight vs.
current, 'democratic' sunlight: DD:
330 million years of carbon burned
up in decades. We SEE change
happening in our lifetimes, causing
our tchuva?

MM: 1. individual good and
freedom of choice (but anarchic
policy?) on the one hand; 2 top-
down coercive world govt and less
freedom but save the planet on the
other (these are the standard
perceived choices) SJ: This indiv.
freedom is like a birthright, the
American dream.

SJ The point where the individual
has to meet the beyond is the key
place to understand these issues and
figure out how to act.

views. So since someone has
certain political views, they
won't believe even hard facts
that might lead towards the other
policy or political conclusion.
We should make these
distinctions clear.

[Mithen](#): other scholars