

# Bal Tashchit

## The Many Gains from the Imperative to Care for Natural Resources

### STUDY GUIDE

*There is a Jewish imperative prohibiting us from destroying the natural environment. God created a world rich in resources, but has appointed us as shomrim for the environment. On a basic level, when we protect the environment we can meet our individual needs. ...but there are many more gains from this mitzvah. Biblical and rabbinic text articulate the origins of this mitzvah and a few specific parameters in which we must operate, while modern thinkers apply this mitzvah to current issues of waste disposal, eating, treatment of animals and more.*

*There are so many ways this mitzvah can be reflected in the Camp Ramah community we build. This mitzvah can inform our daily practices and also the educational objectives behind our peulot. Over the past couple of years we have made a more distinct commitment to “yarok” practices through the installation of solar panels, the switch to more appropriate light bulbs and a more public recycling system. There is still much progress to be made .*

### **Your Mission**

Using the sources provided - texts and excerpts from *The Way Into Judaism and the Environment* - consider the full scope of the mitzvot prohibiting the destruction of natural resources. Specifically:

1. What are the biblical origins for this mitzvah?
2. What are some of the rabbinic interpretations?
3. How do these mitzvot answer our essential question?
4. How can the wisdom of bal tashchit be incorporated into our camp community?

Design a 45'ish minute sicha/peulah to share your wisdom.

### **Contact Information**

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