



Rabbi Steve Gutow is President and CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). He is a lawyer, rabbi, and political organizer.

Rabbi Gutow has worked in his present position to protect the security of Israel, to move the Jewish community and the US government to end genocide in Darfur, restore civility in public life, fight poverty, and create a sustainable environment. He has been named to the "Forward 50" list of American Jews who made the most significant impact on the news and the *Newsweek/Daily Beast* list of most influential rabbis in the U.S. three times.

Rabbi Gutow has led the JCPA into a leadership position on environmental action nationally and within the Jewish community. The JCPA, which has an environmental initiative called the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), has become the advocacy flagship for Jewish environmental efforts. He has served on the board of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and currently serves as its chair. Rabbi Gutow is a member of the MomentUs Faith Executive Committee that helped create and launch its Blessed Tomorrow Program, a coalition of diverse American faith leaders committed to "walking more gently on the earth and inspiring others to lead on climate solutions".

For two years Rabbi Gutow served in the leadership of COEJL's climate change campaign, *A Light Among Nations: How Many Jews Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?* which assisted thousands of individuals and over 500 synagogues and Jewish institutions across the nation to replace incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). In addition, Steve has helped lead environmental campaigns including *A Light Unto the Nations*, which called on Jewish individuals and organizations to conserve energy.

Rabbi Gutow has had several environmental articles published, including "Breaking Our Oil Addiction" in *Congress Monthly*, published by the American Jewish Congress. He has also written op-ed pieces about environmental issues for the *Forward* and other newspapers, and has been interviewed by newspapers concerning environmentalism and its foundations in Jewish text and theology. Rabbi Gutow co-wrote an article with Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center entitled "Our Tu b'Shevat Responsibility", which appeared on the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's website.

Rabbi Gutow has delivered his passionate beliefs on Jewish environmentalism in numerous sermons, speeches and presentations to various synagogues and environmental events. He delivered a speech at the Institute on Religion and Public Policy's Inter-parliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom and on several occasions before the Senate Democratic Outreach Steering Committee. He has acted, written and spoken widely on the environment and some of his efforts are listed below.

## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:**

### **1\_ The Environment and Judaism and America**

Speech given at the Institute On Religion And Public Policy, Scranton, PA

### **2\_ Don't Let the Financial Crisis Eclipse Environmental Concerns**

Op Ed appeared in the Philadelphia Jewish Voice

### **3\_ A Prayer for God's Planet and God's People**

Prayer given as part of the JCPA's Fighting Poverty With Faith Initiative

### **4\_ The Environmental Challenge and Poverty: Tackling the Two Together-Both Jewish Imperatives**

Speech given at BZBI Adult Education, Philadelphia, PA

### **5\_ Energy and Climate Change-A New Years Policy Audit**

### **6\_ Our Tu b'Shevat Responsibility**

Op Ed for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

<http://www.jta.org/2010/01/26/life-religion/op-ed-our-tu-bshevat-responsibility>

### **7\_ Environmental Guest Viewpoint**

### **8\_ Protecting the Environment and Creating an Energy Policy for a Safe and Secure World-Our Job**

Speech given at The Jewish Coalition of the North Shore, Chicago, IL

### **9\_ Breaking Our Oil Addiction**

Article in American Jewish Congress' *Congress Monthly*

[http://www.ajcongress.org/site/DocServer/congressmonthly\\_energy\\_new\\_.pdf?docID=1441eli](http://www.ajcongress.org/site/DocServer/congressmonthly_energy_new_.pdf?docID=1441eli)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Rabbi Gutow has developed strong relationships with key Israeli officials, built bridges with significant interfaith leaders and played a central role in combating the delegitimization of Israel. He was deeply engaged in the creation of the Israel Action Network, a combined project of the JCPA and The Jewish Federations of North America.

Since coming to the JCPA Rabbi Gutow has focused on enhancing the JCPA's interfaith relations. He has built important associations with the leadership of the National Council of Churches, Catholic Charities and the Islamic Society of North America. He has participated in interfaith missions to Vietnam, Israel, Jordan and Indonesia. He served as scholar in residence on a trip led by the Baltimore Jewish Council bringing local rabbis, ministers and imams to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Rabbi Gutow has helped lead the Fighting Poverty with Faith national interfaith mobilizations over the past seven years. He also has helped lead annual anti-hunger Seder events at the U.S. Capitol. He has taken the JCPA Food Stamp Challenge three times during his tenure as President, where he lived on \$31.50 for one week, the current federal allotment to the average food stamp recipient, and blogged about his experience in the Huffington Post. His effort was also mentioned in editorials in the Forward and the New York Jewish Week.

Moved by the tragic school shooting in Newtown, CT of December 2012, Rabbi Gutow spearheaded the Zichronam Livracha campaign for a comprehensive approach to end gun violence, comprising grassroots advocacy, outreach to government officials, and a petition at [www.EndGunViolenceNow.org](http://www.EndGunViolenceNow.org) that attracted thousands of signatures in just a few days.

Rabbi Gutow is a member of the State Department Working Group on Religion and Foreign Policy and is a JCPA representative to the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable. Rabbi Gutow was the first southwest regional director for AIPAC and founding Executive Director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. Steve has held lay leadership roles for the American Jewish Congress, the Texas Civil Liberties Union, and many other Jewish and general community organizations.

He graduated from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and was Rabbi of the Reconstructionist Minyan of St. Louis. Steve served as Adjunct Law Professor at St. Louis University.