

*The Way Into Judaism and the Environment*  
by Jeremy Benstein PhD  
Jewish Lights Publishing 2006.

*This is the latest in Jewish Lights The Way Into series and it is one of the best produced so far. Jeremy Benstein is an American who made aliyah to Israel and has lived there for the last 25 years. He is a leading contributor to the environmental debate in Israel and this book is clearly the one he was destined to write.*

*There are echoes of the writings of Stephen Jay Gould, z"l, especially in Benstein's creative chapter and section headings, and a discernible sense of humour which is sometimes terribly lacking in writers on this subject.*

*Benstein divides his work into 6 sections, each bearing a Hebrew and English title: Emet Ve'emunot, Bereishit Bara, Lishmor La'asot U'lekayem, Olam Umelo'o, Chagim Uzmanim and Ha'am Ve'Ha'aretz. Their contents cover standard environmental issues and questions from both a general and a Jewish perspective, and he is at pains to detail the texts and teachings that epitomise Judaism's greenness. But he also points out the limitations of some texts that have been rather over-egged by others, and the vital need to synergise ancient teachings with modern knowledge and up to date information.*

*This is an inspiring book that will have huge appeal for those who wish to deepen their own commitment to tikkun olam by engaging in environmental work, but which will also serve as a marvellous tool for educating those whose understanding of Judaism is urbanized and blinkered, and will encourage them to look at the world and its needs in a new light.*

*Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh*