

Ecocritical perspectives on Jewish food and foodways.

Taking particular care of the environment, showing great respect for life, also that of non-human animals, and practicing tikkun olam – repairing the world - are important elements of Jewish tradition and culture. Many Jewish holidays, and the food customs and rituals that accompany their celebration, are centered around these aspects; they can be also traced in several rules of kashrut. Particularly high sensitivity towards the issues of ecology can be observed among Jewish environmental activists, and the advocates of Jewish veganism and vegetarianism. With examples from popular culture and literature, the lecture will attempt to illustrate that vegetarianism and veganism can be seen as components of both constructing and expressing Jewish identity.

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