



ecojudaism

OUR FAITH IN THE PLANET

Synagogue Environmental Policy – Example

Introduction

This template example is based on one that has been kindly shared by Alan Lion at Chigwell & Hainault Synagogue, and EcoJudaism thanks him and Chigwell & Hainault Synagogue for their generosity.

Please use this example as a starting point for your own communities. Each community is different both physically, in terms of its environmental priorities and its position on its environmental journey.

There is no right or wrong to your policy. It should reflect your current position, aims and objectives, and be a statement of commitment from all Synagogue stakeholders.

When you have completed yours, please send us your template to add to our bank of resources, as another example to help other communities.

We Will Endeavour to

- Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into our decision making and activities.
- Promote environmental awareness among our people and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Train, educate and inform our people about environmental issues that may affect their work.
- Reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable, or re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable.
- Promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout our synagogue including water, electricity, raw materials, and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable.
- Avoid unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible, and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored, and disposed of.
- Purchase and use environmentally responsible products accordingly.
- Where required by legislation or where significant health, safety or environmental hazards exist, develop, and maintain appropriate emergency and spill response programmes.
- Communicate our environmental commitment to members, visitors and contractors and encourage them to support it.
- Our team will continually evaluate our efforts and strive to improve our environmental performance. To minimise the social impact and damage, by periodically reviewing our activities and environmental policy and credentials in light of our current and planned future activities to ensure we progress with our commitments.

Here are just some of the many ways we are changing what we do:

- Water conservation
- Safe storage, use and disposal of chemicals and emissions, including CO2 Reducing our carbon footprint
- Waste minimisation and recycling Use of vegetable-based inks
- Sourcing environmentally responsible paper Using recyclable materials for Kiddushim,
- Encouraging the nursery to look at recycling and paper usage The Chigs Club to consider eco issues, projects, and education

- It takes around 17 trees per ton to manufacture paper. We will therefore attempt to minimise the environmental impact of our services by reducing paper usage where possible.

Signed & dated by

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