



ecojudaism

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT INFORMATION PACK

Useful Information

Contact Details:	Naomi Verber, Executive Director naomi@ecojudaism.org.uk
Website:	ecojudaism.org.uk
Call to Action Video (30seconds):	Let's do this together
Audit Launch Video (30minutes):	The Environmental Audit is launched!
Guidance Notes:	Audit Guidance - EcoJudaism and in <i>Appendix 1</i>
Gathering your team:	Five E's – EcoJudaism and in <i>Appendix 2</i>
Audit Questions with Scoring:	The Environmental Audit and in <i>Appendix 3</i>
Facebook:	EcoJudaism (@EcoJudaism) / Facebook
Twitter:	EcoJudaism (@ecojudaism) / Twitter
Instagram:	EcoJudaism (@ecojudaismuk) / Instagram

Why participate in this project?

We are all now aware that there is a climate crisis, but what most of us do not know is how we can make a difference.

That is where EcoJudaism can offer your communities a pathway. Meaningful tangible and measurable. A holistic approach is used with changes to your buildings (if any) are only one part of a wider project (see questions).

This tool is designed to be used in conjunction with other environmental projects you may be involved with. This pathway is not mutually exclusive of other climate initiatives, however being part of this, is to be part of a UK wide Jewish community response.

EcoJudaism is a unique project spanning the whole Jewish community, spearheaded by our Trustee Rabbis: Wittenberg, Wollenberg, Goldsmith and Sakhnovich, who represent the Masorti, United, Reform and Liberal movements.

This project is strongly supported from major communal leaders (see slides in Appendix 4).

We are offering *(free of charge but donations always welcome):*

1. An online Environmental Audit
2. Registration Certificate
3. Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards
4. Resources
5. Access to networks both within and outside our community
6. Opportunities to attend and participate on a local, national and global level on climate & sustainability

The Environmental Audit:

This looks at 5 areas:

1. Management (synagogue council commitment to this pathway)
2. Prayer & Teaching
3. Lifestyle (home, transport, consumption, investment, communication)
4. Land, Buildings & Consumables
5. Community & Global Engagement (within the synagogue, locally, nationally and globally).

There are guidance notes, and access to view the questions and scoring before you start. You can begin, return, amend and update your Audit until you are ready to submit for an award. There is no time limit.

We invite you to assess what you are currently doing, and then we give you a pathway to take control (with resources continuously being added and ongoing support) to improve your community's relationship with its environment, as a building, a community, as individuals and as part of a wider conversation on this important topic.

We offer a tool to enhance, expand and develop our worship spaces response to the Climate Crisis by becoming a more sustainable and environmentally aware community, one step at a time.

We don't look at individual responses. Over time, when we have a statistically secure number to draw meaningful data, we will look at responses as a whole. Never individually.

The data provided is private, and although we hope you will share your journeys, we will never do so publicly without your permission.

Please:

- 1. Find your Eco-Lead and Register**
- 2. Have a look at the guidance and gather a team or connect to the people whose information you will need to answer some of the questions.**
- 3. Start your Audit journey.**



Guidance Notes

We appreciate that every community is different. Some operate in rural areas, some urban, some are in old, listed buildings, some new builds, some rent their spaces and own no land or building, or have buildings but no land.

Where you need more guidance as to how to answer a specific question as it relates to your particular circumstance, please email our Director of Operations, [Andrea](#) who will help by booking you into one of our regular surgery slots, or, where she cannot help, will signpost you to someone who can.

Some of the words we use and how to interpret them:

Strategically: We mean that this work is carefully considered by a group of synagogue members, with consultation and evaluated in its effectiveness.

Regularly: We mean that this takes place or is part of our synagogue activities or operations several times during the Jewish year.

Sometimes: We mean that this takes place or is part of our synagogue activities or operations once or twice during the Jewish year.

Section 4 - Adaptations for congregations:

Congregations with Land & Buildings: complete ALL sections.

Congregations with Buildings only: tick **n/a** until “Buildings” section.

Congregations with No Land or Buildings: tick **n/a** until “Consumables” section

Scoring Rationale:

If all the Audit sections apply to you then the maximum possible score is 1250.

Actions in comparison to policies are higher weighted for scoring. For example, a large number of environmental synagogue *policies* for example might earn 35 points but solar power for the shul building gets 20 points on its own.

A Bronze award requires a 40% score.

A Silver award requires a 60% score.

A Gold award requires an 80% score.

Where questions do not apply to your community they can be marked N/A and the percentage score of the correct raw answers answered would then be applicable.



The First 5 “E’s”

Before you begin your *Environmental Audit*, consider your “**First 5 E’s**”.

1. **ESTABLISH** an ‘*Environmental Impact Team*’. This can be a mixture of professional staff, lay leadership and volunteers. The greater the mix of skills, the better.
2. **ENLIST** the active support of your Rabbi or Minister. Our Steering Group comprises of a Rabbi from the United Synagogue, Masorti, Reform and Liberal communities, and they each would be delighted to talk directly to your spiritual leader about becoming involved in EcoJudaism.
3. **ENGAGE** a member of your Synagogue Board or Council on the Environmental Impact Team and ask for the Board or Council’s formal backing.
4. **ENCOURAGE** the involvement of ideally two young members of your community in your Environmental Impact Team who are passionate about the environment.
5. **ENERGISE** your young by involving Cheder teachers and youth leaders as well.



The Environmental Audit Questions with Scoring

These are the Environmental Audit questions for review prior to starting the Audit online.

Section 1 – Management

Q: 1 – Our Synagogue Board/Council has an environmental policy in place.

Yes (35)

No (0)

Q: 2 – The Rabbinic, lay and professional leadership in our community have made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our synagogue by endorsing working towards an EcoSynagogue Award.

Yes (35)

No (0)

Q: 3 – Our Synagogue Board/Council's designated leaders have in turn created an "Environmental Impact Team" to investigate and improve on issues highlighted in this Audit.

Yes (35)

No (0)

Q: 4 – Our Environmental Impact Team represents different generations of our Community or/and people with different lifestyles.

Yes (35)

No (0)

Q: 5 – Our Synagogue implements policies and procedures to ensure issues highlighted in this Audit are addressed and taken forward.

Yes (35)

No (0)

Section 2 – Prayer and Teaching

Q: 1 – Our synagogue promotes Environmental activities as an expression of our concerns for Creation.

Regularly, with follow up actions (20)

Regularly, sometimes with follow up actions (15)

Occasionally, with follow up actions (10)

Occasionally, without follow up actions (5)

Not at all (0)

Q: 2 – During Sermons about environmental issues, our synagogue highlights our current environmental projects and actively encourages the congregation to become involved.

Frequently, with follow up actions (20)

Occasionally, with follow up actions (15)

Regularly, without follow up actions (10)

Occasionally, without follow up actions (5)

Not at all (0)

Q: 3 – Special Sermons about environmental issues are delivered in our synagogue:

Frequently, with follow up study sessions & actions (20)

Infrequently, with follow up study sessions & actions (15)

Frequently, without follow up study sessions & actions (10)

Occasionally, without follow up learning & actions (5)

Not at all (0)

Q: 4 – Our Synagogue's communications (e.g. newsletters, service sheets, magazines, social media etc.) include items relating to the environment, including updates on the progress of our environmental projects.

Regularly, as an integral part of Shul's life (20)

Occasionally, as an integral part of Shul's life (15)

Regularly, but marginal to Shul's life (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 5 – The environment features as a teaching theme in our children’s education syllabus (those under Bat and Bar Mitzvah age):

Regularly, with follow up projects (20)

Regularly, with follow up projects or ideas (15)

Occasionally, with follow up ideas (10)

Occasionally, without follow up ideas (5)

Not at all (0)

Q: 6 – The environment features as a theme in our synagogue’s youth work (Over Bat and Bar Mitzvah age until 18):

Regularly, with follow up projects (20)

Regularly, with follow up projects or ideas (15)

Occasionally, with follow up ideas (10)

Occasionally, without follow up ideas (5)

Not at all (0)

Q: 7 – The environment features as a theme in our synagogue’s shiurim (sermons & lessons) during Jewish and world environmental touch point events

Yes (20)

No (0)

Q: 8 – Our Synagogue is committed (wherever possible) to provide learning materials, texts and prayers online to reduce energy consumption.

Yes (20)

No (0)

Section 3 – Lifestyle

HOME

Q: 1 – Our synagogue encourages members to calculate their personal carbon footprint and to take measures to reduce it where necessary:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 2 – Our synagogue encourages members to consider how their dietary choices affect the environment and to modify them to reduce their impact.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 3 – Our synagogue encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, refill, recycle:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 4 – Our synagogue hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes):

Strategically (10)

Rarely (10)

Never (0)

Q: 5 – Our synagogue encourages members to plant at home, in allotments and where possible in communal gardens and grow some of their own food

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 6 – Our synagogue encourages the ethical investment of personal savings and pensions. (e.g. current account and/or investments)

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

TRANSPORT

Q: 7 – Walking and cycling to synagogue and the use of public transport to attend events and appropriate services is promoted in our synagogue

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 8 – When synagogue events are promoted, a public transport plan is included.

Yes (20)

No (0)

Q: 9 – Our synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they use transport and travel.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

CONSUMPTION

Q: 10 – Our synagogue encourages members to use and consume goods at home that are LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade):

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 11 – Our synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they heat and light their homes and places of worship

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 12 – Our synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they insulate their homes and places of work.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 13 – Our synagogue takes part in food cooperatives and/or encourages members to join in bulk buying ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

INVESTMENT

Q: 14 – Our synagogue invests its funds ethically, and rates the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) sustainability of its portfolio (eg with MSCI or another rating organisation)

Strategically (20)

Rarely (10)

Never (0)

COMMUNICATION

Q: 15 – Our synagogue website and/or our social media includes practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for the environment.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 16 – Our synagogue provides an opportunity for members to share their concerns on issues and listens to feedback.

Yes (10)

No (0)

Q: 17 – Our synagogue has procedures to receive feedback from members about changes they have made to their lifestyle in the above areas.

Yes (10)

No (0)

Section 4 – Land, Buildings & Consumables

Congregations with Land & Buildings, complete ALL sections.

Congregations with Buildings only please select N/A on all questions up to Q5

LAND

Q: 1 – The land/premises at our synagogue includes areas set aside for growing fruits and vegetables and encouraging native wildlife and plants (e.g. indoor plants, vertical garden, grass-cutting schedules, bird boxes, bird feeders etc.)

Yes (15)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 2 – Our synagogue’s members engage in wildlife friendly gardening and horticulture on its grounds

Regularly (10)

Sometimes (5)

Never (0)

N/A

Q: 3 – Composting facilities are available on our synagogue premises:

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 4 – Members and visitors are encouraged to use the natural aspects of the synagogue grounds for prayer/recreation/contemplation

Regularly (10)

Sometimes (5)

Never (0)

N/A

BUILDINGS

Q: 5 – We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s) within the past three to five years.

Yes (20)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 6 – We have set targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s) in order to achieve year on year improvements in energy efficiency:

Yes (20)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 7 – We offset the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s) through ecologically sound channels in those areas in which we cannot reduce it:

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 8 – The energy (e.g. electricity) supplied to our synagogue building(s) is generated from renewable resources and/or charged according to our supplier's 'green tariff':

Yes (20)

Some (10)

None (0)

N/A

Q: 9 – In terms of energy efficiency, the boiler on our synagogue premises is rated (an engineer should be able to determine this as part of the annual service):

A+++ (20)

A++ (15)

A+ (10)

A (5)

B (0)

C (0)

D (0)

N/A (0)

Q: 10 – Our synagogue premises are insulated wherever possible in our main Sanctuary:

Walls AND Loft/Ceiling AND Floor (15)

Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor (10)

Only Some Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor only (5)

Not at all (0)

N/A (0)

Q: 11 – Our synagogue premises are insulated wherever possible in our halls

Walls AND Loft/Ceiling AND Floor (15)

Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor (10)

Only Some Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor only (5)

Not at all (0)

N/A

Q: 12 – Our synagogue premises are insulated wherever possible in our offices and classrooms.

Walls AND Loft/Ceiling AND Floor (15)

Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor (10)

Only Some Walls OR Loft/Ceiling OR Floor only (5)

Not at all (0)

N/A

Q: 13 – The thickness of the insulation that is used in the places where insulation is installed is as follows:

All 300mm+ (20)

All 100-300mm+ (10)

All 1-100mm+ (5)

N/A (0)

Q: 14 – Our synagogue premises are double-glazed in our main sanctuary

Full double glazing (15)

Some double-glazing (10)

Full secondary glazing (7)

Some secondary glazing (5)

None (0)

N/A

Q: 15 – Our synagogue premises are double-glazed in our halls

Full double glazing (15)
Some double-glazing (10)
Full secondary glazing (7)
Some secondary glazing (5)
None
N/A

Q: 16 – Our synagogue premises are double-glazed in our offices & classrooms

Full double glazing (15)
Some double-glazing (10)
Full secondary glazing (7)
Some secondary glazing (5)
None
N/A

Q: 17 – The lighting in our synagogue building(s) uses energy-efficient light bulbs in our main sanctuary

All LED Bulbs (10)
Mix LED bulbs & low energy bulbs (7)
All low energy bulbs (5)
Some low energy bulbs (3)
None
N/A

Q: 18 – The lighting in our synagogue building(s) uses energy-efficient light bulbs in our halls

All LED Bulbs (10)
Mix LED bulbs & low energy bulbs (7)
All low energy bulbs (5)
Some low energy bulbs (3)
None (0)
N/A

Q: 19 – The lighting in our synagogue building(s) uses energy-efficient light bulbs in our offices and classrooms

All LED Bulbs (10)

Mix LED bulbs & low energy bulbs (7)

All low energy bulbs (5)

Some low energy bulbs (3)

None (0)

N/A

Q: 20 – We have a policy designed to limit the amount of energy consumed by exterior lighting:

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 21 – The water supply to our synagogue premises is metered:

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 22 – Rainwater collection facilities are installed and used on our synagogue premises (e.g. 'grey water' systems, water butts etc.):

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 23 – The toilet cisterns on our synagogue premises are fitted with water saving devices:

All (10)

Some (5)

None (0)

N/A

Q: 24 – In the event of the need to undertake a building/refurbishment project, our synagogue would insist that it be subject to a BREEAM or similar assessment to ensure best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation:

Yes (20)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 25 – Cycle racks are available on our synagogue premises:

Yes (10)

No (0)

N/A

Q: 26 – Our synagogue generates energy from a wind turbine, an air or ground source heat pump or solar PV panels:

All the energy we consume (20)

Some of energy we consume (10)

None (0)

N/A

Q: 27 – Our synagogue produces solar powered hot water:

Yes (20)

No (0)

N/A

CONSUMABLES

Q: 28 – Our community administration uses recycled paper

Yes (20)

No (0)

Q: 29 – We are reducing our paper usage (e.g. through double-sided copying/printing/digital distribution etc.):

Regularly (20)

Sometimes (10)

Never (0)

Q: 30 – Any disposable catering products (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.) provided by our community administration are:

Never use disposables (20)

Biodegradables (10)

Recyclables (5)

Non-biodegradables (0)

Q: 31 – The cleaning products provided by our community administration are environmentally-friendly:

All (10)

Some (5)

None (0)

Q: 32 – Recycled toilet paper is provided by our community administration.

Yes (10)

No (0)

Q: 33 – Recycling facilities are available through our community administration, for paper, glass, cans, plastics, fabrics, TerraCycle or similar.

All (20)

3 or more of (10)

1 or more of (5)

None (0)

Section 5 – Community and Global Engagement

Part 1: Eco-engagement within the Synagogue

Q: 1 – Users of our synagogue premises are encouraged to minimise resource use (e.g. people are trained in reducing energy use, notices about turning off lights are displayed, new employees informed of environmental policy during inductions etc.):

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 2 – Our synagogue actively promotes engagement with EcoSynagogue events and its values.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 3 – Our synagogue is committed to raising awareness for a specific environmental issue and financially supports an environmental charity/organisation working on this issue:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 4 – Our synagogue has financially supported at least one environmental charity or campaign:

In Last Year (10)

In Last 2 Years (7)

In Last 3 Years (5)

Never (0)

Q: 5 – Meals provided by the synagogue, including during events, use LOAF ingredients (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade):

Regularly (20)

Sometimes (10)

Never (0)

Q: 6 – Vegetarian and/or vegan options are provided by the synagogue at meals / catered events:

Yes (20)

No (0)

Part 2: Eco-engagement with the local community

Q: 7 – Our synagogue organises events around our festivals (e.g. Succot & Tu B'Shvat) and invites local leaders (e.g. local MPs, or council leaders) providing opportunities for local people to discuss local environmental issues with them.

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 8 – Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters at services, educational sessions or stand-alone events:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 9 – Our synagogue arranges for local environmentalists/organisations to speak at our services:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 10 – Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local and/or Jewish sustainability movements and campaigns:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 11 – Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. documentary/film evenings, discussion, debates):

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 12 – Our synagogue is involved with local conservation work:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 13 – At least some of our synagogue members (either alone or as part of a local network) have organised and/or participated in a community clean-up project (e.g. local litter-pick):

Regularly (10)

Sometimes (5)

Never (0)

Q: 14 – Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts an event (showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues and organisations):

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 15 – Our synagogue organises outdoor events, providing an opportunity for local people to enjoy the local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.):

Regularly (10)

Sometimes (5)

Never (0)

Q: 16 – Our synagogue either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members sharing lifts to synagogue when possible):

Regularly (20)

Sometimes (10)

Never (0)

Part 3: Eco-Engagement with the national and global community

Q: 17 – Our synagogue organises environmental actions through the year involving local community and faith groups:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 18 – Our synagogue keeps the congregation informed about the impact of national environmental issues:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 19 – Our synagogue keeps the congregation informed about the impact of global environmental issues:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 20 – Our synagogue participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Q: 21 – Our synagogue participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues:

Strategically (10)

Rarely (5)

Never (0)

Support from Senior Community Leaders for the EcoJudaism Project.

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Ensuring environmental sustainability is a crucially important aspiration for this generation. We are mandated by the Almighty to take responsibility for cherishing and safeguarding our planet. Climate Change presents us with one of the most profound threats ever faced by human civilisation and we must all play our part in tackling it with effective action.

I am therefore delighted to support EcoSynagogue and hope that many communities will utilise its Environmental Audit. This new initiative is a significant and timely development for the Jewish community.

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Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis KBE
The United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth



“

The Board of Deputies & EcoSynagogue have worked together to create a pathway for our Synagogues to improve our relationship with the world around us.

Please join and start your journey.

”



Marie van der Zyl
President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews



“

As human beings and as Jews there's nothing more important than protecting the environment. I'm proud of every Masorti synagogue that's part of EcoSynagogue and call on our entire movement to get involved.

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Dr Matt Plen
Chief Executive, Masorti Judaism



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The EcoSynagogue project is a wonderful and important initiative which embodies our value of Tikkun Olam.

EcoSynagogue gives us the framework to start making changes in our Synagogue spaces to improve our sustainability and take care of the Earth.

Through taking part, our communities have the opportunity to create buildings which are the physical manifestation of our central values.

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Rabbi Celia Surget
Chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors UK



“

It is our responsibility to ensure there is a world for future generations and I support EcoSynagogue's project to achieve this is our communal worship spaces.

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Rabbi Charley Baginsky
Chief Executive Officer, Liberal Judaism

