



# CONSERVE ENERGY

- Call your local power company and ask for renewable power (solar, wind, geothermal, etc).
- Install a **solar-powered ner tamid** to cut energy costs and carbon emissions.
- Install ceiling fans in rooms used infrequently.
- Install compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Install motion sensors for office lights so they turn off when not needed.
- Install double pane windows to save energy.
- Insulate your water heater and pipes to prevent energy waste.
- Set your thermostat's temperature higher in the summer (73 degrees) and lower in the winter (67 degrees). Dress accordingly.
- Strategically plant shade trees to keep your building naturally cool in the summer and reduce A/C usage.
- Turn off the central air conditioning when your facilities or home are unoccupied.
- Unplug unnecessary appliances when not in use.
- Use **Energy Star** appliances to ensure maximum energy efficiency.
- When building, use local resources to save energy transporting materials.
- When purchasing new computers, buy either energy-efficient desktops with LCD monitors or laptops.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*



# CONSERVE

## LAND AND CURB CONSUMPTION

- Use recycled wood or wood certified by the **Forest Stewardship Council** or **Natural Resources Defense Council**.
- For pathways to your home, use porous materials that rerun water to the ground: gravel, sand, woodchips, recycled materials, etc.
- Use 100% recycled materials as often as possible (for counter tops, insulation, carpeting, upholstery, wood, etc.).
- Use recycled glass, as opposed to ceramics, for countertops.
- Buy in bulk (not individual size) to reduce packaging.
- Buy pencils made from recycled materials, soy ink pens and markers.
- Instead of a water cooler or bottled water, consider attaching a tap water purifier to your sink or using some other water purifier like a Brita or PUR. This reduces the waste of empty water bottles and also saves energy in manufacturing the plastic bottles.
- Use construction materials from recycled sources.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*



# CONSERVE

## ECO-FRIENDLY FOOD, CLEANERS AND OTHER PRODUCTS

- Grow your own produce, either at the synagogue in a Sunday school tended garden or through a Community Sustained Agriculture (CSA) farm. CSA members can sign-up to receive fresh, local fruits and vegetables weekly. (*Learn more about **Community Sustained Agriculture** in the Green Glossary.*)
- Buy local and/or organic produce.
- Purchase organic or cage-free eggs, meat, milk, etc.
- Use organic wine for Kiddush.
- Serve **Fair Trade** coffees and teas.
- **Hekhsher Tzedek** is a project of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism which certifies food items to be ethically produced. In addition to items being Kosher, they are also required to be produced under ethical labor practices, corporate transparency and with minimal environmental impact.
- Use 100% recycled mulch and choose organic fertilizer, pesticides and plant food.
- If you do use toxic fertilizers, install natural barriers such as wood panels or stone walls to prevent fertilizer runoff into local drains.
- Use certified natural or organic cleaners.
- Buy toxic-free markers for white boards.
- If painting, use toxic- and VOC-free paints and finishes.
- Use toxic-free building materials for adhesives, sealants, plastics, etc.
- Look for “Green Label” -certified recycled carpet. **Learn more about green flooring.**
- Not all insulation is equal. **Learn more about insulation materials.**

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*



# CONSERVE

## REDUCE PAPER WASTAGE

- Print double sided and/or reuse the back of paper for scraps.
- Use recycled paper napkins, paper towels and 100% biodegradable trash bags.
- Use recycled paper toilet paper as well—more flushable and less destructive to our forests.
- Install energy efficient electric hand dryers in your congregation's bathrooms to reduce paper towel usage. (If you do use paper towels, make sure they are from recycled sources.)
- Purchase paper that has 50% or higher recycled content.
- Email announcements rather than sending home or mailing paper handouts.
- Minimize the use of labels to reduce paper consumption. Handwrite addresses or print directly on envelopes.
- **Take your synagogue and yourself off unsolicited postal mailing lists.**
- Offer congregants the option to choose emailed copies of the synagogue newsletter rather than paper copies. (Bonus: Fewer paper copies means you'll also save on postage!)
- Collect unwanted books to donate to local libraries or community shelters.
- Use recycled paper and notebooks for class.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*



# CONSERVE REDUCE POLLUTION

- Include reminders in bulletins about maximizing fuel efficiency.
- Install bike racks near building entrances to encourage biking and other non-automotive modes of transportation.
- Encourage carpools for religious school students.
- Host adult classes/programs during religious school to encourage lifelong learning as well as ease the environmental impact of commuting.
- Offer incentives to employees who commute via public transportation, carpools or hybrid cars. *(If there is not adequate public transportation in your town, work with your local and state governments to create better transportation options for all residents. You can also contact the **Religious Action Center** for assistance.)*
- In applicable cities, make your synagogue a host for **Zipcar** parking spots.
- Landscape on the least-sloped part of your lot to minimize soil erosion, which emits CO<sub>2</sub> by allowing the stored greenhouse gas to escape.
- Use a push lawnmower to eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Use grass clippings as natural fertilizer.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.



# CONSERVE

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Use reusable plates, mugs, flatware and glasses in the office, at *oneg* Shabbat and at home rather than disposable tableware.
- Place recycling bins for paper, glass, plastic and aluminum in the office, kitchen and common areas.
- Recycle your printer toners or just buy replacement cartridges.
- **Compost** your leftovers.
- Recycle your old electronics (e-cycle).
- Consider making your synagogue a community recycling location.
- Reduce the use of plastic or paper bags for food by encouraging congregants to use cloth reusable bags.
- Consider selling canvas bags, reusable coffee mugs and water bottles with the synagogue logo as a fundraiser.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*



# CONSERVE

## SAVE WATER

- Avoid hand washing dishes when possible (it often uses more water than a dishwasher).
- Only run your dishwasher when it is *full*. Allow the dishes to air dry.
- Plant local and native plants that require minimal water.
- Use rain buckets to catch water to hydrate your synagogue's gardens.
- Water lawn/gardens early in the morning. Heavily water once every four or five days instead of in small amounts daily.
- Promptly repair all cracks or air leaks in your home and synagogue.
- Repair and maintain all pipes to ensure no leakage.
- Install low flush toilets; or, update to dual flush, which can be retrofitted to existing infrastructure.
- Install low-flow faucets and shower heads.

Greening  
Reform Judaism

Conservation  
Greening  
Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN](http://WWW.URJ.ORG/GREEN) • [GREENING@URJ.ORG](mailto:GREENING@URJ.ORG) • 212.650.4040

*Please note that this guide provides suggestions, not directives, that you and your congregation can consider implementing.*