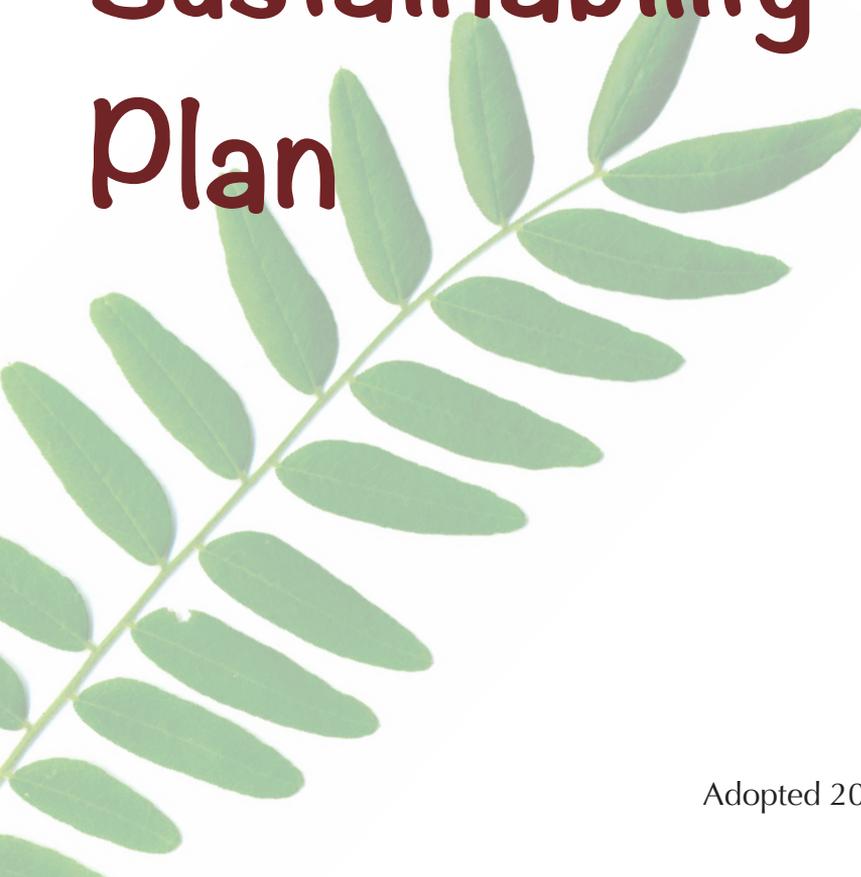


Congregation Albert Sustainability Plan



Adopted 2011



Introduction

“It is not up to you to finish the task, but neither are you free to dissociate from it.”

Rabbi Tarfon, Mishnah Pirkei Avot 2:21

Rabbi Shimon Ben Yochai taught: It can be compared to people who were in a boat and one of them took a drill and began to drill under his seat. His fellow passengers said to him: “Why are you doing this?!” He said to them: “What do you care? Am I not drilling under me?!” They replied: “Because you are sinking the boat with us in it!” The world is like one boat; if one passenger drills a hole under his seat, we all sink!

Nature and humanity’s place in the environment have been central aspects of Judaism since our ancient forebears lived on the land and codified our scriptures. Jewish holidays are timed around the seasons. We pray for rain in Jerusalem. Our stories from scripture involve nature: the Garden of Eden, Jonah and the fig tree, Noah and the flood. Our psalms are filled with images from the natural environment. Psalms reminds us that “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”. It is important that Congregation Albert honor our Jewish values and the mitzvot of caring for God’s creation by doing our utmost to lighten our footprint on the earth.



Purpose of the Plan

This sustainability plan seeks to guide congregation Albert in the forward movement toward an environmentally sustainable existence by enumerating and documenting sustainable actions to be taken in the near and long term. During the past decade, Congregation Albert's administrators and clergy have been moving in the direction toward more sustainable operations. With the formation of the Albert Green Team in 2010, those interests and efforts have been comprehensively examined and documented into a formal plan for current and future consideration and implementation. This plan will encourage our congregational community to "green" the Temple and involve its membership in doing the same in their own homes.

Organization of the Plan

This plan is organized by categories, similar to those described by the US Green Building Council's Leadership for Energy and Environmental Design green building certification systems. The categories within this plan are as follows: 1.0 Site; 2.0 Water; 3.0 Energy; 4.0 Materials and Resources; 5.0 Healthy Indoor Environment; 6.0 Outreach and Education; 7.0 Financing. Within each category are goals, and each goal has one or more tasks identified to achieve the goal.

Implementation of the Plan

The plan has an accompanying Implementation Plan, which specifically identifies actions to be taken to satisfy each goal, with time frame, budget required (if any) and person(s) or group(s) responsible for implementation. The Implementation Plan is a flexible document and will be updated constantly as conditions change and projects are implemented.

Master Plan Goals and Objectives

Mission Statement

“Help Congregation Albert continue the work of *tikkun olam* by becoming a community leader in environmental education and action.”

Problem Statements

The Green Team planners identified general existing conditions that have inspired the need for a plan of action.

- Energy usage on temple property and at private homes can be improved by changing wasteful behaviors, retrofitting inefficient systems, and sealing leaky building envelopes
- There are opportunities to improve congregants’ awareness about resource conservation, pollution, energy usage, and food production.

Goal Statements

The following goal statements represent a desirable future which the plan seeks to realize.

- Establish a strategy for Congregation Albert to reduce fossil fuel energy consumption and reach carbon neutral output over time
- Help the Congregation Albert administration and members reduce use of finite resources (such as water, and other non-renewable materials)
- Connect with congregants to provide awareness of climate issues, to create excitement about climate action, and to change lifestyles



1.0 Site

Upon creating the first human beings, God guided them around the Garden of Eden, saying; ‘Look at my creations! See how beautiful and perfect they are! I created everything for you. Make sure you don’t ruin or destroy My world. If you do, there will be no one after you to fix it.’

Midrash Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) Rabbah 7:20

Rather, in the beginning of creating the world, God’s first action was to plant, as it is written “And the Lord God planted a tree in Eden” (Genesis 2:8). So too, when you enter the land of Israel, make the planting of trees your first order of business [as it is written (Lev. 19:23)], “When you come into the land, you shall plant fruit trees”.

Site Objectives

1.1 Reduce vehicle miles traveled to/from site

Task 1 - Post bus schedule in visible location

Task 2 - Promote car pooling

Task 3 - Install bike racks in convenient and visible location

1.2 Install and protect habitat for wildlife

Task 1 - Create a nature path

Task 2 – Remove invasive species from site

1.3 Encourage organic food production on site

Task 1 – Install demonstration garden



2.0 Water

“Rabbi Tanhum Ben Chaya taught: The sending of rain is an event greater than the giving of the Torah. The Torah was a joy for Israel only, but rain gives joy to the entire world including animals and birds. For as it is said: ‘You take care of the east and irrigate it.’”
Midrash Psalms 117, based on Psalm 65:10

Water Objectives

2.1 Reduce domestic water use in temple facilities

Task 1 - Install water conserving plumbing fixtures

2.2 Reduce domestic water use on temple grounds

Task 1 - Install xeric landscaping and low water using irrigation system

Task 2 - Replace lawns with xeric or artificial turf
Implementation Timeframe

Task 3 - Create a comprehensive landscape/irrigation plan that can be implemented in phases

2.3 Capture storm water for irrigation



3.0 Energy

Rav Zutra discouraged others from wasting resources, stating: One who covers an oil lamp [so that it burns less efficiently], or uncovers a naphtha lamp [so that it burns less efficiently], breaks the rule against needless waste.

[derived from Deuteronomy 20:19 (Shabbat 67b)]

Energy Objectives

3.1 Reduce electricity used by cooling equipment

Task 1 - Create a replacement schedule and amortization analysis for all aged mechanical equipment

Task 2 – Replace all thermostats with programmable ones

3.2 Reduce electricity used by lighting

Task 1 - Compile results from energy saving reports and establish replacement plan

3.3 Reduce electricity used by appliances

Task 1 – Investigate opportunities to replace high energy using appliances

Task 2 – Investigate opportunities for reducing energy use during unoccupied times

3.4 Generate electricity with renewable energy systems

Task 1 - Install solar PV to power lights that can be separated from building system

Task 2 – Investigate all options for generating electricity on-site (e.g., Service contract for placing solar PV on roofs, Purchase PV system to satisfy total facility electrical demand)

3.5 Reduce natural gas used by heating equipment

Task 1 - Investigate economics of installing solar thermal for water and space heating

3.6 Participate in energy provider funding programs

Task 1 – Investigate programs available to institutions

3.7 Set timetable to reach carbon neutral

4.0 Materials and Resources

Righteous people do not destroy even a mustard seed in the world and they are distressed at every ruination and spoilage they see; and if they are able to do any rescuing, they will save anything from destruction, with all of their power.

Sefer HaChinuch: D'varim 20:19 number 529

Materials and Resources Objectives

4.1 Reduce embodied energy and virgin materials use in products purchased by CA

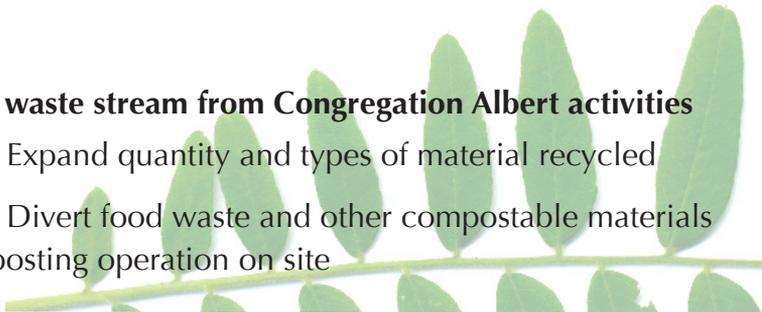
Task 1 - Prefer recycled paper products

Task 2 - Minimize use of paper products

4.2 Reduce waste stream from Congregation Albert activities

Task 1 - Expand quantity and types of material recycled

Task 2 - Divert food waste and other compostable materials to composting operation on site



5.0 Healthy Indoor Environment

“One is forbidden from gaining a livelihood at the expense of another’s health.”

Rabbi Isaac Sheshet, Responsa 196, (14th Century)

*It is forbidden to live in a town, which has no garden or greenery.
Jerusalem Talmud, Kedoshim 4:12*

Healthy Indoor Environment Objectives

5.1 Insure healthy indoor air

Task 1 - Establish policy regarding low emitting (low VOC) indoor construction materials (e.g. paint, carpet, furniture, woodwork)

Task 2 - Insure pest management is safe for indoors

5.2 Insure that healthy food is available at Congregation Albert

Task 1 - Create a community garden to provide local organic food for temple consumption and to model home gardening techniques

Task 2 - Purchase local and organic food for onegs

Task 3 – Install “hydration stations” in facility



6.0 Outreach and Education

Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai used to say, 'If you have a sapling in your hand and you are told that the Messiah has come, first plant the sapling and then go welcome the Messiah.'

Avot de-Rabbi Natan 31b

Outreach and Education Objectives

6.1 Teach sustainable practices through the lifelong learning programs

Task 1 - Incorporate in preschool and Hebrew school classroom instruction

Task 2 - Incorporate in sermons and adult education classes

Task 3 - Incorporate in themed events, guest speakers, and other educational gatherings

6.2 Teach sustainable practices through involvement in temple green projects

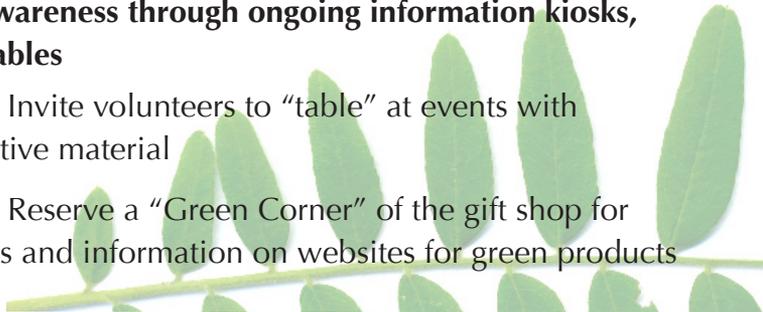
Task 1 - Get members involved by volunteering for work sessions

Task 2 - Keep postings on “green” bulletin board

6.3 Raise awareness through ongoing information kiosks, corners, and tables

Task 1 - Invite volunteers to “table” at events with informative material

Task 2 - Reserve a “Green Corner” of the gift shop for products and information on websites for green products



7.0 Financing

Once Honi was walking along the road when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked, 'How long before it will bear fruit?' The man answered, 'seventy years.' Honi asked, 'Are you sure you will be here in seventy years to eat from its fruit? The man replied, 'I found this world filled with carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, so I will plant for my children.'"

Babylonian Talmud Taanit 23a

Financing Objectives

7.1 Determine and plan for funding implementation of sustainable projects

Task 1 – Form subcommittee to oversee planning and raising of funding for sustainability projects (interface with finance committee)

Task 2 - Encourage B'nai Mitzvah candidates to designate gifts for special projects

Task 2 - Encourage "green" gifts from Confirmation classes

Task 3 - Determine if tzedacka fund from religious school could be used



