

Sustainability at Temple Israel of Natick

At Temple Israel, we are working to reduce our carbon footprint as well as our operational costs. We have several initiatives in process.

Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy

- Solar panels over our social hall and sanctuary produce 119 kW/year, meeting 100% of our electricity needs. Alongside the environmental benefit, we are saving \$10,000/year in energy costs.
- To reduce our electric consumption, LED lighting was recently installed throughout our building, with 90% of the costs paid by an Eversource incentive.
- We are further decreasing our electricity and natural gas consumption by installing high efficiency A/C units with electric heat pumps for the winter. We already have these units in our chapel and one classroom.

Recycling and Composting

- We have initiated single stream recycling in building and are sending smaller loads of garbage to the landfill.
- We are doing a feasibility assessment to consider composting and are in conversation with other synagogues that recently set this up. Details will be rolled out when the plan is finalized.

Community Education

- We are continually developing education programs on environmental concerns. Our recent Sustainability Shabbat marking Tu B'shvat included a home-cooked seasonal meal and educational programming, including a talk by the [Natick Sustainability](#) Coordinator.
- We have established a group to coordinate these various activities at Temple Israel. Call the office (508 650-3521) to get involved!

The rabbis tell the story that when God led Adam around the Garden of Eden, God said:

Look at my works. See how beautiful they are, how excellent!

For your sake I created them all.

See to it that you do not spoil or destroy my world—
for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you.

Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13
