

# ECO SYNAGOGUE

*Promoting environmental responsibility in our synagogues and beyond*

## **The Eco Synagogue Survey**

Please note: different activities have different 'weights' depending on their environmental impact. In other words, some actions gain more points. Once you have completed the survey, you start to see how far you have to travel to win each award, and this helps you to think about steps you wish to take as a community.

### **PRAYER AND TEACHING**

*Response options for the first 7 questions are as follows:*

*Weekly  
Monthly  
Quarterly  
Bi-annually  
Once a year  
Less often  
Never  
Need to find out*

Special Sermons about environmental issues are delivered and celebrated in our synagogue:

Our synagogue discusses how it can address environmental issues:

Environmental and green activities are promoted as an expression of Tikkun Olam (acts of kindness to perfect or repair the world) in our synagogue:

The environment features as a teaching theme in our synagogue's children's education work (those under Bat and Bar Mitzvah age):

The environment features as a theme in our synagogue's youth work (those over Bat and Bar Mitzvah age but under 21):

The environment features as a theme in our synagogue's shiurim (text based teaching) and adult education:

Our synagogue's communications (e.g. newsletters, service sheets, magazines, social media etc.) include items relating to the environment:

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Our synagogue highlights the linkages between the environment, Tikkun Olam and Jewish festivals at key points in the year (such as Sukkot and Tu B'Shevat):

*All festivals*

*Most festivals*

*At least once a year*

*Less often*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

The leadership have made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our synagogue by endorsing the undertaking of work towards an Eco Synagogue Award:

*At least annually*

*Less often*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

## **BUILDINGS**

*Response options for the first 4 questions are:*

*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s):

We have set sufficient targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s) and achieving year on year improvements in energy efficiency:

We offset the carbon footprint of our synagogue building(s) for those things we can't reduce:

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':

In terms of energy efficiency, the boiler on our synagogue premises is rated (an engineer should

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be able to determine this as part of the annual service):

*A+++*

*A++*

*A+*

*A*

*B*

*C*

*D*

*Need to find out*

*Not applicable (no boiler)*

Our synagogue premises are insulated as follows:

*Options for the sub-sections (Main Synagogue; Synagogue Hall; Synagogue Office; Other Buildings) of this question are:*

*Walls AND Loft/Ceiling*

*Walls OR Loft/Ceiling only*

*Not at all*

*Need to find out*

*Not applicable*

Our synagogue premises are double-glazed as follows: Main Synagogue

*Options for the sub-sections (Main Synagogue; Synagogue Hall; Synagogue Office; Other Buildings) of this question are:*

*Full double-glazing*

*Some double-glazing*

*Full secondary glazing*

*Some secondary glazing*

*Not at all*

*Need to find out*

*Not applicable*

The lighting in our synagogue building(s) uses energy-efficient light bulbs as follows:

*Options for the sub-sections (Main Synagogue; Synagogue Hall; Synagogue Office; Other Buildings) of this question are:*

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*All LED Bulbs*  
*Some LED bulbs*  
*some non-LED low energy bulbs*  
*All low energy bulbs*  
*Some low energy bulbs*  
*No low energy bulbs*  
*Need to find out*  
*Not applicable*

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*Response options for the next 5 questions are:*

*Yes*  
*No*  
*Need to find out*

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

The water supply to our synagogue premises is metered:

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

The toilet cisterns on our synagogue premises are fitted with dual-flush buttons or other water-saving devices:

Recycled toilet paper is provided on our synagogue premises:

The cleaning products used around our synagogue building(s) are environmentally-friendly:

*Yes*  
*Some*  
*No*  
*Need to find out*

The disposables (e.g. paper cups and plates etc.) used on our synagogue premises are:

*Never use disposables*  
*Biodegradable*  
*Recyclable*

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*Non-biodegradable  
Need to find out*

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

*Always  
Sometimes  
Not at all  
Need to find out*

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*Response options for the next 8 questions are:*

*Yes  
No  
Need to find out*

Our synagogue administration uses recycled paper:

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

Cycle racks are available on our synagogue premises:

Recycling facilities are available on our synagogue premises:

Our synagogue generates energy from a wind turbine:

Our synagogue produces solar hot water:

Our synagogue generates energy from an air or ground source heat pump:

Our synagogue generates energy from solar PV panels:

## **LAND**

Possible responses to this section are:

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*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

The land at our synagogue is managed for the encouragement of native wildlife and plants (e.g. grass-cutting schedules, provision of bird boxes and feeders etc.)

The land at our synagogue includes areas set aside for the growing of fruits and vegetables:

Our synagogue actively encourages community members to engage in wildlife friendly gardening and horticulture on its grounds:

Our synagogue actively encourages members of the local community to use the synagogue land for recreation/contemplation:

Composting facilities are available on our synagogue premises:

## **COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

*Response options for the first 3 questions are as follows:*

*At least annually*

*Less often*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

Our synagogue organises events providing an opportunity for local people to engage with local leaders on local environmental issues (e.g. local MPs, AMs or council leaders)

Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, AM, local council or Public Service Board on environmental matters:

Our synagogue arranges for local environmentalists to speak in our services:

Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local sustainability movements like Big Green Jewish and Transition Towns:

*Yes*

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No  
Need to find out

Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g. film evenings):

Yes  
No  
Need to find out

Our synagogue is involved with local conservation work:

Yes  
Some members are involved  
No  
Need to find out

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):

*At least annually*  
*Less often*  
*Never*  
*Need to find out*

Our synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts a green fair, showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues:

*At least annually*  
*Less often*  
*Never*  
*Need to find out*

Our synagogue organises events providing an opportunity for local people to get out and enjoy the local area (e.g. walks, cycle rides etc.):

Regularly  
Occasionally  
Never  
Need to find out

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Our synagogue either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members sharing lifts to synagogue on days outside of Shabbat):

*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

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 etc.):

*All*

*Some*

*None*

*Need to find out*

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*Response options for the next 3 questions are:*

*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

Our synagogue actively promotes Eco Synagogue:

Our synagogue has committed to raise awareness and or funding for a specific environmental project:

Practical lifestyle tips and advice on being greener are included in our synagogue newsletters/on our synagogue website:

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*Response options for the next 2 questions are:*

*At least annually*

*Less often*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

Our synagogue participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues:



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Our synagogue participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues:

Response options for the next 2 questions are:

*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

Our synagogue keeps the congregation informed about the impact of climate change and environmental degradation in the world:

Our synagogue financially supports an environmental charity:

Wherever possible, Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods are used at synagogue services and events:

*Always*

*Sometimes*

*Rarely*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

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*Response options for the next 5 questions are:*

*Always*

*Sometimes*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

*Not applicable (no meals are provided)*

Any meals provided by the synagogue use food that is locally grown:

Any meals provided by the synagogue use organic ingredients:

Any meals provided by the synagogue use food that is animal-friendly (this could include RSPCA assured, Freedom Food standard, or similar):

Any meals provided by the synagogue use Fairtrade ingredients:

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

## **LIFESTYLE**

Our synagogue has appointed an individual or group to champion the cause of our synagogue community becoming more 'green':

*Yes*

*No*

*Need to find out*

Walking and cycling to synagogue services and/or events is promoted in our synagogue

*Often*

*Occasionally*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

The members of our synagogue receive encouragement to undertake a personal carbon footprint audit:

*At least annually*

*Less often*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

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*Response options for the next 2 questions are:*

*Regular*

*Occasionally*

*Never*

*Need to find out*

Our synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption:

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

Our synagogue hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods

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(e.g. clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes):

*Regularly*  
*Occasionally*  
*Never*  
*Need to find out*

Personal use and consumption of Fairtrade and/or ethically sourced goods is promoted in our synagogue:

*At least annually*  
*Less often*  
*Need to find out*

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*Response options for the next 4 questions are:*

*Yes*  
*No*  
*Need to find out*

Our synagogue encourages members to use food at home that is LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade):

Our synagogue runs or partners with other organisations in running a food cooperative that enables members to bulk buy ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices:

The ethical investment of personal savings and pensions is encouraged at our synagogue:

Our synagogue funds are ethically invested (e.g. current account and/or investments):

Practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for the environment / the Earth are included in our synagogue newsletters/on our synagogue website:

*Regularly*  
*Occasionally*  
*Never*  
*Need to find out*