

Guide to setting up a Green Team

A Green Team would ideally consist of capable and committed lay volunteers and have practical support from the Synagogue's permanent staff, including the Rabbi(s). Its function should be to inspire environmental action across the synagogue – where necessary making recommendations to the Synagogue's Council.

It can take time to build the Green Team, and so it is vital that the professional team helps to publicise it via newsletters and word-of-mouth. Environmentally focused events (e.g., film nights, farmers markets, clothes swaps) might also be useful ways of generating awareness of and interest in the Green Team. Green Teams can run as formally or informally as required, but it is helpful if someone takes on the role (perhaps rotating it if required) of chairing.

Green Team meetings would ideally last no more than 1.5 hours and be held every 6-8 weeks. In between, there may be some email exchanges if papers need to be tweaked. Some team members are involved in specific projects (e.g., community gardening) requiring more time commitment, and they may recruit additional volunteers to help run them.

The Chair's role includes:

- Coordinating Green Team meetings;
- Producing minutes and sourcing/developing supporting papers;
- Tracking activities of Green Team members; and
- Reporting on progress on agreed actions for the Council/Rabbi.

This role takes, on average, 1 hour per week but during busy times may take up to 5 hours.

Activities of the Green Team include:

- Making recommendations to Council about the Shul's 'environmental agenda' and providing written proposals/submissions (e.g. to get agreement for environmental activities that have cost implications – e.g., installing a solar panel, or to align the shul's strategic plan with environmental objectives);
- Identifying specific deliverables and milestones, and operationalising them;
- Applying for funding for projects (e.g., educational activities; community gardening)
- Completing the Eco Survey & engaging the Council/community in thinking about next steps;
- Designing and updating the community's environmental agenda and activities around the survey results;
- Developing case studies from our community's individual projects to share internally or with the broader Eco Synagogue community;
- Identifying and coordinating projects and initiatives from across the community that align to environmental agenda but aren't initiated from within the team – with a view to sharing examples of good practice or scaling up to maximise impact.

ECO SYNAGOGUE

Promoting environmental responsibility in our synagogues and beyond