

ECO SYNAGOGUE

The Environmental Audit – Questions

These are the Environmental Audit questions for you to review before you start the Audit online.

Section 1 – Management

1. Our Synagogue Board/Council has an environmental policy in place.
2. The Rabbinic, lay and professional leadership in our community have made a formal commitment to improving the environmental credentials of our Synagogue by endorsing working towards an Eco Synagogue Award.
3. Our Synagogue Board/Council's designated leaders have in turn created a "Environmental Impact Team" to investigate and improve on green issues highlighted in this Audit.
4. Our Environmental Impact Team represents different generations of our Community or/and people with different lifestyles.
5. Our Synagogue implements policies and procedures to ensure green issues highlighted in this Audit are addressed and taken forward.

Section 2 – Prayer and Teaching

1. Our Synagogue promotes Environmental and green activities as an expression of our concerns for Creation.
2. During Sermons about environmental issues, our Synagogue highlights our current environmental projects and actively encourages the congregation to become involved.
3. Special Sermons about environmental issues are delivered in our synagogue.

4. Our Synagogue's communications (e.g., newsletters, service sheets, magazines, social media etc.) include items relating to the environment, including updates on the progress of our environmental projects.
5. The environment features as a teaching theme in our children's education syllabus (those under Bat and Bar Mitzvah age).
6. The environment features as a theme in our Synagogue's youth work (Over Bat and Bar Mitzvah age until 18).
7. The environment features as a theme in our Synagogue's shiurim during Jewish and world environmental touch point events.
8. Our Synagogue is committed (wherever possible) to provide learning materials, texts and prayers online to reduce energy consumption.

Section 3 – Lifestyle

HOME

1. Our Synagogue encourages members to calculate their personal carbon footprint and to take measures to reduce it where necessary.
2. Our Synagogue encourages members to consider how their dietary choices affect the environment and to modify them to reduce their impact.
3. Our Synagogue encourages members to limit their waste by adhering to the principles of reduce, re-use, refill, recycle.
4. Our Synagogue hosts activities and/or events that facilitate the recycling and/or reuse of goods (e.g., clothes swap events or 'give and take' schemes).
5. Our Synagogue encourages members to plant at home, in allotments and where possible in communal gardens and grow some of their own food.
6. Our Synagogue encourages the ethical investment of personal savings and pensions. (e.g., current account and/or investments).

TRANSPORT

7. Walking and cycling to Synagogue and the use of public transport to attend events and appropriate services is promoted in our synagogue.
8. When Synagogue events are promoted, a public transport plan is included.
9. Our Synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they use transport and travel.

CONSUMPTION

10. Our Synagogue encourages members to use and consume goods at home that are LOAF (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade).
11. Our Synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they heat and light their homes and places of worship.
12. Our Synagogue encourages members to reduce their personal energy consumption in the way they insulate their homes and places of work.
13. Our Synagogue takes part in food cooperatives and encourages members to join in bulk buying ethically sourced produce at wholesale prices.

INVESTMENT

14. Our Synagogue invests its funds ethically, and rates the ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) sustainability of its portfolio (e.g., with MSCI or another rating organisation)

COMMUNICATION

15. Our Synagogue website and/or our social media includes practical lifestyle tips and advice on caring for the environment.
16. Our Synagogue provides an opportunity for members to share their concerns on green issues and listens to feedback.
17. Our Synagogue has procedures to receive feedback from members about changes they have made to their lifestyle in the above areas.

Section 4 – Land, Buildings & Consumables

LAND

1. The land/premises at our Synagogue includes areas set aside for growing fruits and vegetables and encouraging native wildlife and plants (e.g., indoor plants, vertical garden, grass-cutting schedules, bird boxes, bird feeders etc).
2. Our Synagogue's members engage in wildlife friendly gardening and horticulture on its grounds.
3. Composting facilities are available on our Synagogue premises.
4. Members and visitors are encouraged to use the natural aspects of the Synagogue grounds for prayer/recreation/contemplation.

BUILDINGS

5. We have measured our energy use and calculated the carbon footprint of our Synagogue building(s) within the past three to five years.
6. We have set targets for reducing the carbon footprint of our Synagogue building(s) in order to achieve year on year improvements in energy efficiency.
7. We offset the carbon footprint of our Synagogue building(s) through ecologically sound channels in those areas in which we cannot reduce it.
8. 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'.
9. In terms of energy efficiency, the boiler on our Synagogue premises is rated... (an engineer should be able to determine this as part of the annual service).
Answers here will be A+++ A++ A+ A B C D Not applicable (no boiler)
10. Our Synagogue premises are insulated wherever possible in our: a) main sanctuary; b) our halls; c) our offices and classrooms. The thickness of the insulation that is used in the places where insulation is installed is as follows.
Answers here will look at where there is insulation in these 3 areas.
11. Our Synagogue premises are double-glazed in our a) main sanctuary; b) our halls; c) our offices and classrooms.

Answers here will look at what kind of glazing there is in these 3 areas.

12.The lighting in our Synagogue building(s) uses energy-efficient light bulbs in our: a) main sanctuary; b) our halls; c) our offices and classrooms.

Answers here will look at what kind of lighting is used in these 3 areas.

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

14.The water supply to our Synagogue premises is metered.

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

16.The toilet cisterns on our Synagogue premises are fitted with water saving devices.

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

18.Cycle racks are available on our Synagogue premises.

19.Our Synagogue generates energy from a wind turbine, an air or ground source heat pump or solar PV panels.

20.Our Synagogue produces solar powered hot water.

CONSUMABLES

21.Our community administration uses recycled paper.

22.We are reducing our paper usage (e.g., through double-sided copying/printing/digital distribution etc).

23. Any disposable catering products (e.g., paper cups and plates etc.) provided by our community administration are...

Answers here will look at the types of disposables used.

24. The cleaning products provided by our community administration are environmentally-friendly.

25. Recycled toilet paper is provided by our community administration.

26. Recycling facilities are available through our community administration, for paper, glass, cans, plastics, fabrics, TerraCycle or similar.

Section 5 – Community and Global Engagement

Part 1: Eco-engagement within the Synagogue

1. 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, new employees informed of environmental policy during inductions etc.).
2. Our Synagogue actively promotes engagement with Eco Synagogue events and its values.
3. Our Synagogue is committed to raising awareness for a specific environmental issue and financially supports an environmental charity/organisation working on this issue.
4. Our Synagogue has financially supported at least one environmental charity or campaign.
5. Meals provided by the synagogue, including during events, use LOAF ingredients (Locally grown, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairtrade).
6. Vegetarian and/or vegan options are provided by the Synagogue at meals / catered events.

Part 2: Eco-engagement with the local community

7. Our Synagogue organises events around our festivals (e.g., Succot & Tu B'Shvat) and invites local leaders (e.g., local MPs, or council leaders) providing opportunities for local people to discuss local environmental issues with them.
8. Our Synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) engages with our local MP, local council, or Public Service Board on environmental matters at services, educational sessions or stand-alone events.
9. Our Synagogue arranges for local environmentalists/organisations to speak at our services.
10. Our Synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) works with local and/or Jewish sustainability movements and campaigns.
11. Our Synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) organises environmental awareness-raising events (e.g., documentary/film evenings, discussion, debates).
12. Our Synagogue is involved with local conservation work.
13. 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).
14. Our Synagogue (either alone or as part of a local network) hosts a green fair (showcasing local produce and highlighting local environmental issues and organisations).
15. Our Synagogue organises outdoor events, providing an opportunity for local people to enjoy the local area (e.g., walks, cycle rides etc).
16. Our Synagogue either provides or supports a local car-share scheme (this includes members sharing lifts to Synagogue when possible).
17. Our Synagogue organises environmental actions through the year involving local community and faith groups.

Part 3: Eco-Engagement with the national and global community

18. Our Synagogue keeps the congregation informed about the impact of national environmental issues.
19. Our Synagogue keeps the congregation informed about the impact of global environmental issues.
20. Our Synagogue participates in campaigns concerning national environmental issues.
21. Our Synagogue participates in campaigns concerning global environmental issues.