



## **6 Things to consider when looking to improve the environmental credentials of your community building**

This resource has been kindly shared by Daniel Leon from Square Feet Architects. EcoSynagogue is very grateful for his expertise and generosity. EcoSynagogue and its constituent Synagogue members have no responsibility for advising on these matters, the notes are made available purely as an information resource and that Synagogue members should take professional advice.

This resource is being used to support the following Audit questions...

10. Our Synagogue premises are insulated wherever possible in our: a) main sanctuary; b) our halls; c) our offices and classrooms.

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.

# 6 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS OF YOUR COMMUNITY BUILDING

## IMPROVE YOUR FABRIC

Improving the performance of your existing buildings walls, roof, floors and windows is always going to be greenest first thing to do.

Insulation, airtightness, double glazing are all relatively easy, and longterm improvements to your building.

## THINK LOW CARBON

If you are planning a new-build then try and build from sustainable renewable materials such as timber, rather than too much concrete or steel.

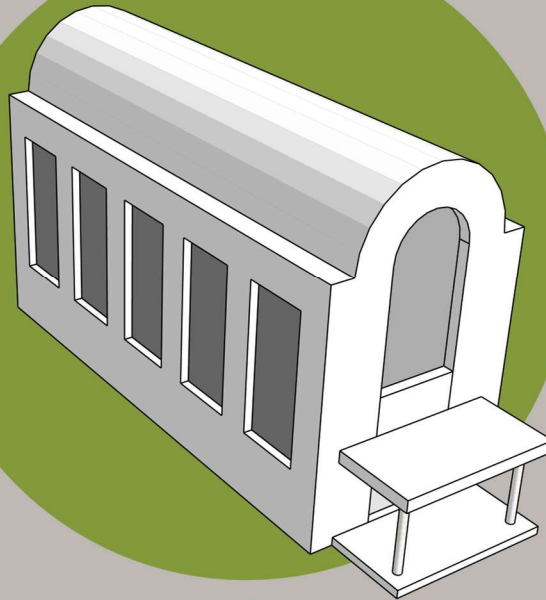
Think about sourcing materials locally.

## USE LESS ENERGY

**LIGHTING** - replace with LED fittings; consider motion sensors to switch off lights in unoccupied rooms.

**HEATING** - consider solar panels / airsource heat pumps / heat recovery

**AVOID AC** which is very energy thirsty.



## AVOID OVERHEATING

Lots of south facing windows, or poorly ventilated spaces can lead to an uncomfortable building, which can lead to air-con being installed, which is very energy thirsty.

Think about external shading, double glazing, and better ventilation.

## REDUCE WATER USAGE

Water is a precious resource, and bathrooms and kitchens can be inefficient, for example dripping taps, timed flushing urinals.

Think about installing green roofs, a rainwater harvesting system for wc's and landscape irrigation.

## BUILD TO LAST

A most wasteful thing is for a building element to require replacement or frequent maintenance.

There might be initial greater capital cost to install fixtures and fittings of quality but it will last longer and minimise waste.



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FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR BUILDING  
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