

T'Green Olam Committee -Annual Report  
Beth El Temple  
June 12, 2011

*“Beth El Temple of West Hartford endeavors to make a positive impact on the environment by implementing responsible practices for the conservation of energy and natural resources and Baal Tashchit, the reduction of waste. We seek to educate all who come through our doors about Tikkun Olam, Repairing the World, through environmental responsibility and to foster an understanding of the importance of making environmentally responsible decisions.*

*“ONE GENERATION GOES AND ANOTHER GENERATION COMES; BUT THE EARTH REMAINS FOREVER. ECCLESIASTES 1:4”*

T'Green Olam undertook the following programs for 2010-2011:

- Initiated Single Stream Recycling within Beth El for all recyclables (e.g., paper, glass, plastics, corrugated cardboard). For next year, more education, better signage and other improvements will be undertaken).
- Placed monthly “T’Green Tips” in Temple Topics. Special thanks to Stan Stier.
- Tu B’Shevat Weekend Program: Sybil Sanchez, Director of COEJL spoke during and after Shabbat morning services on January 15; and a representative from CRRA spoke at the Sunday Men’s Club breakfast on January 16.
- Shoe Recycling – sponsoring, in conjunction with the Beth El Temple Religious School, an ongoing shoe recycling program that to-date has netted several hundred dollars. Special thanks to Rabbi Rosenbaum.
- Electronics Recycling – Held a collection event on Sunday, May 1, with about 65 cars delivering enough used TVs, computer monitors, CPUs, stereo equipment, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners, lighting fixtures and one very old electric guitar to completely fill Green Monster E’Cycling’s truck and netting the Temple about \$1500. Special thanks to Lonni Schulz for coordinating, and to Jacob Kovel and John Hinze.
- Jessie’s Garden – A new community garden in memory of Jessica Kostin was built at the rear of Temple property by a large volunteer crew on Sunday, May 1, with planting later in May. Special thanks to the Kostin family and the coordinators, Dan and Judy Kulakofsky.
- Free energy audit under a CL&P/CNG program: We have recommended to the Board that older light bulbs and ballasts be replaced at no net cost. After an ~ 26 month payback period, the Temple will realize about \$5000 in annual electricity savings. Special thanks to John Hinze for coordinating.
- Solar power feasibility: did a cost-benefit analysis of installing solar panels on the roof (primarily of Kessler Hall), including obtaining bids from three vendors. It is not financially feasible to pursue an option where BET owns the system outright, so we are looking into an option where a third party owns the system and leases it back to BET for no net cost to BET, with us generating income after 5 years.
- Working with the office regarding the purchase of recycled copy paper.

Committee Members:

John Hinze	Jacob Kovel	Michael Sherber	Tom Falik	Rabbi Steven Chatinover
Lonni Schulz	Stan Stier	Bernie Selig	David Brandwein, Chair	

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these (or other related) efforts, we need your help. Please contact David Brandwein at 860-232-6534 or davidib@att.net