

Temple Emanuel Green Team

Temple Emanuel recognizes and is trying to address the growing challenges that climate change and other impacts of environmental pollution pose to both current and future generations. We work to better understand environmental issues and to take steps to address them as a congregation and in our own lives. If you are interested in environmental activities, developments, and concerns from a Jewish perspective, please contact the Temple office at 301-942-2000.

Temple Emanuel has earned national recognition as a leader in promoting environmental stewardship in the Jewish community and is the recipient of many awards pertaining to the environment.

- Caring for Creation Award of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment
- "Green Menorah" Environmental Award
- EPA Energy Star Congregation
- National awards for our Solar, Wind and Environmental Policies

Temple Emanuel also works to protect the environment in Israel through our membership support of ARZA and the Jewish National Fund. To find out more, visit the ISRAEL and ARZA page on our Temple Emanuel Website.

Temple Emanuel's award-winning environmental efforts go back to 1990, the first time that a Jewish group had a presence at the Earth Day celebration on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Rabbi Warren Stone, De Fischler Herman and other lay leaders helped to write and organize a prayer service, develop and distribute literature, and to staff an education booth. Since that day coincided with Yom HaShoah, the planners, including Rabbi Warren Stone, integrated language into the early morning prayer service to commemorate the Shoah and distributed yellow armbands imprinted with green butterflies for participants to wear. The moving experiences of that day prompted the birth of the Temple's "Green Shalom" committee, under the inspired lay leadership of De Fischler Herman and Al Grant.

Temple Emanuel is an Official Partner of Energy Star which is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. We have been so designated by the EPA Energy Star Buildings for Congregations Service, in recognition of our Temple's Environmental Policy and our active programs and interests in environmental stewardship.

In early 2003, the Temple completed an extensive renovation and expansion of its building, using environmentally sound planning principles and products wherever feasible. Despite financial constraints, architect Bob Schwartz, of Schwartz and Peoples Architects, was able to incorporate a number of "green" improvements which include:

- The Temple addition is primarily oriented facing north and south, minimizing the extreme HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning) loads of east and west
- The Administration wing is half below grade, reducing HVAC load in this area

- The insulation in the existing building was upgraded and the new work was well insulated.
- Disturbance of the site was minimized. Only one mature tree was removed and the drainage was unaltered
- The windows are double glazed with low-E glass (coatings that reduce heat loss in the winter and substantially reduce solar heat gain both in winter and in summer thereby improving energy efficiency).
- Environmentally friendly building materials were used including: Wheat-board as the countertop material in the library; the lobby floor is linoleum, the alternate worship space floor is bamboo and the floor in the classroom wing is made of 80% recycled material.
- Fresh air requirements are modulated in the social hall so that outside air does not have to be conditioned when the space is not in use.
- Fluorescent lights are used extensively throughout, minimizing electric usage

Similar environmentally sound principles were followed during the 2011 renovations in our school wing.

The next time you're at the Temple, be sure to see the magnificent photograph which is part of the 2005 Creation Care Award that Temple Emanuel received from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment "...in recognition of faithful, creative and exemplary efforts in caring for creation." The photograph, taken by Clyde Butcher a preeminent American wilderness photographer, and the information about the award are displayed on the immediate left wall when you enter the Social Hall.

Greening Your Life and Home – Suggestions from the Green Team

1. Drive less – walk, bike, take public transit or carpool.
2. Be an active recycling participant at home and at work.
3. Use refillable water bottles instead of purchasing bottled water
4. Replace incandescent bulbs with energy efficient light sources – compact fluorescents and LEDs (as they become less expensive).
5. Adjust your thermostats by 2 or 3 degrees – down in the winter and up in the summer
6. If you have large heating or cooling bills, have a household energy audit performed by a reputable organization. They will identify areas of leaks and make suggestions for remediation of problems.
7. Add additional attic insulation, if needed
8. If replacing windows or doors, use energy efficient models with double panes and low-E glass.
9. Investigate using an alternative energy supplier for your electricity that uses renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power. There are a number of companies that will provide renewable electricity generation at similar cost to what you currently are paying for electricity generated by coal burning plants.

Environmental Policy Statement

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, the Temple Emanuel Board of Trustees adopted an environmental policy statement which contained a number of environmental goals and reflected the Temple's strong commitment to the ecological principles of Judaism.

Since that time, a number of goals have been implemented, including the installation of a solar collector for operating the eternal light, an energy audit (to be repeated in November, 2013, and investigation of several recycling activities and environmentally-friendly products. The Temple's Clergy, lay leaders and the Green Team (previously the Green Shalom Committee) have continually promoted environmental stewardship. The Temple has been recognized nationally for its environmental activities.

During 2010 – 2012 we have updated our building with more energy efficient lighting. Motion sensors have been added to turn off lights in unoccupied areas. The parking areas have enhanced lighting with dark sky compliant, energy efficient LED lighting. We are investigating the possibility of installing solar panels on our roof which may generate as much as 35-40% of our electrical needs.

POLICY GOALS

To continue and expand the scope of the Temple's environmental stewardship and education programs, the Temple Emanuel Board of Trustees reaffirmed the following action-oriented goals in 2013:

1. Schedule periodic energy audits of the Temple's facilities and implement further energy conservation recommendations where feasible.
2. Maintain a comprehensive landscaping plan for the Temple that takes advantage of native plant materials, avoids harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides, conserves water, and provides aesthetic and environmental benefits.
3. Maintain the small biblically-inspired garden on the Temple grounds, and develop an educational experience relating the plantings to major Jewish holidays. Use native plants as substitutes wherever possible.
4. Work with the Kensington Ministerium, the Coalition on Jewish Life and the Environment (COEJL) and Hazon to promote environmental stewardship at the local, regional, and national levels.
5. Periodically review and evaluate Temple recycling programs. Improve/expand recycling where feasible, including the use of high recycled content paper in the Temple Offices, Religious School and Early Childhood Center. Explore the possibility of using "greening"

strategies in the selection of food and the disposal of waste. Use recyclable materials as much as possible in food service functions.

6. Maintain the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products at the Temple and eliminate the use of any toxic cleaners.

7. Working with the Rabbi and the Green Team, promote environmental awareness and education for all Temple members by:

- a. Conducting an annual Shabbat service with an environmental theme, and a Tu B'Shevat service with a focus on environmental appreciation and healthful foods.
- b. Arranging periodic service-related environmental readings at Shabbat services and also during the High Holiday services.
- c. Providing environmental study opportunities through adult education courses, coffeehouse programs, book reviews, speakers, etc.
- d. Incorporating the Jewish dimension of environmental stewardship into the religious school curricula, including lectures, field trips, readings, discussion, etc.
- e. Conducting a periodic workshop on Judaism and the environment for religious school teachers.
- f. Promoting carpooling and other transportation alternatives that improve air quality and reduce congestion and parking problems.
- g. Working with the Rabbi and the Community Social Action Council, pursue opportunities for environmental advocacy.

Temple Partners with GWIPL

Temple Emanuel has become a partner with Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GWIPL), a nonprofit membership organization of diverse congregations and leaders of Washington's faith community. It is part of a national organization that offers concrete opportunities for congregations and individuals to protect creation. GWIPL helps congregations to use less energy and save money... partners can save 50-80% off retail prices on energy saving devices. GWIPL also helps congregations in the Washington, D.C. area to purchase clean, renewable energy easily and cheaply. Finally, GWIPL provides education materials about energy use and global warming, and worship materials, including prayers, scripture readings, and sermonic materials from many traditions. For more information, visit www.gwipl.org.

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