



## The Environment and Social Issues Action Group (ESIAG)



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Dear Deputy,

### **GREENING SYNAGOGUES AND OTHER JEWISH ORGANISATIONS**

We have pleasure in attaching a revised version of the Toolkit promised at the Board's Plenary last September when the Board passed a resolution "urging all UK Synagogues and Jewish Organisations to take practical steps, as soon as possible, to make their premises environmentally friendly and energy-efficient".

We have identified six key areas for action, but have suggested that your community/organisation decides for itself which it wishes to take. We have kept the Toolkit reasonably brief. We give some ideas but they are not the only possibilities. You will find other helpful material on the Big Green Jewish Website, which was re-launched last November.

We have now produced a form for you to report the actions your community/organisation has taken and which it is considering. We are asking you to return this by the end of May 2010.

In the meantime, if you have any questions which cannot be addressed by the websites listed below, please contact Philip Rosenberg at the Board who will try to assist you or your Synagogue or Organisation, or point you or them in the right direction.

We hope you find the Toolkit helpful and wish your congregation/organisation every success in this important work.

Neville Sassienie  
Chair,  
ESIAG

Philip Rosenberg  
Social Action Officer,  
Board of Deputies

## A TOOLKIT FOR GREENING YOUR SYNAGOGUE/ORGANISATION

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is now widely agreed that climate change represents the single greatest challenge that humanity faces today.

A recent poll by the UK's Environment Agency to 25 leading environmentalists placed "Leadership by Faith Groups" as second in importance out of 50 factors which would do most to "save the planet".

At its September 2009 meeting the Board of Deputies passed a resolution "urging Synagogues/organisations to take practical steps, as soon as possible, to make their premises environmentally friendly and energy-efficient". A Tool Kit was promised to help with this and this is it.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

We have identified six areas which you may like to focus on. We leave it to you to decide how to tease out ways to tackle them as best suits your particular Congregation/organisation. We do give below suggestions for actions which you may like to consider. The six areas are: -

1 ENERGY SAVING

2 WASTE SAVING (RECYCLING ETC)

3 EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ON GLOBAL WARMING

4 ADVOCACY TO YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY, MP OR GOVERNMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

5 BECOMING A 10:10 SYNAGOGUE

6 BECOMING A FAIR TRADE SYNAGOGUE

### **THE FIRST STEP**

We suggest you look for a small number of your members to form a "Greening Our Synagogue/organisation" working group. You will need an enthusiast to chair it. It maybe helpful to have your caretaker on it or at least invited to some meetings.

### **Now for some ideas**

Please report other ideas of your own and particularly your successes to the JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION FORUM WEBSITE ([www.biggreenjewish.org](http://www.biggreenjewish.org)).

You may wish to commission an environmental survey for your premises. Your Local Authority may well supply this at low or no cost.

## **Energy Saving**

Monitor your energy consumption regularly (monthly/quarterly) to check trends.

Regularly service your boiler or heating appliances check the heating system has adequate timer and thermostatic controls

Commission an energy/environmental consultation. Seek energy consultants through the Energy Saving Trust and/or Google.

Install sufficient levels of insulation where appropriate. These would include windows, doors and lofts.

Monitor the heating level regularly. Overheating by 1°C increases fuel usage by 6–10%.

Encourage building users to turn down radiator thermostats (which should be fitted) and turn off all lights in empty rooms and not leave electrical items on stand-by (e.g. photocopiers)

Check water outlets - fix drips and leaks

Install water saving devices – e.g. in toilet systems

Examine the energy rating of all new electrical products

Make economic use of machines such as dishwashers, these should not be turned on if only half filled

Measure and monitor your Synagogue/organisation carbon footprint, see the Big Green Jewish website or use the Energy Saving Trust site

Consider the use of renewable energy schemes solar panels and ground heat systems etc (see for example [www.gshp.org.uk](http://www.gshp.org.uk)). Grants of up to 100% are now available see [www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk) and [www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk)

You will find the Energy Saving Trust a very helpful website and information on local grants [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Stiebel Eltron UK Ltd is a UK based company who are offering a free energy efficiency survey of Synagogues/organisations. Contact Mark McManus, Managing Director at [www.stiebel-eltron.co.uk](http://www.stiebel-eltron.co.uk). Bear in mind that this company will tend to recommend its own products.

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## **Waste Saving (Recycling etc)**

Reduce, reuse, and recycle in the office

Purchase recycled paper and envelopes and reuse where possible

Recycle ink cartridges and mobile phones

Make collection facilities for recycling (paper, cans, spectacles, stamps, printer cartridges, clothes, shoes, mobile phones, batteries)

Use crockery and glasses rather than disposable cups and plates

Sign up to Mail Preference Service to eliminate junk mail [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)

## **Education**

Participate in or organise environmental study events/lectures on Global Warming & other Environmental issues

Encourage Synagogue/organisation leaders to speak on the issues of greening and incorporate them into their Synagogue/organisation messages

Include environmental issues in the syllabus for your religion school

## **Advocacy**

Campaign to your Local Authority, MP, and Government for stronger environmental laws and environmental justice – (See [www.biggreenjewish.org](http://www.biggreenjewish.org))

Take part in campaigns and demonstrations on Global Warming and other environmental issues. Watch [www.biggreenjewish.org](http://www.biggreenjewish.org) for news of these

## **Become a 10:10 Synagogue/Organisation**

Cutting 10% of our emissions in 2010: 10:10 is a mass movement that is signing up people and organisations from every corner of British life.

From councils and hospitals to faith groups and scout troops, organisations across the country are deciding to get on board at the start of the journey to a low-carbon society.

So if you want to establish your organisation as a leader in tackling the most important and pressing issue of our times; stay one step ahead of oncoming legislation to limit emissions; save money on your energy bills; and respond to the moral challenge of climate change; then 10:10 is for you.

Becoming a 10:10 organisation means making a commitment to pull out all the stops and try to reduce your carbon footprint by 10% in just one year. For most organisations 10% is ambitious but achievable. It's the low hanging fruit: eliminating waste, increasing efficiency, that sort of thing.

For more information go to: <http://www.1010uk.org/>  
See articles: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/10-10>

### **Become a Fairtrade Synagogue/Organisation**

Unfair trade rules continue to lock millions of people in the developing world in poverty. Two billion people – a third of humanity – work hard to support themselves yet still struggle to survive on £1 per day or less. Through Fairtrade we are trying to help tip the balance of trade in favour of poor farmers and workers. Fairtrade also provides us as shoppers the opportunity to fulfil our responsibilities to our neighbours in our efforts of *Tikkun Olam* (healing the world).

You can apply to be a Fairtrade Synagogue/organisation if your synagogue/organisation council has agreed to meet the following goals:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all synagogue/organisation's meetings
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, juice, and fruit
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and other times of the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

To sign up:

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaigns/fairtrade\\_places\\_of\\_worship/fairtrade\\_synagogues.aspx](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/campaigns/fairtrade_places_of_worship/fairtrade_synagogues.aspx)

To download 'A Jewish Guide to Fairtrade'

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/includes/documents/cm\\_docs/2009/j/jewish\\_community\\_resource.pdf](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/j/jewish_community_resource.pdf)

For more information go to: [www.fairtrade.org](http://www.fairtrade.org)

### **SOME SUGGESTED SITES TO VISIT**

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| Big Green Jewish Website   | <a href="http://www.biggreenjewish.org">www.biggreenjewish.org</a>                           |
| The Community Sustainability energy programme<br>which gives grants for various projects | <a href="http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk">www.communitysustainable.org.uk</a>         |
| LCBP Phase 2   | <a href="http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk">www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk</a> |
| Energy Saving Trust -  | <a href="http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk">www.energysavingtrust.org.uk</a>               |
| Friends of the Earth –   | <a href="http://www.foe.co.uk">www.foe.co.uk</a>   |
| Environmental Defence –  | <a href="http://www.edf.org">www.edf.org</a>   |
| Jewish Climate Initiative –  | <a href="http://www.jewishclimateinitiative.org">www.jewishclimateinitiative.org</a>         |
| The Earth Charter –  | <a href="http://www.earthcharterinaction.org">www.earthcharterinaction.org</a>               |
| Hazon  | <a href="http://www.hazon.com">www.hazon.com</a>   |
| Stiebel Eltron UK Ltd  | <a href="http://www.stiebel-eltron.co.uk">www.stiebel-eltron.co.uk</a>                       |