

# **Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network**

*Dear Congregation,*

We are delighted that you are considering becoming a Green Synagogue, a pivotal part of the growing Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network (BJEN).

BJEN is a coalition of synagogues, organizations, and individuals dedicated to putting the Jewish community's values, wisdom, and individual and collective energy into improving our physical environment and our spiritual well-being.

A Green Synagogue is a congregation that is dedicated to incorporating environmentally-friendly ethics, actions, and teachings in all aspects of its work. This packet explains the three areas of engagement in which you are encouraged to participate as you begin your journey toward Green Synagogue status.

Why do we come to you? Because despite all the finger-pointing, science and technology are not the environmental culprits. They merely respond to our desires and our choices. Our appetite, our values and our choices ultimately determine the health or degradation of the environment. It is we in the religious community, therefore, who are uniquely poised to lead our society toward an environmentally ethical way of being and a healthier, more fulfilling life. Judaism must add its voice to the environmental call to action. We can help frame answers to the questions that society needs to ask: What is humanity's place in, and relationship with, the physical environment? What is the status of nature in God's world? What are we called upon to do and achieve in this life? How do we define the good life?

Our generation lives at this most sensitive and critical of times; what will be our legacy?

BJEN, and the Green Synagogue initiative, explore these issues. We are pleased to be able to enter this conversation with you and explain more about our programs, resources, and possibilities. Let us work together to heal our wounded environment.

For more information contact your BJEN representative:

or Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin ([ncardin@comcast.net](mailto:ncardin@comcast.net)).

# **Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network**

## *Mission Statement*

Promote among the members of our community an attitude of awe, appreciation, and stewardship with God's earth.

Re-design the definition of a good life, a good community and a good economy that reflects a spiritually fulfilling, responsibly progressive and environmentally-sustainable culture.

Further the creation of social policies and behaviors that enable individuals and society to thrive in an enriching relationship with the earth.

## *Objectives*

- ✧ To provide resources to enhance the understanding of Jewish environmental issues
- ✧ To encourage individual and collective action to help the environment, through small steps as well as large
- ✧ To involve all members of the Congregation, especially the Rabbi, the Staff, and the Board.

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Becoming a Green Synagogue**

### *1. What is a Green Synagogue?*

A Green Synagogue is a congregation dedicated to integrating environmental concerns and behavior into every part of its mission, programs, and business. It is a congregation dedicated to limiting its negative impact on the environment, and inspiring its members to do the same. It is a congregation that stands as a leader and role model for environmentally sustainable living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### *2. What is required of our congregation if we enter this network?*

You would commit to several tasks:

- ✧ Begin a conversation with your Synagogue Board that explores the Jewish values that compel and inspire Jews to live a “green” lifestyle;
- ✧ Undertake an educational program of your choice that helps your congregants understand the urgent and fundamental intersection of Jewish values and environmental needs;
- ✧ Implement two projects, programs, or tasks selected and endorsed by the Board from the list of possible environmental activities listed in the following pages, in any of the categories (education, social action, or physical plant improvement); and
- ✧ Appoint a representative to sit on our congregational network committee and participate toward advancing the overall purposes and goals of the network.

### *3. What do we get out of becoming a Green Synagogue?*

First and foremost, you will gain the satisfaction of contributing to a healthier, more sustainable, more spiritual, and more politically secure world.

In addition, as public awareness grows, and as the tide increasingly turns toward greener buildings and environmentally-sensitive business and consumer practices, your congregation will be on the cutting edge of environmental behavior and advocacy. By strengthening your green profile, you will also put your congregation on a more secure financial footing for the years ahead, as the costs for fossil fuel, consumer goods, water use, and waste management, among other things, continue to rise.

You will also gain tangible benefits from:

- ✧ The ability to connect and network with other local synagogues that are pursuing a common goal; and
- ✧ The informational and human resources made available by BJEN to help assess and train synagogue members in environmental initiatives, including ways to save money by going green, undertake an energy audit of your building, offering sessions on building, retrofitting, and maintaining a green building, finding financial incentives to green your life and your Congregation, curricular materials, and the ability to promote your congregation as a Green Synagogue.

### *4. How long does our Green Status last?*

Green Synagogue Status must be renewed every two years.

***We look forward to joining with you in this sacred endeavor.***

# **Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network:**

## **Options for Educational Programs**

Jewish education and the teachings of Jewish law and the Torah guide the community towards a growing awareness and concern for the environment. They encourage each Synagogue to craft plans that are specific to the individual Congregation to meet their specific needs. Collectively, our environmental efforts will be a light to the world. Specifically, our congregations' efforts and successes will contribute to: improving **public health**, enriching the **quality of life**, slowing **climate change**, consuming less **fuel** and **energy**, **contributing to national security**, and saving **money** that can be re-allocated for other sacred causes and purposes.

For many of these reasons, **we each have a vested interest** in the outcome and success of the program.

*Seven Initiatives* that can lead us toward environmental awareness and action are:

1. Display and distribute pamphlets and literature, and use them to teach environmental matters and Jewish environmental ethics.
2. Form an *Environmental Awareness Committee*.
3. Integrate Jewish environmental concepts, teachings, actions, and projects into each major holiday and lifecycle event.
4. Integrate environmental mitzvot into major holidays and lifecycle events.
5. Encourage the congregation and your congregants to undertake 10 (or more) year-round environmental activities and objectives.
6. Conduct synagogue-wide and in-home programs to promote greater awareness and understanding of environmental matters.
7. Enhance Bar/Bat Mitzvah materials and mitzvah projects with proposals more sensitive to the "needs of the earth."

Below is a list of resources and informational details for each of the above categories. Each *Initiative* is accompanied by a list of web-page resources that will help you get started.

**Getting Started on the *Seven Initiatives*:** Education is the key to a successful Green Synagogue. The establishment of a synagogue-wide Environmental Awareness and Advocacy Oversight Committee (Initiative #2), created by and reporting to the congregational leadership (Rabbi, Board, Executive Committee, or other appropriate body) will enhance the prestige, reach, and impact of your environmental efforts. BJEN will work with you to provide resources for Initiatives 1 and 6, as well as provide advice on any of the other initiatives. Additional resources may be found on the following pages.

## *The Seven Initiatives*

- 1. Provide a supply of pamphlets and literature to develop self-awareness of the environment.** If requested, BJEN will guide your Environmental Awareness committee to materials on environmental issues to place in appropriate locations. Teachers can also be provided with resources to use in lesson plans. We can also assist you with environmental material to be placed in congregational bulletins.

*“It is not for you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”*

*--Pirkei Avot 2:21*

- 2. The Environmental Awareness Committee.** The Environmental Awareness Committee of each member Congregation should include members of the congregation and the synagogue facilities and financial managers, and may build upon existing committees already devoted to similar activities. Its purpose is to:

- ✧ Promote Jewish learning about the environment by study and performing actions to protect it;
- ✧ Assess what can be accomplished in their synagogue.

Suggested activities that the committee might consider include, but are not limited to: conducting an energy audit, replacing incandescent light bulbs with low-energy compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), replacing old, inefficient heating/air conditioning units or appliances with energy-efficient equipment, turning off lights and electrical appliances when not in use, adjusting thermostat settings, signs above water faucets in bathroom sinks to remind congregants to turn them off after use, and repairing leaky toilets and sinks in bathrooms and the kitchen. Committees could plan to reduce solid waste and paper disposables, increase amount of two-sided copying (or better yet, electronic rather than paper communications), recycle, conserve energy, and use more energy-efficient (“green”) devices if equipment needs to be replaced. They could also consider the use of rain gardens, erosion control, planting *native trees and shrubs to capture carbon dioxide in the air*, planting to maintain or enhance streamside protective buffer zones, mowed turf reduction, establish no-mow zones to slow rainwater runoff, clean up trash in wildlife areas, reduce the use of pesticides, remove invasive plants before they go to seed, and remove or replace excessive/unneeded paved impervious surfaces whenever possible. (see Green Building and Conservation Assessment, page 11, below for more information on buildings and grounds)

**Action items** from the committee should include tasks that involve children, adults, Brotherhood and Sisterhood groups, and synagogue staff and Board.

**Display** progress publicly in a prominent location.

**Celebrate** milestones achieved!

A **function** of the committee would be to encourage/coordinate activities of all initiatives.

## **Resources:**

**Aerial maps:** jarmacost@baltimorecountymd.gov (*Aerial site analyses of school and synagogue properties can be obtained from the Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management (DEPRM), Maryland Dep't. of Natural Resources, or internet websites for evaluation and planning purposes.*)

**CFL light bulbs:** [http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc\\_cfl.php](http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc_cfl.php)

[http://www.gwipl.org/save\\_energy/buy.asp#instructions](http://www.gwipl.org/save_energy/buy.asp#instructions)

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge>

**Paper recycling:** <http://www.paperretriever.com/default.asp?id=174>

**Habitat assessment:** [www.qacps.k12.md.us/cms/sci/intr/ecohab.htm](http://www.qacps.k12.md.us/cms/sci/intr/ecohab.htm)

**Native tree plantings:** [www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/volunteers.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous/volunteers.html)

**Earth partnership for schools/Tools for teachers/Rain gardens:** <http://uwarboretum.org/eps>

**Energy-efficient equipment:**

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small\\_business.sb\\_congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations)

**Where electricity comes from:** [www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentid=774](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentid=774)

*“See to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world, for if you do,  
there will be no one else to repair it after you.”*

**--Vayikra Rabba**

- 3. Integrate the concept of “Protect the Earth” into lesson plans.** Ask each religious school grade (K-12) to integrate the concept of “protect the earth” or “conservation” into their holiday lessons for these four holidays: Fall (Sukkot), Winter (Hanukah), Spring (Passover), and Summer (Shavuot). Encourage teachers to attend MAEOE (Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education) environmental workshops.

## **Resources:**

Coalition of Environmental and Jewish Life (COEJL): [www.coejl.org](http://www.coejl.org) (for lesson plans, click on “resources,” then “celebrate”)

Energy Star Hotline: (888) 782-7937

Jakir Manela, Farm Director; [farm@pearlstonecenter.org](mailto:farm@pearlstonecenter.org)

Dick Goldman, General Manager; [dickgoldman@pearlstonecenter.org](mailto:dickgoldman@pearlstonecenter.org)

Jessica Weinberg, Educator; [JWeinberg@pearlstonecenter.org](mailto:JWeinberg@pearlstonecenter.org)

Margaret Presley-Stein, Judaic Environmental Educator, Environmental Skills for Tomorrow/  
Hishtavut L'Svi'vah, [Mrgtrprly@aol.com](mailto:Mrgtrprly@aol.com) , 410-963-8813, 410-486-9092

Lore Rosenthal, environmental educator, Jewish educator, [LORELYON@aol.com](mailto:LORELYON@aol.com) 301-317-9821

Miriam Glaser, environmental educator, [mirglaser@aol.com](mailto:mirglaser@aol.com) , 410-302-8904

Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Leora Pushett, [lpushett@cjebaltimore.org](mailto:lpushett@cjebaltimore.org), 410-735-5000, x 5026

DEPRM list of Internet Resources, Jeanne Armacost, jarmacost@baltimorecountymd.gov

Teacher Workshops: [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org)

Susan Lower, "Individual actions make a difference" Power Point

- 4. Integrate environmental mitzvot as appropriate into each major holiday.** Holidays could be presented as special occasions to do an environmental mitzvah. At Hanukah, members could be encouraged to purchase CFLs; at Tu B'Shvat, hold a Tu B'Shvat seder; at Passover, encourage members of the congregation to recycle their old electronics; at Yom Ha'Atzma-ut, learn about Israel's environmental history and current environmental issues.

**Resources:**

**CFL light bulbs:** [http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc\\_cfl.php](http://www.coejl.org/climatechange/cc_cfl.php)

**Tu B'Shvat seder:** [www.hillel.org/jewish/holidays/tubshvat](http://www.hillel.org/jewish/holidays/tubshvat)

[http://judaism.about.com/od/conservativejudaismfaq/a/dov\\_tubshvat.htm](http://judaism.about.com/od/conservativejudaismfaq/a/dov_tubshvat.htm)

**Four Questions:** [http://www.coejl.org/tubshvat/documents/tub\\_reffourq2.php](http://www.coejl.org/tubshvat/documents/tub_reffourq2.php)

**Baltimore County's recycling program:**

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/index.html>

**Israel's environmental organizations:** <http://www.coejl.org/resources/israelorg.php>

**Pearlstone Farm:** <http://www.pearlstonecenter.org/pages/about.html>

- 5. Create a list of 10 (or more) suggested Jewish environmental activities and objectives.** Make environmental activities a school-wide campaign, with art projects, skits, posters, take-home handouts, newsletter articles. Encourage students to discuss these activities at home, and promote challenges and contests. One objective could be to meet the requirements that define a "Green School" (see below).

**Resources:**

**Ten (or more) Things:** <http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/luminaries/chats/earthtext.shtml>

**Top "Ten" lists from 16 sources:** [http://www.simplicity-matters.org/action/gw\\_action\\_lists.htm](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/action/gw_action_lists.htm)

**30 things for students:** [http://www.tevacenter.org/students\\_50things.asp](http://www.tevacenter.org/students_50things.asp)

**BBTOS projects:** [http://www.tevacenter.org/teacher\\_bbtos\\_projects.asp](http://www.tevacenter.org/teacher_bbtos_projects.asp)

**Paper Recycling:** <http://www.paperretriever.com/default.asp?id=174>

**Adopt-a-Road:**

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/publicworks/highways/adoptaroad.html>

**Adopt-a-Highway:**

<http://www.sha.state.md.us/SHAServices/mapsBrochures/oc/adopt.asp?id=I84+WO2>

**Energy savings:** [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=change\\_light.changealight\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=change_light.changealight_index)

**Green Schools:** [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org)

- 6. Conduct learning opportunities to develop a better understanding of environmental matters.** Engage in Discussion Circles, bring in expert speakers, show movies on such topics as "An Inconvenient Truth" and "Who Killed the Electric Car?" Offer "The Chesapeake Bay Journal"

(a free publication), or books such as “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv and “It’s a Mitzvah” (specifically chapter 5, “*Bal Tash’hit*: Preserving the Earth”), by Bradley Artson.

**Resources:**

**Discussion Circles:** Lore Rosenthal: [SimplicityGrpsMd@aol.com](mailto:SimplicityGrpsMd@aol.com)

**What’s Jewish about protecting the environment?:** <http://www.coejl.org/jewviro.php>

**Speakers:** See resources under Initiative #3 (above).

**14 videos available at no charge:** [http://www.simplicity-matters.org/videos/smei\\_gw\\_videos.htm](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/videos/smei_gw_videos.htm)

**“An Inconvenient Truth”:** <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

**Electric car:** <http://www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar/>

**Chesapeake Bay Journal:** <http://www.bayjournal.com/subscribe.cfm>

**Carbon Calculator:** <http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator>

**Ecological Footprint:** <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/info.asp>

- 7. Enhance Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations with proposals that respond to the “needs of the earth.”** Give materials to families that include recommendations for (a) an environmental mitzvah project, (b) using moderation in planning your event, (c) centerpieces that could be donated/reused, and/or (d) contributing a percentage of gifts or budget to a favorite environmental charity.

**Resources:**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah suggestions: <http://www.jrf.org/rt/simplicity.html>

<http://members.aol.com/mitzvah99/mypage/>

<http://www.jnf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=opnrWhat>

# **Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network:**

## **Options for Social Action**

Social Action is the “external affairs” arm of the synagogue’s environmental initiatives. In the first two years, your synagogue can participate in one or more of the following efforts:

### **1) Community Involvement**

Adopt a Highway (Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration; Website: [www.sha.state.md.us/SHAServices/mapsBrochures/oc/adopt.asp?id=I84+WO2](http://www.sha.state.md.us/SHAServices/mapsBrochures/oc/adopt.asp?id=I84+WO2))

Adopt a Windmill ([www.communityenergy.biz/adopt/adopt\\_windmill.html](http://www.communityenergy.biz/adopt/adopt_windmill.html))

Join and assist your watershed association

- ✧ Get involved in Bay issues ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/wshed\\_directory.htm](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/wshed_directory.htm))
- ✧ Support a local Riverkeeper ([www.waterkeeper.org](http://www.waterkeeper.org))

Support community gardens and nature centers

- ✧ Irvine Nature Center ([www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org))
- ✧ Oheb Shalom vegetable garden
- ✧ Mt. Washington Community Garden
- ✧ Pearlstone Retreat Center ([www.pearlstonecenter.org](http://www.pearlstonecenter.org))

Support local farmers and healthy agriculture (<http://www.localharvest.org>). Information on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is available at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/csa/csa.shtml>

Support Baltimore Free Store (<http://www.freestorebaltimore.org>)

Participate in Baltimore Green Week ([www.baltimoregreenweek.org](http://www.baltimoregreenweek.org))

Participate in Earth Day (April 22)

Buy Chesapeake Bay license tags for your cars

HAZON - Jewish environmental group and bike rides ([www.hazon.org](http://www.hazon.org))

Assist in Green School Development

Volunteer with the Associated, Jewish Volunteer Connection, and Baltimore Jewish Council

## **2) Political Action**

- ✧ Appoint a legislative liaison to keep synagogue abreast of legislative issues and alert members of congregation of important issues via email
- ✧ Sign on to receive weekly updates from Maryland League of Conservation Voters ([www.mdlev.org](http://www.mdlev.org))
- ✧ Participate in the annual Maryland Legislative Environmental Summit (held every Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Details available from Maryland League of Conservation Voters)
- ✧ Participate in annual Legislative Lobby Day (held every Presidents Day. Details available from Maryland League of Conservation Voters)

## **3) Synagogue Coalitions**

*Appoint a synagogue representative to participate in BJEN, Jewish Volunteer Connection, or the Maryland League of Conservation Voters (or other local environmental issues group).*

# **Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network:**

## **Green Building and Conservation Assessment**

Ideally, the physical plant and the grounds of the congregation should serve as a model for ecological responsibility. It is important that environmental factors become an integral part of maintenance, remodeling, and new construction projects and activities. In addition, daily activities involving issues such as education, cleaning, lawn care, office work, and even day care can be performed in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability, creating a healthy building as well as caring for the earth and all of its creatures. The following outline lists important green building and conservation considerations.

**Energy Audit:** Assessing conditions

### **Heating and Cooling**

- ✧ Proper maintenance of equipment
- ✧ Thermostats (programmable and efficient temperature settings)
- ✧ Solar possibilities
- ✧ Landscaping with trees
- ✧ Use of Energy Star-certified capital equipment
- ✧ Proper insulation
- ✧ Geothermal

### **Energy Purchase**

- ✧ Renewable energy sources (e.g., wind, solar)
- ✧ Carbon offsets
- ✧ Group bulk buys

### **Lighting and Electricity**

- ✧ Fluorescent lighting
- ✧ LED exit signs
- ✧ Occupancy sensors
- ✧ Passive solar opportunities
- ✧ Shutting off electrical equipment when not in use

### **Parking area assessment**

### **Water Conservation**

- ✧ Low-flow showers, faucets, and toilets
- ✧ Insulation (water heaters and pipes)
- ✧ Efficient temperature settings
- ✧ Energy Star-certified equipment
- ✧ Landscaping issues

## **Sustainable Materials**

- ✧ Paint (e.g., low VOC)
- ✧ Flooring (e.g., bamboo, recycled, low-emission carpeting, low-odor adhesives)
- ✧ Windows/doors (i.e., insulated)
- ✧ Tight insulation (formaldehyde-free)
- ✧ Roofing (green roof)

**Green demolition:** Recycling and reusing waste material

**Renting a building versus property ownership:** Things you can do to be green

**LEED Certification:** Rating system for new buildings and expansions

**Site planning:** Building orientation-resource efficient design

## **Policy Development**

- ✧ Overall environmental commitment
- ✧ Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy

## **Purchasing**

- ✧ Recycled and recyclable goods
- ✧ Non-toxic cleaning products
- ✧ Furniture (i.e., sustainable wood, bamboo, recycled rubber, used)
- ✧ Paper (high recycled content)
- ✧ Low Volatile Organic Content (VOC) paints
- ✧ Flooring
- ✧ Energy Star-certified appliances, equipment, and windows
- ✧ Avoid wasteful packaging
- ✧ Fire extinguishers without Halon

## **Solid Waste Minimization, Chemical Minimization, and Recycling**

- ✧ Conservation of paper (i.e., double-sided printing/copying, bulletin, e-mail)
- ✧ Purchase products with long life span that can be recycled
- ✧ Donate used products
- ✧ Recycling stations for aluminum, plastic, cardboard, paper, ink cartridges, phones, etc.
- ✧ Compost
- ✧ Green cleaning products
- ✧ Integrated Pest Management
- ✧ Electronics (e.g., computer purchase and recycling)
- ✧ Batteries (e.g., rechargeables and recycling)
- ✧ Fluorescent lamps (e.g., low mercury and recycling)
- ✧ Fire extinguishers without Halon
- ✧ Soy-based inks for outside printing orders
- ✧ Paper usage

## **Facility and Grounds Management**

- ✧ Reduce mowing
- ✧ Native plants
- ✧ Composting
- ✧ Morning watering
- ✧ Alternatives to pesticides and chemical fertilizers
- ✧ Rain garden
- ✧ Rain barrel
- ✧ Promotion of wildlife habitat

## **Sustainable Foods and Food Service**

- ✧ Eat lower on the food chain
- ✧ Purchase local food
- ✧ Purchase of free-range food products/humane treatment of animals
- ✧ Purchase of organic food (non-GMO, hormone-free, antibiotic-free food)
- ✧ Join a Community-Supported Agriculture group
- ✧ Host a Sunday Farmers' Market
- ✧ Plant a garden
- ✧ Use nondisposable utensils and plates
- ✧ Use biodegradable utensils and plates where composting exists
- ✧ Composting (large scale or educational, e.g., worm bin)
- ✧ Food bank

## **Transportation**

- ✧ Encourage walking, biking, bus, train, carpool
- ✧ Parking lot management (e.g., efficient parking patterns, no idling)
- ✧ Install bike racks

## **Resources and Contacts**

- ✧ Environmental Audit Guide (<http://www.elca.org/advocacy/environment/envaudit.pdf>)
- ✧ COEJL complete outline for an energy audit.  
(<http://www.coejl.org/programbank/displayprog.php?id=36>)
- ✧ Christian Church in England environmental audit forms.  
([http://www.ctdiocese.org/ministries/earth/env\\_paudit.shtml](http://www.ctdiocese.org/ministries/earth/env_paudit.shtml))
- ✧ Extensive 116 page environmental guide for congregations from the Lutheran Church. References biblical texts and links to many resources.  
(<http://www.webofcreation.org/Environmental%20Guide.pdf>)

## **BJEN: Administrative and Organizational Structure**

A **Chairperson** will serve as the organization's head. The Chair will coordinate schedules, meetings, and events, as well as serve as convener, spokesperson, and general taskmaster to keep the organization running smoothly and united. The Chair's duties will also include supervising progress of the organization.

The body of the organization will be **As-One**, with individuals who choose to join serving as **members-in-good-standing**. There will be three categories of members-in-good-standing:

- ✧ Individuals
- ✧ Synagogue representatives
- ✧ Organizational representatives

The job of the organization will be conducted through **working groups**. At any given time, BJEN will organize working groups designed to address the organization's goals, needs and tasks. These working groups are intended to be ad hoc, coming together around a time-limited, task-oriented project, and dissolve upon completion of task and timeframe. These working groups will be comprised of members as well as specially-recruited participants, when appropriate.

**Individuals** who join will commit to supporting the network by promoting the work of the network, formally and informally, and by joining "working groups" appropriate to their expertise, interest, and availability, as these groups emerge.

**Synagogue representatives** will serve as the liaison between BJEN and their respective synagogue, promoting the work of the network in the synagogue as well as serving as a catalyst for the synagogue's efforts in becoming and remaining certified as a Green Synagogue.

**Organizational representatives** will serve BJEN and member synagogues as resources to assist in the success of the network's environmental efforts.

BJEN itself will be empowered to undertake community-wide programs and projects as deemed appropriate by its members-in-good-standing. Such programs include:

- ✧ An annual environmental legislative briefing at the start of our state legislative session
- ✧ Programs on Jewish environmental education and ethics
- ✧ Partnering with other [environmental] organizations
- ✧ Coordinating local synagogues to achieve designated environmental goal

Participating synagogues will commit to:

- ✧ Appointing designated member and/or staff to represent the synagogue at BJEN;
- ✧ Securing Board support for BJEN affiliation;
- ✧ Selecting the synagogue's top environmental priorities for the first few years;
- ✧ Implementing two environmental programs in the first two years;
- ✧ Consulting with network chairperson or liaison to consult on experiences and progress and to assess how network might further assist synagogue's efforts; and
- ✧ Assisting with resources, volunteers, and expertise to help the network's Working Groups and programs achieve success whenever possible and feasible.