

The TRS Green Team committee was formed in 2007 amid growing congregational interest in addressing environmental issues, and in response to Rabbi Schwartzman's specific urging for TRS membership involvement in activities having a positive impact on energy consumption, protecting the environment, and addressing the human impact on global climate change.

**Goals.** The Green Team seeks to incorporate and apply Jewish values and teachings in the pursuit of environmental protection and climate change goals. The committee believes that caring for the planet, and repairing the harm done by the overuse of resources, are essential components of *Tikkun Olam*. The Green Team respects our responsibility as Jews to hand down from generation to generation (*l'dor v'dor*) not only our values and tradition, but also to hand to future generations a healthy and sustainable world. The committee recognizes that changes in the use and distribution of scarce energy resources may disproportionately affect the most economically vulnerable in our society, and we therefore seek, within the broader tradition of Jewish social justice, to balance the pursuit of environmental policies with actions which mitigate any such adverse impact.

**Organization and Activities.** As originally envisioned by Rabbi Schwartzman and those participating in the early organizational stages, the general areas of activities and interests addressed by the Green Team and its members include:

1. The synagogue building and physical plant. Green Team members, with the assistance, guidance, and cooperation of the Temple Administrator, are involved in assessing energy usage, energy efficiency, and resource consumption in the TRS building with the goal of reducing consumption and thus our "carbon footprint."

2. Education and outreach. The Green Team sponsors congregational-wide educational and informational activities, including lectures, forums, and films about the environment and climate, energy usage, the possibility of alternative energy sources for businesses or homes, and providing suggestions for reducing personal energy consumption in the home or office. Members also interface with the religious school to promote educational programs about the environment as part of the curriculum.

3. Community action and advocacy. The Green Team members, in cooperation with other faith-based organizations, local inter-faith groups, and local non-profit climate and environmental organizations, seek to have a positive impact on the community by advancing public policies and programs which promote renewable and clean energy alternatives, reverse environmental degradation, and address the human impact on global warming.

**Operation.** The Green Team operates as an ad-hoc committee under the general umbrella of the Social Action Committee. Our clergy liaison has been Rabbi Saxe. Green Team membership and meetings are open to all congregants, and broad participation is sought. Minutes of Green Team meetings are available by e-mail to any interested congregant who requests them. Decisions on actions, programs, and activities that the Green Team will pursue are based on the consensus of Green Team members, with active consultation and advice sought from TRS clergy and staff.