



Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County



8215 Old Georgetown Rd
Bethesda MD 20814
(301) 652-5158
www.bethelmc.org
Synagogue
Member since March 2021

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Learn about our commitment to the environment at
<https://www.bethelmc.org/community/social-action/green-tikkun-committee/>

Environmental Team

We call our team the Green Tikkun Committee. Tikkun is a Hebrew word that means repair. The Green Tikkun Committee is trying to “repair” the synagogue by increasing its sustainability and reducing or eliminating harm to the environment. Our team is made of volunteers from members of our synagogue. The team has a chair. There is an annual meeting each year and other informal meetings throughout the year as needed.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

When disposable foodware items are necessary, we purchase compostable items and put out a well-marked bin so the items will be composted, along with food scraps.

Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

Once a year, we host an event where our members can drop off their hazardous items for proper disposal. We do not charge to our members.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

We use washable dishes, bowls, cups, and utensils at events with food whenever possible.

Recycling

Well-marked recycling bins are located around the building where people would likely need to dispose of these items. We collect the following materials.

*mixed paper,
aluminum foil products,
metal cans and tins,
glass bottles and jars,
plastic bottles*

Composting

Well-marked composting collection bins are located around the building where people would likely need to dispose of these items. We collect the following:

*food waste,
compostable cups,
compostable plates,
compostable bowls,
compostable napkins,
compostable utensils*

Energy

Energy Efficiency

We maintain a spreadsheet with the number kWh of electricity used each month. With this data, we have a year-over-year chart that makes it clear when electricity usage is significantly greater than the same month in previous years and investigate and ameliorate the variance as appropriate.

Renewable Energy

We have purchased 100% wind power through our utility. This amounts to approximately 434,000 kWh per year.

Transportation

Efficient Business Travel

When multiple employees are going to the same destination, we encourage them to take one vehicle rather than multiple vehicles.

Water

Water Conservation

We maintain a spreadsheet with the number of gallons of water used each month. With this data, we have a year-over-year chart that makes it clear when water usage is significantly greater than the same month in previous years and investigate and ameliorate the variance as appropriate.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- We are a [Montgomery County Green Business](#) as certified by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. We were the first synagogue with that certification in the county. We are recertified approximately every three years.

Profile Updated January 2023



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

