



## 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



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[www.bethelmc.org](http://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.*

## 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*

**Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction**

*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.*

## 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.



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

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

