

Offsetting Travel



Travel to and from your event by your guests could be the biggest contributor to the carbon footprint of your event.

Be sure to provide information on carpooling and public transportation for local guests.

Consider giving green door prizes for people who use public transportation to your event. Check out www.greenhotels.com to identify green hotels in the Bay Area for your guests.

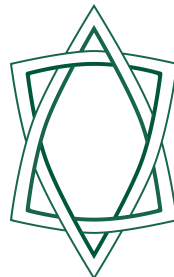
Use a single location for your event and reception so guests only have to walk from the ceremony to the reception. If you need to use two locations, use a shuttle service to reduce parking needs and car emissions.

- www.evrental.com
- www.evolimo.com

And if you want to “offset” the travel related carbon emissions of your guests’ travel, check out these websites:

- www.climatetrust.com
- www.nativeenergy.com
- www.Terrapass.com

Green Emanu-El



Environmental Stewardship

Is your Celebration **Green?**



Not exactly what we mean...

Greening your Simcha at Temple Emanuel

There are many ways to reduce the environmental impact and carbon footprint of your celebration at Temple Emanu-El.

This brochure provides suggestions for making your event kind to the planet while creating a festive and meaningful celebration.

**Make a lasting impression on your guests...
not on the earth!**

Choose a Green Caterer



What you choose to eat, where the food comes from and how you serve it has a huge impact on the environment. Temple Emanu- El has recently added two green caterers – Blue Heron Catering (www.blueheroncatering.com) and Global Gourmet Catering (www.ggcatering.com)– to the list of preferred vendors for your convenience. Base your menu around local, organic and seasonal foods and beverages such as free-trade and shade grown coffee and organic wines.

If you are not able to use a green caterer, consider vegetarian selections and seek out cruelty-free meats and wild, rather than farmed, fish.

Have your caterer (or you) provide washable or recyclable dinnerware, flatware and drinkware. Make sure they have the ability and willingness to recycle cans and bottles and suggest that their food scrapings go to composting.

Go Green and Save Green on Invitations

The greenest invitation is the paperless one.

Use a website or e-vite to manage your event and RSVPs. We recognize, however, that important lifecycle events need to be memorialized and for some, only a paper invitation will do. Here are a few suggestions on how to lessen the impact of your invitations if a paperless system is not your preference.

- Select recycled, handmade, or plantable papers processed chlorine-free and printed with vegetable- or soy-based inks.
- Choose tree-free paper made out of hemp, banana stalks, bamboo, kenaf or organic cotton.
- Select a printer whose shop uses environmentally-friendly papers with a high percentage of post-consumer recycled content or FSC certified.
- Make sure to use papers that are not metallic or plastic-coated, characteristics that make them hard to recycle.
- Take advantage of opportunities to reduce paper use, like omitting tissue and sending a postcard for your save the date (instead of multi-enveloped notes). There are also many creative one-piece invitation styles.
- Manage your RSVPs electronically to avoid printing RSVP postcards.



Eco-Centerpieces, Decor & Gifts

The finishing touches are an important part of every celebration. Use these creative suggestions to help you develop the look and feel that you want.

- Create unique centerpieces of items that can be donated to various non-profits (i.e. non-perishable food items, children's books, school supplies)
- Use sustainable food boxes from Capay Farms (www.farmfreshtoyou.com) and let one lucky guest from each table take home a box of delicious organic produce
- Opt for organic flowers and find a florist who is diligent about recycling packaging and will source locally raised flowers
- Select beeswax or soy-based candles over those made with paraffin, a petroleum byproduct
- Use leaves or other natural objects as place cards.

If you are creating a gift registry for your celebration, consider the following ideas:

- Ask for gifts to charity instead of material goods (www.justgive.org)
- Register with stores that offer local, fair-trade, handmade, organic, or other ecofriendly products like Branch, Gaiam, Greenfeet, GreenSage, Ten Thousand Villages, Uncommon Goods, or VivaTerra
- Create a custom wish list of ecofriendly items like a fresh-produce subscription (www.farmfreshtoyou.com) from a local farm, organic gardening supplies, organic linens, park and museum passes, gift certificates to organic restaurants, and subscriptions to green publications or memberships in green causes.

If favors are your choice, here are eco-conscious ideas:

- Gourmet organic chocolates or another organic or local food item
- Attractive fabric bags of fresh or dried organic herbs
- Seeds in a commemorative container
- Reusable cloth tote bags
- A small plant
- Natural soaps
- Soy or beeswax candles
- A compact fluorescent lightbulb
- A downloadable playlist of your favorite songs
- A small charitable donation in each guest's name
- Place cards made of seeded paper that can be planted at home.

Additional on-line resources:

- www.greenbarmitzvahs.com
- www.ecoimprints.com
- www.changingthepresent.org
- www.thegreenbrideguide.com
- www.greenzebra.com

