

Temple Beth Rishon, through our environmental committee “T’Green Olam”, would like to help you reduce your monthly energy bills and help clean up the environment at the same time! Here’s how:

One of the most cost effective ways to save energy **at home** is also among the least expensive **to install**: programmable thermostats. If your home is not equipped with them **we would like to provide you with the opportunity to upgrade your current system by having programmable thermostats installed in your home.**

To help the TBR community take advantage of this upgrade we **hope to gather a group of homeowners** who are all interested in upgrading. Since each installation job is very small, this aggregation will create economies of scale, lowering costs for homeowners and **a more lucrative opportunity for a contractor.** If response is strong enough, we will explore the possibility of additional savings by purchasing **the actual** thermostats directly from a manufacturer.

Programmable thermostats have the greatest impact on households where occupants are **out of the house** during the day. **However,** even if your house is occupied all day, everyone can benefit from programming a temperature setback during nighttime sleeping hours. The beauty of programmable thermostats is the seamless nature of saving energy and money. Set the program to lower the temperature of the house six or eight degrees, beginning 15 minutes before you leave in the morning. Program the next interval to return to your “normal” temperature half an hour before you return home. You will walk into a comfortable home with the benefit of savings from the hours the house was not occupied. You can program another setback for sleeping hours. Most programmable thermostats have programs for seven days of the week, so that you can set up a different program for each day.

If your house is regularly not occupied during daytime hours, this investment will probably pay you back through savings on your energy bills in roughly two months. If you use only one setback cycle the payback will probably be closer to one or two heating seasons. **A small upfront investment will continue to save you money over years to come.**

The final cost **of this program to you** will depend on the number of respondents **we get.** We currently guesstimate the price to be between \$95 to \$125 per thermostat, installed. Most homes have one or two thermostats, but larger homes with more complex systems may have more.

By participating you will take an active role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, reducing American dependence on foreign energy sources and **saving your family money** at the same time. The question really is, why wouldn’t you **want to do this?** To sign on send an email to templeoffice@bethrishon.org with the subject line “Tstat Initiative”. You may also call the TBR office and speak with Kris. The deadline for participation is December 20, 2007.