

TBR Energy Report

Good news for our community: Since March this year, through the work of our T'Green Olam Committee, our Temple has saved roughly \$6,000 – on 372 therms of natural gas and 31,205 kilowatt hours of electricity. If we simply compared the amount we spent on utility bills, between last year and this year (March-October), the number would be even higher at \$7574, but that includes savings from lower gas prices. Those savings also avoided 24 tons of CO2 emissions, the equivalent uptake of 120 trees*. For those interested in the numbers, the charts below give details of the calculations.

T'Green Olam has been busy at work on a wide range of initiatives, including our involvement with the GreenFaith Certification Program. In February, Committee members David Schwartz and Mark Niederman walked through our facilities to find ways to save energy. They came up with a number of energy saving ideas. Shortly thereafter, the board of trustees gave the green light to implement these ideas.

Energy saving initiatives began late February 2009. Percentage reductions are based on the amount of energy saved (kWh or therms), not dollar costs. Since prices vary, focusing on the amount of energy consumed, rather than the dollar amount on utility bills gives a more accurate picture of our savings.

Energy Source	Time Period	Total Usage	Total Expense	Avg Price	Energy Reduction
Gas: PSEG	March-Oct 08	5323 Therms	\$8746	\$1.64	372 Therms = 7.0%
	March- Oct 09	4951 Therms	\$5153	\$1.04	
Electricity: Rockland Electric	March- Oct 08	143,205 kWh	\$23,831	16.6¢	31,205 kWh =21.8%
	March- Oct 09	112,000 kWh	\$19,850	17.7¢	

“Normalized” pricing averages the price of energy. We multiply the amount used by a constant price for each commodity (one price for gas and one for electricity). The simple way to take this in is to say, “If prices were constant, since February this year we saved \$5851 over the same period last year.”

Factoring “Normalized” Pricing: Gas: \$1.34 / Therm; Electricity: 17.15¢ / kWh

	3/08 - 10/08	3/09 - 10/09	Savings
Gas	\$7133	\$6634	\$499
Electricity	\$24,560	\$19,208	\$5352

The full benefits of our energy reductions should be clearer to see as we move through the winter months (last year two thirds of our gas usage came between November and February). As part of the plan, in February 2009 Nancy Wellington began tracking monthly usage with actual meter readings so we can avoid “estimated” readings.

If you have any questions or comments on these efforts, or would like to participate in our T'Green Olam Committee, please email Mark Niederman at mniederman@earthlink.net or Harriet Shugarman at Aajhrs@aol.com

* Source: <http://www.carbonify.com/carbon-calculator.htm>