

Congratulation Beth Rishon! We have been chosen from over 40 houses of worship nationwide, to pilot GreenFaith's new Sanctuary Certification program. Beth Rishon is the only Jewish house of worship and one of 6 congregations, 5 from New Jersey and one from Illinois, to launch GreenFaith's new Certification Program. The next program deadline is September and GreenFaith is fielding requests for information from 100's of houses of worship, nationwide.

GreenFaith was founded in 1992 as *Partners for Environmental Quality* by Jewish and Christian leaders who believed that New Jersey's religious community needed an organization to connect diverse religious traditions with the environment. GreenFaith has evolved and grown, it is now working to create a community of interfaith organizations with a shared concern for the environment. GreenFaith is becoming recognized as national leader on environmental sustainability.

More and more religious institutions want to become environmental leaders. The *GreenFaith Certification Program* provides the support, resources and guidance to make this possible. Over 2 years, participating institutions carry out initiatives to integrate environmental themes into their worship, religious education, facility maintenance, and social outreach. In recognition for their accomplishments, these institutions earn certification as a *GreenFaith Sanctuary*.

How does the program work? The *GreenFaith Certification Program* empowers religious institutions to play their uniquely important leadership role in the development of an environmentally just and sustainable world. With their ordained leaders and governing board's endorsement, participating institutions form a Green Team. Team members mobilize their houses of worship to carry out:

- Religious education programs for children, teens and adults
- Environmentally oriented worship services
- A host of "green" facility management activities
- Education to help members "green" their consumption habits
- Environmental justice education and advocacy
- Collaboration with environmental groups and other houses of worship

In April, our Board of Trustees, with the endorsement and support of Rabbi Emert, adopted a resolution, committing our Temple to meet the requirements of the GreenFaith certification program. We were selected in early May as one of 6 congregations to pilot the program, and in early June were introduced to the program through GreenFaith's first webinar. All areas of the congregation will be involved in this process, Preschool, Hebrew School, youth group, clergy, and facilities. We will build on the work already accomplished by our T'Green Olam Committee, and move towards a more focused, and coordinated approach to sustainability. We will serve as leaders not only for the Jewish community at large but for our local interfaith community as well. We look forward to your support and involvement in this exciting journey! The T'Green Olam Committee will be meeting regularly in the fall. For more information, and to get involved, please contact Harriet Shugarman, 201 906 2675, or aajhrs@aol.com.