

## CORE PRINCIPLES of TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL'S ETHICAL KASHRUT COMMITMENT:

### SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE

Temple Beth Israel community's ethic for environmental stewardship and justice are derived from both traditional and contemporary Jewish principles:

1. **Stewardship (*Tikkun Olam*):** The diversity of life is sacred and should be protected because of its intrinsic value and the inter-connectivity of nature and humans. Humankind's unique place in the natural order is to safeguard ecological systems so that the diversity of life can thrive. In this way we are working to *repair the world*.
2. **Environmental Justice (*Tzedek Svivati*):** All people have the right to live, work, study, and play in environments free of dangerous air, water, or land pollution.
3. **Responsibility to Future Generations (*Bal Tashchit*):** Humankind has a solemn obligation to future generations to live within the ecological limits of the earth and not to waste our resources.
4. **Prevention of Harm (*Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayyim*):** Our actions should cautiously and prudently err in favor of protecting the life and health of humans and animals.
5. **The Common Good (*Tovat Ha'Klal*):** TBI has an obligation both to make decisions in the interest of the common good, and take the worth of the common good into account when doing economic analysis of policies and decisions.
6. **Moral Leadership (*Mitzvot*):** As environmental issues are ethical matters of personal and community responsibility TBI should take a leadership role in protecting the local environment and all creation. "Justice, Justice you shall pursue."

*"When the Holy One created the first human beings, G-d led them around the Garden of Eden and said; "Look at my works! See how beautiful they are, how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil or destroy My world – for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you."*

Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13

Through our direct actions TBI will:

1. **Educate our community about Ethical Kashrut and environmental stewardship so that, together, we act to repair the world.**
2. **Conserve Resources:** TBI will maximize our opportunities to reuse, recycle and to compost.
3. **Practice Sustainable and Non-Toxic Purchasing Policies:** TBI will make purchasing decisions that consider life cycle costs, long-term implications, and relative environmental and human health harm of products.
4. **Achieve Energy Independence:** To protect the environment and public health as well as promote world peace, TBI should adopt policies that wean us from our reliance on fossil fuels.
5. **Support Safe Working Conditions and Fair Treatment of Workers**
6. **Use Sustainable Landscaping Techniques:** TBI will promote sustainable landscaping practices, helping us "to till and to tend."