

NVHC Green Team Charter

Purpose

Jewish text and teachings demands of us to work toward a sustainable future for all humanity by living out the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedek* (justice), *derekh eretz* (civility and humanity), and *chesed* (mercy and kindness), among others.

To support NVHC's commitment to such values and work towards a sustainable future, the NVHC Green Team has the purpose of identifying and implementing specific solutions to reduce NVHC's carbon footprint, enhance sustainability and educate congregants of all ages on what they can do at NVHC, their homes, and businesses to reduce their individual carbon footprint.

The Green Team members will also serve as ambassadors, promoting sustainable initiatives and solutions throughout the different aspects of congregational life. The Green Team will not lead external advocacy efforts, but may coordinate initiatives with the Social Action Committee (SAC) and any of the organizations that NVHC works with (i.e., VOICE, Cornerstones, etc.)

Organizational Structure

The Green Team is a group of NVHC members, clergy and staff interested in sustainability activities within the NVHC community. The chair or co-chairs are nominated by the President and approved by the Board of Trustees. All congregants are invited to join the team, attend the meetings and participate on a regular or occasional basis. The Green Team Chair or Co-chair shall maintain an email list that includes the NVHC members who attend the meetings, the SAC Chair, and any other NVHC member who requests to be on the Green Team email list ("Green Team email list").

Reducing NVHC's carbon footprint and enhancing sustainability is an effort that involves almost all aspects of congregational life. Therefore, the Green Team is cross-functional and works in collaboration with various committees and taskforces, as well as with staff and clergy. Additionally, the Green Team will consult with the appropriate staff, clergy and board as needed.

The Green Team is a collaborative group of NVHC members, staff and clergy who are active in environmental and sustainability activities. Although working in a coordinated manner each Green Team member may lead initiatives and activities individually or as part of a sub-team.

Responsibilities

The Green Team focuses on a wide range of initiatives and programs. These activities fall into general areas such as the ones listed below, with examples of current and potential solutions and initiatives:

- Building efficiency, grounds & waste management
 - Reduction of energy and water use
 - Improvement of air quality

- Reduction of hazardous material use
- Sustainable grounds maintenance practices
- Single-use plastic reduction
- Recycling and composting programs
- Congregational life practices
 - Food sourcing and waste
 - Carpooling programs
 - Non-idling pickup
 - Sustainable sourcing of products
 - Biodiversity
- Education & Events
 - Preschool environmental education
 - Teen-led sustainability initiatives
 - Jewish inspiration and motivation for sustainability
 - Speakers from Fairfax County sustainability office
 - Hazardous waste/e-waste collection event
 - Recycling plant visits
 - Resources for congregants

Meeting and Decision Making

The Green Team may discuss its activities and related issues by electronic or telephonic communications between some or all of its members. Meetings are held ad-hoc, and at least quarterly, either in-person or via webconference. Meeting dates will be announced to all on the Green Team email list and advertised via NVHC calendar.

The Green Team shall make its decisions regarding programs by informal consensus. Alternatively, if the Chair so elects, decisions may be obtained through a formal vote. If a vote is taken, all who attend meetings or who participate in the Green Team email list are permitted to vote.

Decisions regarding the details of any program, how to publicize activities, and similar operational details, may be made by the Green Team Chair with such consultation with the members of the Green Team, SAC Chair, clergy or staff as the Chair deems appropriate.

Responsibilities of the Green Team Chair

The responsibilities of the Chair shall include:

- 1) Leading the committee—recruiting volunteers, organizing meetings, etc.

- 2) Providing updates on activities at the SAC meeting, and Board of Trustees meetings, as necessary.
- 3) Coordinating with SAC regarding any advocacy efforts taken by the SAC and informing the Green Team of such SAC efforts.
- 4) Representing the Green Team at Committee Council meetings.
- 5) Working with the SAC Chair to ask for support of Green Team initiatives from the SAC Tikkun Olam Designated Donor Fund.
- 6) Monitoring expenditures of the Green Team to ensure compliance with its budget.
- 7) The Chair may designate one or more members of the Green Team to carry out any of these responsibilities.