

The original *One For Each Night: A Program for CFL Replacement Bulbs*, was conceived and created in 2003 at Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta and is an ongoing project of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light.

Adaptations were made for the Greater Baltimore's "*Give the Green Light to Chanukah*" campaign for 2008 which encourages not just CFL usage, but other ways to reduce energy consumption.

Initial inspiration from:

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life's 2002 "Light Unto the Nations" Chanukah resources

2003 Original Writers and Editor:

Daniel Cohan, Bill Witherspoon, Rabbi Joshua Lesser, and Bill Witherspoon

2008 Adaptations:

Jessica Weinberg, Director of Programming at Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center & BJEN Liaison.



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One for Each Night: A New Chanukah Ritual for a Sustainable Future



"Give the Green Light for
Chanukah!"

A project of the Baltimore Jewish
Environmental Network at Pearlstone with
Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light

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Happy Chanukah! It is fitting that you have chosen to celebrate the holiday of lights by reducing your energy consumption each night.

On Chanukah, the miraculous tale of the small amount of oil that burned for eight long days stands for the great miracle of Judaism surviving from generation to generation.

In the same way, the miraculous effect of a small reduction of energy usage in each household can lead to the greater miracle of ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy the blessings of cleaner air and water, a reduction of toxins, and less dependence on foreign fuels.

To best enjoy your celebration, and to make your ritual most meaningful and educational for your family, use your kit each night as follows:

1. Determine which project you would like to take on each evening. Some projects require more of a time commitment than others, so choose the one that best suits your schedule.
2. Light your Chanukah candles for the evening.
3. Read the blessing and educational materials that correspond with your chosen project. We suggest that family members take turns reading aloud.
4. Follow the included instructions to complete the selected project as a family.
5. If you display an electric menorah in your window, light an LED bulb for each night to reduce the menorah's energy consumption by 300 percent!

To get even more out of this experience, visit www.BJEN.org and click on "Greenlight" to find links to steps to protect the Earth for future generations.

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By the light of your Chanukah Candles you may sit and imagine that the benefits to the planet would be huge if every home reduced their energy consumption as you have. You may also suspect that these benefits are only a fraction of the changes needed to pass along the planet in as good a shape as you received it. You are right on both counts.

Throughout history, people like the Maccabees have sacrificed so their children might have a better life. In recent decades we have strayed from this path. Why do we go on burning up assets that belong to the future for the sake of a moment's convenience?

We don't believe our habits are causing a problem. We assume that the planet is a boundless source of nourishment and sink for waste. We believe the alternatives require too much sacrifice. We ignore technologies like CFLs. We assume that a less car-oriented lifestyle would inconvenience us rather than improving the quality of life. We don't think individuals can make a difference. We wait for leaders to make the first move.

The real goal of this kit has been to challenge these assumptions. If

this energy reduction kit has illuminated you and stimulated a quest for further enlightenment, you can continue with links on

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Embrace the Silence for a Day

A Gift for the Future

Pledge a day, perhaps Shabbat. Turn off everything. No TV, no radio, MP3's or ring tones, no car. Spend time with friends and family. In your mind, wrap a present in your best Chanukah gift wrap, and set it aside to be opened a hundred years from now. A generation that can put them to better use will open the presents you decided to leave in the ground: 4 gallons of petroleum and 11,500 cubic feet of natural gas. If civilization exists a hundred years from now, it will be because people have learned to make peace with the natural systems on which we and all life depend. Such a civilization will have the know-how and the will to keep pollutants out of the biosphere, even as it uses petroleum's valuable organic molecules to make plastics and other synthetics. The post-fossil fuel civilization will live off solar and other renewable sources, but is expected to store and transport energy in the form of hydrogen. Quiet hydrogen fuel cells will replace the internal combustion engine, emitting only water vapor. As the cheapest source of hydrogen, natural gas can provide the bridge to the hydrogen economy. Saving natural gas can buy time to develop economical ways to extract hydrogen from water. Someday, people will be amazed that our generation burned up so much irreplaceable oil and natural gas, like burning the furniture to heat the house!

Blessed are You, Sustainer of Generations, who brings together parents and children. May we recognize that this earth will belong to those who will come after us, so that we may keep the earth as a vital gift that is eternal.



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Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Replacement

Clean Air

Mazel Tov – we all breathe a little easier because of the 8 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 43 pounds of sulfur dioxide you've kept out of Baltimore's air! The power plants that produce electricity for your light bulbs also produce some of the pollutants that contribute to smog and haze. A smog alert warns that the air near the ground contains too much ozone. Ozone is a confusing gas: the naturally-occurring "ozone layer," 15-30 miles above Earth, shields us from skin-cancer causing solar rays; however, nitrogen oxides (NOx) from cars and power plants react with natural gases to form ozone "smog" near the ground, where it irritates the lungs, triggers asthma, and damages crops and trees. For ozone, just remember "good up high, bad nearby." Ozone is an invisible gas, but the haze obscuring a skyline is made of microscopic particles known as particulate matter (PM). PM is formed in the atmosphere from gases such as NOx and sulfur dioxide (SO2) which are emitted by power plants and cars. The particles are sufficiently small that they can penetrate into the lungs and potentially damage the lungs and heart. The EPA is developing tougher standards on PM because of increased concern about its effect on health.

Blessed are You, Spirit of the World, Who has given us the gift of life through breath. May we be able to continue to breathe in fresh, clean air, reminding us of humanity's creation.



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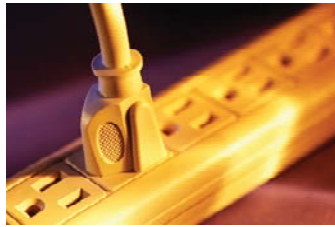


Unplug your Unused Chargers

A Nuclear Genie Back in the Bottle

You have helped ease the nuclear genie back into the bottle, by not buying 658 kWh of nuclear-generated electricity. In the 1950's, nuclear electricity was pitched as "Atoms for Peace" and an energy source that eventually would be "too cheap to meter". Today, nuclear still accounts for only 8% of the U.S. energy mix. Largely due to the cost of safeguards, nuclear electricity is more costly than coal, oil, gas, or wind. As for peace, more than one nation has used nuclear electricity to cloak nuclear weapons programs. Through the Price-Anderson Act, the U.S. government continues to insure utilities against nuclear accident. How big an accident could be was shown in 1986 when a meltdown at Chernobyl in Ukraine severely contaminated an area larger than Greater Baltimore, and spread radiation detected as far away as North America. Nuclear wastes remain deadly for thousands of years. Even if wastes can eventually be stored till they are harmless, transporting wastes from reactors to storage presents a risk. Today, mounting problems with fossil fuels have prompted talk of a comeback for nuclear energy. But by reducing electricity use, we resist having to choose between questionable alternatives.

Blessed are You, Source of Life, Who has given us the ability to destroy life and sustain life. Teach us to use our power to support life and growth and to refrain from harm of the earth and other beings.



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Bathroom Faucet Aerator

A Clean Water Cycle

Tonight, celebrate protecting the water cycle both by using less water and by generating less waste water. Sewage plants produce an alphabet soup of pollutants – CO₂, NO_x, SO₂, Hg, PM, – when they burn coal and other fuels to run their systems. Two of these gases – nitrogen oxide (NO) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) – react in the atmosphere to form acids, and fall to the ground as "acid rain." Winds can carry the pollution hundreds of miles, and the effects depend on where the acids eventually deposit. In forests, excessive acid weakens trees by leaching soils of their nutrients and minerals. In cities, acid rain damages statues, buildings, and cars. In lakes and streams, the damage is twofold: acid rain can make waters too acidic for sensitive fish and plants to survive, while excess nitrogen deposition can "fertilize" algal blooms that deplete the waters of oxygen.

Blessed are You, living waters, Who grants rain in its seasons. Help us preserve the lakes, rivers, oceans and all bodies of water, so that all beings can depend on water's sustenance for life.



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Reusable Shopping Bag

A Safe Food Chain

They accompany us home each time we shop. They swirl about our oceans, they cling to our trees, they're consumed by animals. Each year across the world some 500 billion plastic bags are used, and only a tiny fraction of them are recycled. Plastic shopping bags can last up to a thousand years in a landfill. In the environment, they break down into tiny, toxic particles that become part of the soil and water. Plastic bags, and other plastic refuse that ends up in the ocean, kills up to one million sea creatures every year, such as birds, whales, seals, sea turtles, and others. And the number of marine mammals that die each year because of eating or being entanglement in plastic is estimated at 100,000 in the North Pacific Ocean alone. Six pounds of plastic for every single pound of zooplankton floats in the ocean. This means, when birds and sea animals are looking for food, they are finding plastic instead. About 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. The enormous demand for plastic bags ties into the surging global demand for oil -- plastic bags are made from ethylene, a petroleum byproduct. In the US alone, 12 million barrels of oil are used annually to make plastic bags. The best alternative is reusable bags. By substituting a reusable bag, each consumer can save hundreds and perhaps thousands of plastic bags each year.

Blessed are You, Nurturing One, who partners with us to bring nourishment through food. May we eat our fill and become more sensitive to the balance of all creatures on earth.



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Outlet Insulator

Bountiful Land

Pause tonight to picture the abundant and complex life in a mountain forest or stream. Visualize a 1.6 square foot patch of West Virginia forest, undisturbed by coal mining because of the coal you decided not to burn. In Appalachia, coal miners are losing jobs – not because utilities are burning less coal, but because a smaller workforce can do the work using bigger machines. The larger scale of mining also takes a bigger bite out of the landscape. The most stunning version of this is called mountaintop removal. In West Virginia, layers of coal often lie not far below the top of flat-topped mountains. With gargantuan earth moving equipment (and cheap diesel fuel!) it is not difficult to remove the “overburden” to get at the coal. But what if the overburden includes the forest home of plants and animals? And where will all that rock go as the landscape is reshaped? Reclamation laws are sometimes ignored, but even when they are followed, a diverse ecosystem has been replaced by a few grass species, and mountain headwaters lie buried under piles of rock that can release acid downstream. Ironically, some of these windswept sites are being considered as locations for the wind turbines that someday will help make coal obsolete.

Blessed are You, the Ancient One who created the earth in its beauty. Grant us the foresight to respect the land that we have been given by working to conserve its natural beauty.



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Tire Pressure Monitor

A More Peaceful World

People take up arms for many reasons. The Maccabees fought to protect religious freedom. You have helped to end a less noble reason used by political leaders to justify war, by sparing two gallons of oil from being imported. U.S. oil production peaked in 1970, and the US Geological Survey estimates that 89% of world oil reserves lie elsewhere - 40% in the Middle East, 15% in the former Soviet Union, and 34% in other countries, first among them Mexico and Venezuela with about 4% each. The U.S. now imports 54% of its oil. Guaranteeing access to Kuwaiti oil was given as a reason for the 1991 U.S. war with Iraq. In a few decades or less, world oil production, too, will have peaked. What will happen when there is no longer enough oil to meet wasteful demands? Will people finally wake up to the need to use energy efficiently? One can hope. Or will there be wars to control the remaining oil? You can probably think of other ways to change your transportation habits to reduce the oil you burn, but just keeping tires properly inflated can save dozens of times as much oil as you expend when tires are low. By your energy-saving actions, you help lead the way to kicking the oil habit, before it kicks us.

Blessed are You, Who spreads the canopy of peace over the four corners of the Earth. Guide us in the pursuit of peace and wholeness throughout the world.



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Window Caulk

Stabilized Climate

Envision a world not facing a sudden, human-induced shift in climate. Sense that world becoming a little more real as you spare the air 3 ½ tons of CO2 your heating fuel, whether oil, electric, or natural gas, would otherwise have produced. Whenever a fuel is burned – oil in a furnace, coal in a power plant, or even candles in a menorah – the vast majority of the exhaust is carbon dioxide (CO2). At first glance this would appear benign: CO2 is naturally exhaled with every breath, is harmless to human health, and without it, plants could not survive. However, CO2 accumulates in the atmosphere for decades, acting as a thickening blanket or “greenhouse” to hold in more of the Earth’s warmth. Global average temperatures have already risen by about a degree, and most climate experts believe that temperatures will continue to rise as fossil fuel burning injects more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Warmer temperatures may not seem like a bad thing on a cold Chanukah night. But other effects of a warmed planet – hotter summers, melting glaciers, coastal areas flooded by rising seas or intensified storms, forests and coral reefs not able to adapt to changing temperatures – would not be so welcome. Many of the effects and their severity are still unknown, making global warming akin to a worldwide science experiment whose outcome remains uncertain.

Blessed are You, Creator of all worlds, Who with wisdom created our world in a delicate balance. Let us respect how every being and every act connects us as one life.



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