



MASORTI ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE



Congratulations! Joining the cohort of Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer is an essential first step in guiding your organization's commitment to sustainable values and practices. Below is a checklist of ways that can help you pursue your goals. No one person or organization can do it all. Select those tasks and goals that are most appropriate for you:

Internal Operations:

___ [Establish a team](#) to support and guide you. (3-5 members could be enough; look for people representing a mix of influence, passion, and follow-through)

___ Speak with organizational heads, both professional and lay, about your plans, and ask about their sustainability goals for your organization and suggestions for additional team members.

— Create a mission statement and set of short-term (and if possible long-term) goals for your team. (see outline for a Yishuv Olam - preserving the world - Earth Charter)

___ Set the establishment of the CSO position as a member of the management team and/or board of your organization as a primary goal.

___ Write a short job description for the CSO position in your organization. ([See here for ideas.](#))

___ Set a regular time for team meetings at least once every month or two. (Set a default of a year's worth of meetings. You can always adjust.)

___ Make presentations to your Board. (Have your board set a calendar of regular presentations focusing on organizational sustainability.)

___ Create and distribute an annual report highlighting progress, programs, issues and if possible, recognizing and celebrating the individuals who have made success possible.

__ Add a statement expressing your organization's commitment to sustainability to your mission statement or pass a board resolution.

__ Establish a budget line for sustainability projects and/or a fund for contributions dedicated to greening.

__ Institute a practice of reviewing your energy usage at a monthly meeting of the staff, facility committee, or board of directors.

__ Add a commitment to greening or Jewish environmental stewardship to the standard job description or hiring notice.

__ Store records of this team's activities and all sustainability efforts in organizational records so they will be easy for others – especially successor CSOs - to find.

__ Research and connect with organizations serving your area, or your local government or utility provider, to understand what resources are available for free/what funding is available to support green initiatives.

Community:

__ Establish sustainability protocols with and for your organization. (Invite and involve members of your organization to draft such [sustainability protocols](#).)

__ Establish an annual event such as a Tu B'shvat Seder, Earth Day Fair, Parshat Noah Oneg Shabbat, etc. Put it on the calendar now for next year.

__ Add Jewish environmental education units and topics in the formal written curriculum of your school, religious school, camp, after-school program, or adult education program.

__ Encourage youth group members to do one environmentally-focused project a year.

Communication:

__ Institute a regular sustainability column or green tip in your newsletter or other communication vehicle.

__ Ensure rabbi or president often shares sustainability actions and activities and gives accolades to participants in Shabbat address from the pulpit.

__ Add a sustainability section - and your mission statement - to your website that includes a timeline of your sustainability accomplishments.

__ Create awards and incentives for sustainability practices or individual accomplishments and celebrate publicly.

__ Share about your sustainability wins in your local Jewish community news.