

## TRAVEL

---

- Encourage carpooling
- Purchase or provide the information for your guest to purchase carbon offsets for the travel to your event. The JNF Go Neutral program is one of source to off-set your carbon emission.

## DECORATIONS/ CENTERPIECES

---

- Consider centerpieces which can be donated or re-used; toys, canned food, books, etc.
- Flowers – use plants instead of pre-cut flowers so they can be given to guests/special people.
- If using flowers, before your event arrange a place to take them such as nursing homes or senior centers.
- Consider re-usable table linens first; paper next. Avoid plastic where possible, or choose plastic made with recycled content.
- If using balloons, consider latex first: make sure balloons are responsibly discarded after use.

## SUGGESTED WEB SITES

---

[www.greenbarmitzvahs.com](http://www.greenbarmitzvahs.com)  
[www.fairtradejudaica.com](http://www.fairtradejudaica.com)  
[www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com)  
[www.dinegreen.com](http://www.dinegreen.com)  
[treecycle.org](http://treecycle.org)  
[plantatreeusa.com](http://plantatreeusa.com)  
[greensimchaguide.org](http://greensimchaguide.org)

## DISCLAIMER

---

Throughout this brochure we have listed a number of web sites, vendors, etc. Please note that Beth Meyer Synagogue or the Beth Meyer Environmental Committee does not endorse these website, groups, or companies as we have not necessarily shopped at or worked with all of these people or organizations.

*A mention in this guide in no way implies an endorsement or recommendation from this committee or anyone else at Beth Meyer Synagogue.*

Please do your own “due diligence” - research and reference checking - when choosing people to contract with or products to purchase for your event.

*Above all, make sure you enjoy your Simcha. For if not, then all was done for naught.*

**Beth Meyer Synagogue  
Environmental Committee**  
504 Newton Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27615-6212  
Phone (919) 848-1920  
[www.bethmeyer.org](http://www.bethmeyer.org)

*Printed on Post-Consumer recycled content paper*

## GREENING YOUR SIMCHA

---

*Beth Meyer Synagogue*



*Environmental Committee*



# YOUR SPECIAL DAY

As you plan to celebrate your special lifecycle events, please keep in mind that your celebration also has an impact on our environment. This guide is just the starting point to help you increase your positive impact on the world around you as you celebrate the significant milestones in your life. Please note that this brochure is not a comprehensive guide, but a beginning on your “green simcha” journey.

## KIPPOT

---

A big part of any B’nai Mitzvah and weddings:

- Buy kippot made from recycled materials (such as paper), or fair trade sources. Fair Trade Judaica can point you in the right direction of some vendors. Also you can search for recycled kippot with your favorite search engine.
- [www.fairtradejudaica.org](http://www.fairtradejudaica.org)
- [www.a-zara.com](http://www.a-zara.com)



## FAVORS

---

- Consider an environmental alternative with a message, i.e., reusable water bottles filled with treats, environmental message t-shirts, etc.
- Edible favors are another way to go. Consider chocolate, candies, etc. things that are eaten and therefore not thrown away.
- Make a donation in guests' name to a personally meaningful cause, or plant a tree in their name

## FOOD

---

If you have been to any event, you know that food is the main attraction. The fear of running out of food often leads to an over abundance of leftovers and many ways to green your food choices exists.

- Buy local and/or organic food.
- Work with your caterer for the leftovers to be donated to the synagogue Hessed Committee or local food banks.
- Recycle cans/plastic bottles/glass that is used.
- Skip menus/course listings on each table
- Consider using reusable plates/utensils (Beth Meyer has a collection of reusable plates and utensils that you can use for your event).
- If you choose not to use reusable place settings consider using biodegradables such as paper, corn, or sugar cane based materials. Please Do Not Use Styrofoam.
- If using paper products, consider using paper products that come from forest with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.
- Reduce the amount you need. Do you really need plates for the hor’dourves, or will napkins suffice?
- Compost your food waste, have a separate container for guests to place their organic waste in and take it home with you or work with a local business such as your caterer or a composting business to compost it into rich organic material.
- Bring containers to take the leftovers home. After a big event, one often does not feel like cooking, so here is your chance to eat delicious food without doing much.

## INVITATIONS/THANK YOU

---

- Print invitations on recycled paper with the maximum amount of post-consumer content available.
- Find a printer that uses low-toxic dyes or soy-based ink.
- Print double-sided whenever possible.
- Encourage guests to recycle invitations.
- Avoid foil-lined or plastic envelopes as they cannot be recycled.
- Consider postcard style invitations.
- Ask for replies via phone or email rather than including a separate reply card.
- Consider eliminating paper invitations altogether and using an on-line invitation program such as Evite. You can use Evite for the main event, for events surrounding the main event or as a "Save-the-Date" reminder.

## BOOKLETS

---

B’nai Mitzvah Program booklets are often used to recognized important people, to identify things happening, etc. With this in mind, consider printing on recycled paper with the maximum amount of post-consumer content possible and soy-based inks. Also, only print as many as the people who are coming so to reduce waste and take home leftovers for recycling.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

---

- Recycle as much as possible.
- [www.raleigh-nc.org](http://www.raleigh-nc.org)
- [www.wakegov.com/recycling](http://www.wakegov.com/recycling)