

Torch Award Submission: **TA11-040**

- Full Title of Entry: Green Committee
- Entry Category (You can select up to 2, although you will only win in one): Shomrei Ha'aretz.
- Contact Person: Dave Roseman
- Email address for Contact Person: djroseman@msn.com
- Club number & Club name: 303 – Men's Club of Tifereth Israel
- Number of club members: 110
- Synagogue name, city and state: Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH
- Club President name (at time of entry): Bill Chronister
- Club President name (at time of convention): Bill Chronister
- Person preparing entry: Bill Chronister
- Email address of person preparing: wtchron@gmail.com

Part II. Summary Information (2 – 3 sentences):

Encouraged by the FJMC's Shomrei Ha'aretz program, The Men's Club of Tifereth Israel first asked our member, David Roseman, to perform an audit of our synagogue's use of technology to reduce its ecological footprint. We used that audit to help our synagogue director to target ways to incorporate such activities in his daily administration of the shul. In the past six months, we've set up the Green Committee, with David at its head, as a stand-alone group working with the director.

Part III. By submitting this document, I certify, on behalf of the club, that this submission has not been submitted by our club for a Torch Award in a previous year.

So certified.

Part IV. Entry Documentation

The Green Committee hasn't been as difficult to start as one might expect, perhaps because member David Roseman is so passionate about the subject. When he learned about our efforts through FJMC's Shomrei Ha'aretz program starting with soy-based Shabbat candles and a proposal to install a solar-powered Ner Tamid, he asked whether we would be doing more. That led to a full-blown audit examining the synagogue's choices in trash collection, cleaning supplies, lighting systems, heating and air conditioning, and repair and replacement procedures.

With Men's Club running interference, David solicited the support of the synagogue Board of Trustees for a stand-alone Green Committee. He received permission in late fall and in meetings this winter has built the committee into a group of about 10 members. The committee has achieved several milestones: ending the use of styrofoam plates and cups in favor of glass, china and paper; working with the local waste-management authority and the janitorial staff to achieve a high degree of recycling and use of biodegradable materials; and replacement of most light bulbs with CFL's.

In future, it is expected that the Green Committee – although technically a spin-off, it remains under the control of the Men's Club – will begin to assist the building committee in ensuring that all changes to the physical structure of the synagogue will be made according to the highest ecological standards achievable at the time. The head of the building committee has agreed that this is a desirable common goal.