

Summary of Beit Am Sustainability Committee Accomplishments – February 2011- June 2019

2011

- New recycling station set up with resulting increase in recycling.
- Garden plan for front landscape drawn up and a work party followed later in the year. Garden debris was hauled to the BA property to compost. No herbicides were used – existing lawn was turned over, new plants put in, mulch added. Project came in under budget thanks to a grant and donations.
- Workshop at Shabbaton on “Your Money or Your Life”.
- Washable hand towels now in use in BA bathrooms.
- 300 stainless steel Kiddish cups purchased – no more plastic cups!

2012

- Native plants planted in early part of the year.
- Energy audit done. Incandescent bulbs were replaced with compact fluorescents, met with a lighting designer; volunteers installed new more efficient lighting in sanctuary.
- Garbage pickup reduced to every other week saving BA money.
- Compostable dishes and utensils purchased for off-site BA events
- Corelle dishes requested from members to have more reusable dishes available.
- Nontoxic dish soap bought for BA.
- Box of recycled paper toilet tissue and towels bought with 10% discount from Co-op.

2013

- BA community invited to see “Chasing Ice” at the Darkside – five folks came and we met for a discussion of the film afterwards.
- Bike racks installed at no cost to BA.
- Showed “Gasland” film on fracking – 10 BA folks came.
- Cleaned out BA shed and disposed of old paint and herbicides at hazardous waste day at Allied waste.
- New energy efficient and low water dishwasher installed.
- Workshop at Shabbaton on having a more eco efficient home.

2014

- Blue Sky option was implemented to cover our electrical use with renewable energy.
- “Do the Math” – a film on divestment from fossil fuel corporations – about 5 attended.
- Larry, Maureen, Dave are on the new building design committee to encourage sustainable design. Maureen and Dave gave a presentation on sustainability and building options.
- Interfaith service on climate change held at the First United Methodist Church in February. Two committee members participated in the planning of the service as well as in the service itself.
- BASC Charter is written and subsequently approved by the Board.
- BASC members began sending in sustainability tips for monthly newsletter.
- Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification received and signage installed.
- Bicycle workshop at BA – 8 people attended.
- Hanukah party – almost zero waste thanks to the efforts of a BASC member.

2015

- Sustainability plan for BA completed.
- Slides of BA’s sustainability efforts shown at the Sustainability Coalition’s Town Hall meeting.
- “Enough is Enough” presentation by author Rob Dietz April 21.
- Dave Rabinowitz gave a presentation on “Sustainability and the New Building” – well attended.

- Tour of James Reismuller's and Cassandra Robertson's energy efficient home (owners of Abundant Solar)
- Showed Naomi Klein's film – "This Changes Everything" – at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

2016

- Seeds for the Sol presentation on cost effective way to put solar on your home.
- Co-sponsored and co-organized "The Spirit, the Earth, and Human Earthlings: Multi-Religious Thought, Feeling and Action in Response to the Climate Crisis" – a community wide event (150 folks in attendance) featuring Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman.
- Beit Am Sustainability Committee is part of the Interfaith Climate Justice Committee – an interfaith group working on ways to reduce the effects of climate change. Beit Am member is chairperson of the group.
- Beit Am Sustainability Committee supported resolution from the Interfaith Climate Justice Committee to support the Native Americans who are encamped in North Dakota trying to protect their sacred land from the pipeline. There were 16 other co-sponsors and it was supported by the Corvallis City Council.
- Second showing of Naomi Klein's film – "This Changes Everything" – with a discussion afterwards.

2017

- Torah and Ecology class is offered as part of Beit Am Adult Education program.
- Waste reduction session was offered at Beit Am's retreat/Shabbaton.
- Sustainability events sent to listserv every month
- Continuing sustainability articles in the newsletter
- Organized Interfaith Climate Justice Committee to work with other faith communities on climate projects and advocacy
- BASC member helped on committee to get Blue Sky grant for solar on the new building
- Hosted a sustainable Oneg featuring local organic foods.

2018

- Efforts made by BASC members to promote composting food waste at Stone Soup
- A class on food waste and efficient cooking based on the book "The Everlasting Meal" was presented by Sara.
- Recycling signage changed to reflect changes in Republic's new policies.

2019

- Emergency Preparedness Workshop for BA members
- Continued monthly sustainability articles for Kol Ha'Am
- Workshop on the "Work That Reconnects" with 8 BA members attending
- Hazardous waste clean-up of the current building and waste taken to the Hazardous Cleanup Day at Republic Services
- BASC represented on the Landscape Design Committee for the new building
- Voluntary Simplicity workshop offered at May Shabbaton
- Sustainable Oneg featuring no plastics, local and organic food, and service had BASC member Joni Plotkin gave the D'var Torah