

Climate for Community



Profile: Congregation Emanu-El

San Francisco's Congregation Emanu-El is one of the largest synagogues and community centers on the West Coast with a membership of more than 2,700 households. Committed to the Judaic principle of environmental stewardship, Emanu-El saved more than \$15,000 in refuse and electricity bills through lighting upgrades, recycling and composting in 2007. With planned water fixture upgrades, Emanu-El will avoid 40 tons of emissions annually.



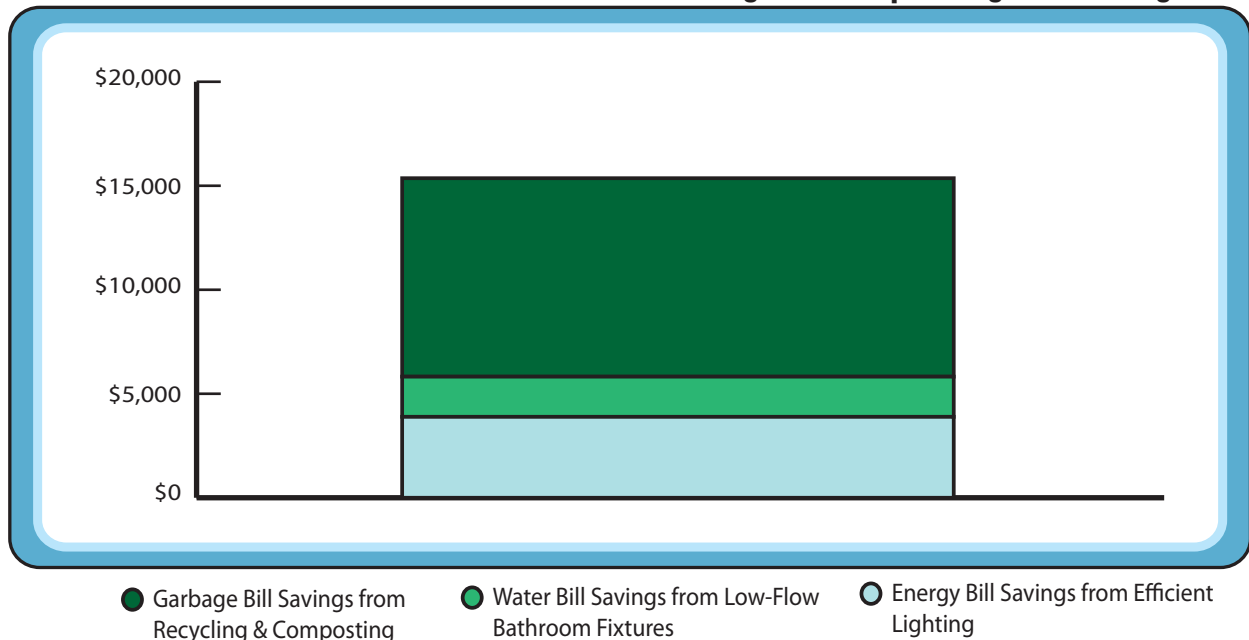
Employees	180
Patrons	130 children in preschool; 2,700 households
Facilities	Preschool, business offices, sanctuary
Emissions Reduction Measures	Lighting retrofits, waste management

Green Elements

- **Energy-Efficient Lighting** – In the first phase of a major lighting retrofit, Emanu-El replaced incandescent light bulbs, installed motion sensors and replaced inefficient magnetic ballasts with electronics ballasts in several classrooms. A full retrofit will save more than 24,000 kWh of electricity a year, reducing their electric bill by almost \$4,000 and avoiding more than 10 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Greener Events** – The congregation is looking for ways to minimize the environmental impact of the many celebrations they host by hiring green caterers, increasing composting and recycling, and eliminating bottled water use. To date Emanu-El has diverted more than half of its waste from landfill, saving \$800 per month, and plans to recycle or compost 75% of their waste in 2009. Add in the avoided use of 100 plastic water bottles each week – more than a ton of avoided greenhouse gas emissions annually – and Emanu-El is avoiding nearly 30 tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Less Waste Means Lower Operating Costs

Investments in Emissions Reductions Provide Significant Operating Cost Savings



Next Steps

Saving water – Emanu-El has four communal bathrooms. A water audit of their facilities indicates the facility will cut its water use in half, saving 300,000 gallons per year by replacing old bathroom fixtures with water-efficient toilets, urinals, and faucets. Using less water will save more than \$5,000 annually in water bills and avoid more than a ton of greenhouse gas emissions.

Fewer “cold starts” – To avoid parking tickets, congregation employees move their cars up to three times daily. Onerous parking restrictions result in unnecessary emissions from extra vehicle engine starts that could be eliminated by more flexible permitting policies and employer-specific transportation management plans.

Statewide Potential

Emanu-El’s potential water savings can be applied broadly throughout the commercial and residential sectors to achieve substantial greenhouse gas reductions. Water transport, purification and heating accounts for approximately one-fifth of the state’s electricity use; toilets alone are responsible for 11% of commercial, industrial and institutional water use. Because moving and heating water is very energy-intensive, conserving water significantly reduces emissions associated with electricity production, and diesel and natural gas combustion. For example, indoor commercial water use can be reduced by 670,000 acre-feet per year through water efficiency, an improvement that would avoid about 700,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate for Community: Good for the environment, families and small businesses.

Online at: www.edf.org/C4C and www.sfpower.org

Profiles produced by Environmental Defense Fund in collaboration with San Francisco Community Power. EDF and SF Power have partnered with households and small businesses to implement cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions and support green collar jobs in vulnerable communities.