



ENVIRONMENTAL PLEDGE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue # 3, March 2023

Outlined below are some actions you and your family can take in furthering Temple Shaaray Tefila's commitment to the environment.

Topic: Thread the Needle (Clothing)

Importance: What happened to the needle and thread? Wearing your clothes over and over? Natural fibers? Fast Fashion began about 30 years ago, where fashion trends are mass produced with cheaper textiles, to be worn and discarded.

Consequences:

- The fashion industry is the world's 3rd largest polluter, releasing 10% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.
- 57% of unsold, discarded, and used clothing end up in landfills. There they slowly disintegrate, releasing methane gas. If landfills are full, the clothing is incinerated, thereby releasing toxic fumes.
- The textile industry uses fiber products that are grown using water and pesticides that may pollute the groundwater. Synthetic fibers also release microplastics into the ocean, affecting wildlife.

Here are some ways you can help:

This year, why not:

- wear an old sweater,
- avoid impulse clothing purchases,
- bring those bell-bottoms out from storage, they've gone back in style
- shop in for "new" clothes in a "resale shop" – they'll be "new" to you.

Reference Materials: Here are some resources to help you make your decisions on how and why it's important to think twice before buying new clothes.

<https://earth.org/statistics-about-fast-fashion-waste/#>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2022-fashion-industry-environmental-impact/>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20201208STO93327/the-impact-of-textile-production-and-waste-on-the-environment-infographic>

We hope you will pledge to commit to Plant a Tree or to any of the other actions we've proposed to you or which you've independently committed to. **Join us by [completing the Temple Shaaray Tefila Environmental Pledge](#) stating your commitment to the environment, if you're comfortable doing so.**

[Newsletter #1: Tips on Laundry](#)

[Newsletter #2: Plant a Tree](#)