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Greening Greene

Here at CFC, we pride ourselves on the strong, vibrant and healthy community that we create summer after summer. We also place a high value on being a place where children get to live in and interact with the natural world. It makes perfect sense for us to strive to bring sustainability into our practices & teachings here at camp; while we hope to experience the impact here at camp, we also hope that our campers will return home feeling empowered to do mitzvot, and armed with the tools to make the world a better place.

For several years now, as an institution we have been looking closely at our environmental impact, seeking out opportunities to reduce our "footprint."

- Camper and staff living spaces have been equipped with passive solar hot water heaters. These reduce the amount of electricity used for the electric water heaters.
- Camper and staff living spaces have been equipped with solar tubes. These allow natural light into the cabins, reducing the need to turn on lights during the daylight hours.
- We have installed motion-sensor light switches throughout all of our new buildings and will retrofit others as possible.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs have replaced all "regular" bulbs where possible.
- As part of the sustainability program, we operate an eco-farm and eco-garden. These increasingly emulate the programs at Kibbutz Lotan.
- Our maintenance staff is stockpiling scrap wood and materials from projects in an effort to re-use these items in other projects.

The area of biggest concern is our trash output. In spite of our recycling program, we are looking to be pro-active in dramatically reducing the amount of trash we generate.

The kitchen and dining hall are our biggest trash generators, and so this is where we have focused the most attention.

- In recent summers, we have reduced food waste by encouraging campers to "eat what you take", and expanding "best of the week" as a way to use up uneaten food before it goes bad and into the trash.
- This summer we will continue our composting program.
- We are striving to recycle as much of our cardboard as possible in landscaping and for programs.

We are very hopeful that with all of these steps, combined with a commitment from our camp community, we will significantly reduce the amount of trash coming out of the kitchen and dining hall.

We know that today's enthusiasm for "going green" is more than just a fad. Today's global challenges demand that we think and act differently, and our young people are leading the charge for change.

Jewish tradition places a high value on Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. At camp we teach and model this value in many ways. We believe that our efforts to "go green" will serve as another great example to our campers, our camp community, and the community-at-large.