

- DAY 1: Celebrate Shabbat without electricity.** Be traditional! Prepare a simple meal, eat Shabbat dinner by candlelight, and enjoy your low-tech evening together with conversation and song instead of computers and stereos.
- DAY 2: Insulate your hot-water heater.** The water heater is the second largest energy user in the American home. Give a gift to the future by insulating it with a pre-fab blanket (available at most hardware stores), making sure to avoid blocking the air vents on a gas heater.
- DAY 3: Give an environmentally friendly Hanukkah gift.** Bake someone a batch of cookies in Hanukkah shapes or cook soofganiot (jelly doughnuts). Get a gift that's useful and reusable: a travel mug, cloth bag, linen napkins, reusable lunchbox, etc. Make your own gift certificate or coupon. Buy someone an environmental book, a subscription to an environmental magazine, or a membership in an organization. Wrap the gift using recycled or homemade gift-wrap.
- DAY 4: Check for and seal any cracks or gaps in your home.** More energy is used for heating than for any other purpose in American apartments and houses. Caulk or weatherstrip any gaps or cracks in your home to save oil, gas, electricity, and heat, not to mention money.

- DAY 5: Stop unwanted junk mail.** The junk mail Americans receive in one day uses up enough energy to heat 250,000 homes. To reduce the amount of junk mail you receive, write to the Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512, or go to their web site: www.dmaconsumers.org/offmailinglist.html.
- DAY 6: Give Hanukkah gelt in the form of Tzedakah.** Give Tzedakah to a Jewish or environmental organization of your choice in honor of a friend or relative. "Adopt" an animal, plant a tree, or protect a piece of rain forest in their name.
- DAY 7: Adjust the settings on your major appliances.** Use the energy-saving settings on your refrigerator, dishwasher, washing machine, clothes dryer and thermostat. For more information, visit the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy at www.aceee.org, or the EPA Energy Star program at www.energystar.gov/congregations.
- DAY 8: Give a different kind of Hanukkah gift.** For a Tikkun Olam bonus, go through your closets and find old items that you can donate to those less fortunate as an act of reducing, recycling, and eco-justice.

This Hanukkah give gifts to nature and the future.

Traditional Blessings

בָּרַךְ אֶתְּהָּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, asher keed'shanu b'meeztvotav v'tzeevanu l'had'lik neir shel Hanukkah.

Praised are You, Ado-nai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy by mitzvot and instructed us to light the *Hanukkah* candles.

בָּרַךְ אֶתְּהָּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזַמַּן הַזֶּה

Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, she-asah neeseem la-avotaynu ba-yameem ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You, Ado-nai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors at this season in ancient days.

FIRST NIGHT ONLY:

בָּרַךְ אֶתְּהָּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהֶחְיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִנֵּיעָנוּ לְזַמַּן הַזֶּה

Barukh atah Ado-nai, Elo-haynu, melekh ha-olam, she-hecheyanu v'keey'manu v'heegeeyanu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You, Ado-nai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us to reach this day.

Let There Be Light: Readings from Tradition and Today

Compiled by Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

“And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:16-18)

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

“Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose lovingkindness extends eternally.” (Psalm 136:1,7)

May we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

“With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun’s] heat.” (Psalm 19:7)

May we stop over-heating Your creation, and learn instead to sustainably harness the power of the sun.

“Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned—the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine.

May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.