

# GREENING CHANUKAH 2019

A Toolkit for communities  
from Hazon Detroit



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Dear Rabbis, Green Team members, and community leaders in sustainability,

On behalf of the entire team at Hazon Detroit, we want to wish you and your community a happy early Chanukah, and offer ourselves as a resource to you as you begin to prepare for this wintery holiday season. As you know, Hazon is “the Jewish lab for sustainability.” As such, we see it as our task to help you, our community partners within the Metro Detroit Jewish community, be as “green” as possible in your organizational operations. What does it mean to be “green”?

Well, we see being “green” as reducing the amount of waste we put in the landfill, making conscious and ethical decisions around the food we serve, and generally taking steps to educate our communities around the importance of acting for a healthier and more sustainable planet for all. In the midst of our rapidly changing climate, we believe it is as important as any time in history to be going “green” as part of a large-scale, Jewishly-rooted shift in values and practice. And we are here to help you do that!

We know that many of your organizations celebrate Chanukah each winter. In the midst of your celebrations, have you ever paused to consider the environmental impact of your celebration? How much waste is produced at your festive event? Do you throw away your plates, compost them, or wash them? What went into producing the oil that you’ve been using to fry the latkes that you serve to gleeful and hungry guests? Because these are the questions that keep us up at night, we’ve decided to put together this handy toolkit to help your organizations make “greener” choices this year at Chanukah, with an emphasis on sustainable oil, because, well, Chanukah! And not only that, we’re willing to help you make it happen - through our local connections, our expertise and consultation, and even financial contributions. That’s how much this “green” stuff matters to us.

What you will find inside this packet are five steps we’re encouraging you take at your Chanukah events this winter, plus additional educational materials to be used as part of a wider “Greening Chanukah 2019” initiative. They are:

1. Using our 3-bin (compost, recycling, and trash) system.
2. Switching to compostable “paper” goods and utensils.
3. Disposing of your waste properly.
4. Frying your Chanukah treats in sustainable Palm Oil.
5. Giving us your used oil so we can refuel our Topsy Turvy bus.

Whether you choose to take on one, two, or all five of these practices, it’s all good, because we know that every drop (of oil), counts! Some of you may already do some of these practices. Great! Keep it up and let’s add a new one, too.

The great Chanukah miracle (the one that kids books are written about) tells the story of a finite resource lasting longer than expected. We now know that the earth and its natural resources are indeed finite and that it is up to us to ensure that they and this planet endure for many generations to come. Please join us in Greening Chanukah 2019, and let’s extend the Chanukah miracle together.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Nate DeGroot, Wren Hack, Brittany Feldman, Hannah Fine, and Marla Schloss



# Greening Chanukah 2019:

## Five Ways Hazon Wants to Help You Make Your Chanukah Event as Sustainable as Possible!



### 1. This year Hazon is offering our 3-bin system to you, free of charge!

We are pleased to make our 3-bin landfill diversion system available to you and your community, free of charge this Chanukah season. When you use our 3-bin system, you give guests the ability to dispose of their waste in a way that minimizes their and your collective environmental impact. In the compost bin, your guests can put all food scraps and compostable/organic materials (more on that [here](#)). In the recycling, guests can put cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum and more (more details [here](#)). And all the rest goes to trash. This way, we're minimizing the amount of waste that actually goes to the landfill (trash), and increasing the amount of waste that can be turned into soil (compost) or repurposed into new materials (recycling). We'll include plenty of compostable trash bags for you to collect all of the waste. You just make sure to label the different bins clearly for organizational and educational purposes (printable signs can be downloaded [here](#)), and perhaps ask some volunteers to help guests sort properly.

### 2. We'll help you go "green" with compostable "paper" goods and utensils!

To make the most of your "green" event, we encourage you to switch over to compostable plates, bowls, napkins, cups, and utensils. If your community is not already using compostable food service products, just tell us what you need and we'll do the ordering for you. Plus, we'll give you 20% off the already discounted rate that we get with our good friends at [Green Safe Products](#).



### 3. Let's make sure you dispose of your waste sustainably!

Lastly, it's important to coordinate proper pick-up of your waste, so it goes to the right place. Recycling and composting pick-up options are available locally through Tim Campbell ([midtowncomposting@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncomposting@gmail.com)) at [Midtown Composting](#) or Ellen Lyle ([info@pinkelephantproducts.com](mailto:info@pinkelephantproducts.com)) at [Pink Elephant Products](#). If you reach out to them directly, let them know you're with Hazon. And/or we are happy to help you arrange a pick-up, if that would be helpful! Just be in touch.

### 4. We're asking that you commit to using RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil)-Certified Palm Oil for all your Chanukah frying needs.



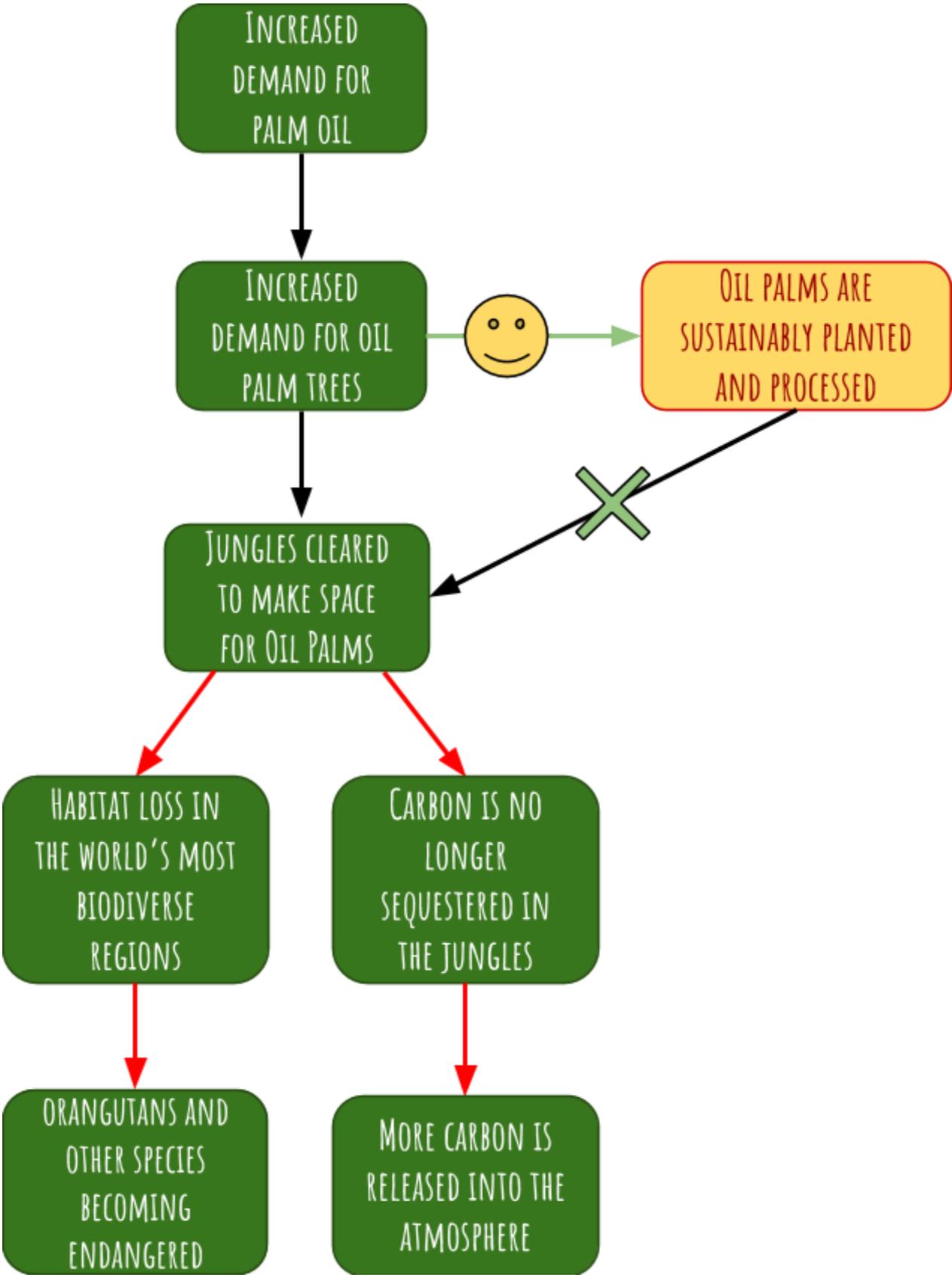
Each year, we celebrate the miracle of Chanukah by frying delicious potato pancakes in oil. The least expensive oil options are often vegetable or canola, earning them a front shelf spot in the pantry. These bottles often contain a blend of oils including one derived from the oil palm tree. This tree is being relied upon more and more due to its relative speed of growth and potency. Unfortunately, when left unregulated, palm oil production can have hugely detrimental effects on the earth. See the diagram below for an understanding of what this means for the creatures and land with whom we share the planet and how a little extra care can go a long way. Hazon is asking that you commit to using RSPO-Certified Palm Oil (more sustainable) for all your Chanukah frying needs. And we're offering to help offset the costs to you, so that going "green" is affordable for your community. Learn more about Palm Oil, what we're asking, and what we're offering below.

### 5. Keep the Chanukah miracle going by donating your used oil to Hazon for our Topsy-Turvy bus!



Once your oil has cooled, collect it in a sealed container, and then contact your friends at Hazon to come pick it up! Hazon's Topsy Turvy bus runs on used vegetable oil and we would be happy to give your latke or sufganiyot oil a second life, as fuel for our earth-friendly, mobile classroom. Together we can create a Chanukah miracle, making sure that the oil will indeed last longer than just one night.

# Palm Oil Production Impact Flow Chart



# RSPO Palm Oil FAQ

## What is “sustainable” palm oil?

The [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#) is an organization that certifies palm oil if it meets certain sustainability criteria. According to their website, “one of the most important RSPO criteria states no primary forests or areas which contain significant concentrations of biodiversity (e.g. endangered species) or fragile ecosystems, or areas which are fundamental to meeting basic or traditional cultural needs of local communities (high conservation value areas), can be cleared [to grow oil palm trees].”

## How to acquire RSPO certified palm oil for Chanukah?

Easy! Simply fill out [our Greening Chanukah form](#), or call Hazon, and let us know how much you will need. We will order it and even provide a 25% discount off the already competitive price. This puts the cost of Kosher-certified, sustainable palm oil at under \$20/gallon. Good for the budget and for the earth! If money remains a barrier to you making the switch to RSPO Palm Oil, be in touch and we'll work it out!



## How to cook using palm oil:

Similar to coconut oil and shortening, palm oil is semi-solid at room temperature. Not to worry though - it is easy to scoop out and plop into the frying pan where it will quickly liquify to look and act like more familiar cooking oils. Cook on high heat and enjoy delicious, earth-conscious latkes! \*Tip: Briefly heat a spoon over the burner and use it to smoothly and easily scoop the oil out of the container.



# Contact Info & Logistics

## How do I sign up for Greening Chanukah 2019 online?

Glad you asked! Complete [THIS FORM](#), which allows you to sign up for all the Hazon Chanukah Greening perks, and allows us to keep track of all of your information, requests, and needs in one place. We'll make sure to reach out to your organization after you've completed the form.

## What if I have additional questions, or would prefer to sign up another way?

Great! No problem at all. You can email us at [detroit@hazon.org](mailto:detroit@hazon.org). Put "Greening Chanukah 2019" in the subject line and we'll get back to you right away. You can also call our office at 248.792.5397. Let us know that you want to talk about "Greening Chanukah 2019" and we'll connect you to the right person.



*With gratitude to  
our key supporters*



*We wish you a happy  
(and green) Chanukah!*

