



SUSTAINERGY 2 - International Renewable Energy Youth Competition and Conference

The International Renewable Energy Youth Competition and Conference took place for the second time on the solar kibbutz Yahel in the southern Arava.

During the first week of March, 29 young people from 12 different countries, from Israel and abroad, came together to participate in the second Renewable Energy Conference. This year the competition was devoted to the issue of energy efficiency. The participants were divided into teams which researched the subject and competed in the presentation of a method/study for advancement of the subject. The work was judged by professional people and experts from the fields of renewable energy. The three outstanding teams were awarded prizes.

During the four days of the conference participants had the opportunity to get to know each other, to meet with researchers working in the fields of renewable energy, to tour the renewable energy sites in the region, and to participate in a desert evening event to force team spirit as well as in various other social and educational activities.

There were many talented youngsters participating in the conference this year, such as Tomer Hananel from Israel, a gifted, prize-winning mathematician; Zigmants from Lithuania who won a Silver medal in an international physics Olympics; Ahali from the United States who is also participating in an excellence project run by Intel International; Cali Maimon, an Israeli who speaks five languages; and many more talented young people.

The project's goal is to raise the awareness of the participants, who will play a major role in future development, to the importance of conserving the earth's resources, and to give them the opportunity to take part in a mini-research project and to meet with professional people from the field. Eilat and Hevel Eilat are proud to play a leading role in this, thereby not only branding the southernmost region of Israel as at the forefront of the field, but also strengthening Israel's standing and image as a leader among nations in start-ups and technology.

We would like to thank the people who have made SUSTAINERGY possible: Dr. Michael Paltiel - coordinator of competition and excellence, Dr. Eli Kalmanson - professional supervisor, Inbal Strinberg -Better Pl., Dr. Dan Katsin from the Technion in Holon, Sarit Ofri -Ort Israel, and Dr. Gabi Bennett - Maale Shaharut, as well as many others who joined us prior to and during the project. It's also important to note that project takes place under the auspices of the Eilat campus of Ben Gurion University in the Negev. Many thanks to all for the support and the efforts and resources invested.

Would you like to hear more about SUSTAINERGY?

[Click here for a look at the winning teams and the presentations on their projects.](#)

[Click here to see photos from the conference and competition \(on our Facebook page\)](#)



Launch of the renewable energy E-learning network

Online learning is an innovative and convenient way to increase and supplement professional and business knowledge. From business meetings held online, as are private lessons and seminars, even the largest universities in the world offer a variety of online courses and studies. Anyone possessing a computer and an Internet connection can participate in online events from anywhere in the world.

We are reaching out to interested parties, company owners, entrepreneurs and industrialists, academics, private individuals, students and teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge of renewable energy or who would like to install private networks for generation of clean electricity.

The first course - "Money on the Roof: How to Establish a Private Solar Network"

Advantages of the establishment of a solar network, bureaucratic hurdles that can be expected, how to calculate whether the investment is worthwhile, products available in the market and installation options. **The course will start at the beginning of May.**

In order to provide answers to the above we arranged for three lecturers, each presenting a different aspect of the subject, who will clarify and simplify the complicated process for you.

Oded Agmon, head of the Electric Authority's Regulation Division, will lecture on "net counters", the Electric Authority's revolutionary new regulation which will enable consumers to not only save electricity (greatly reducing or even cancelling out their electricity bills completely!), but to also profit from solar networks. The advantages for consumers with solar networks will be explored.

Eyal Eismann, head of the Yarok Company from Maagan Michael will lecture on planning, installation and maintenance of solar networks. For firms or companies with available roof space interested in creating solar networks on their roofs and making money: how to begin, what is the end product, how long does it take, the costs involved and to whom to apply.

What does the installation company have to provide - a bank which is willing to provide funding, a permit from the electric company, etc., how to calculate profitability, how much does my house require and how much can it generate.

Architect Hen Shalita, head of the Israeli group participating in Solar Decathlon in China, who will present an example of architectural building a zero carbon emissions structure abroad: how to build a house taking a holistic approach, with supplemental solar energy, insulation of windows, direction of air flow order to keep electricity consumption level and more.

For those interested in whether and how money can be made from rooftop solar systems

Prices:

Single lecture - ILS 80

Three lecturers - ILS 150

For additional information please contact: avital@eilot.org

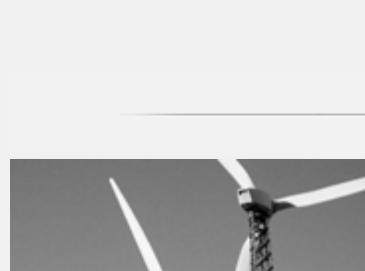


Visit by the Ben Gurion University Board to the Sun Valley for Renewable Energy

On Wednesday, March 13, 2013, the senior Administrative Board of Ben Gurion University visited Hevel Eilat: Prof. Rivka Carmi - University President, Prof. Miri Amit - Dean of the Ben Gurion Eilat campus, Prof. Tsvi Hachohen - Rector, Mr. David Bareket - Deputy Director-General, Prof. Amos Drori - Vice President for External Affairs, Mr. Yossi Rokni - Deputy Director-General for Planning, Budgeting and Economics, Prof. Steve Rosen - Deputy Rector, Prof. Avishai Goldberg - Deputy Rector, and Prof. Ariel Feldstein - Academic Secretary.

The entire Board visited in order to study what is happening in the Arava in the field of renewable energy, research and development. The Board visited the laboratory structure which will become the Research Center for the researchers of the Dead Sea and the Arava Science Center and the Capital Nature technological hothouse; the already operating Gem Co. and AUGWIND laboratories; the Arava Institute, where an intense encounter was held with some students; and various solar facilities in the fields.

The Board was extremely impressed by what is taking place in the region, and we are all hopeful that as a result of this visit, a faculty/department will be found which will, together with us, promote courses for general studies in the field of renewable energy for students on the Eilat campus which will eventually lead to bachelors degree studies in energy administration on the Ben Gurion campus in Eilat, promote a joint Center for research and specialization in renewable energy in the Arava which focuses on the field of energy storage, as well as cooperative research between researchers in the region and those on Sde Boker and at Ben Gurion University in the Negev.



Preliminary Funding for the AUGWIND Startup

The Capital Nature Investment House will invest in this young company which developed a system for solving problems in production of wind energy and for significantly reducing production costs for alternative energy. AUGWIND offers a solution for utilization of wind energy through integration with solar energy, not only during the hours that the wind is blowing.

There are currently two main problems in the production of wind energy: the first is in the difficulty in forecasting when wind will blow and how strongly, and in the need to store the energy and release it during peak consumption hours as needed, and the second is that the wind mainly blows at night, when energy consumption is low as opposed to the daytime, and making it necessary to store the energy and release it during peak consumption hours as needed.

In order to overcome the problems involved in utilizing the wind as an existing source, AUGWIND developed a product which can be installed on an existing wind turbines. The product stores the energy which was produced during the nighttime and stabilizes and supplements it with solar energy, which can be stored during the day. In this way, when solar energy supplements wind energy, it can be stored as compressed air, and released as needed, in the amounts needed. The cost of production of the energy is the lowest of all of the alternative energies, since already established turbines are used, and therefore the solution offered by the company is about 50% less expensive than other solutions.

The AUGWIND project is particularly well-suited to the Capital Nature Technology Center in Hevel Eilat. Climate conditions in the Arava region are ideal for testing the prototype in the fields, and even for future commercial implementation of the enterprise.

MASHAV Renewable Energy Course Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

Foreign ministry affair office chose to hold MASHAV's first course on Renewable Energy at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies on November 18th through 30th, 2012. The course was titled "Renewable Energy as a Catalyst for Regional Development" and was designed to provide an opportunity for mid-level professionals from the public and private sectors to gain knowledge about the basics of renewable energies and how to use renewable energy sources as a means for regional development.



Twenty-five participants from sixteen countries took part. The countries included Serbia, Colombia, Guatemala, China, Ghana, India, Nepal, Senegal, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Thailand, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Georgia, Ecuador and Sierra Leone and participants were academics, government researchers and administrators, project coordinators and managers from NGOs and private companies and a representative from the UN (UNIDO). The course was coordinated by Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, Director of the Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation. The program included lectures and hands-on activities, as well as field trips to see technologies and renewable energy installations in action. Participants shared their own professional experiences, networked, and learned methods to apply various solutions to their individual situations in their home countries. Additional lecturers included Dr. Shmuel Brenner, Director of the Arava Center for Sustainable Development; Dr. Ilan Stavi, researcher in the Dead Sea and Arava Science Center; Ms Dorit Banet, Founder and CEO of the Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative, Mr. Eddy Bet Hazavdi, Israeli Ministry of Energy; Dr. Amit Mor of Eco Energy Ltd and others.

An additional section of the course is slated to open during May-June. The course is designed for citizens of developing countries and will be held in English under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry. For additional details please contact your local Israeli Embassy or by email: abby@arava.org