

Eilat - Eilat

Renewable Energy Initiative



Update Review No.3

August 2, 2009

Awards and Exhibitions

Udi Gat received the Cleantech Man of the Year award at the annual conference for agriculture and energy. Udi was one of ten prize-winners who significantly promoted Israeli cleantech industry. The ceremony took place at the Congress Center in the Tel Aviv Exhibition grounds, and was part of a two-day exhibition which was attended by over 10,000 visitors.

The Energy Initiative had a booth at the exhibition as well, presenting our vision and work in the promotion of implementation of renewable energy in the Arava. The booth was extremely successful, attracted many visitors, and many new contacts were made, which we believe will help in realizing the vision for the Arava.

Technological Center and Pilot Projects

On June 24, 2009 the official opening for the Edig - AORA thermo-solar tower was held on Kibbutz Samar. The opening was attended by some 200 people who came from all over the world (Australia, the USA, Spain and more). After the event some of the visitors from Spain met with Udi, including the head of the Andalusia region, to talk about future cooperation with the Arava.

Despite the fact that the tender for the Technological Center has not yet been published as we are waiting for approval for government funding, the Initiative has begun to market itself as a technological. We are currently about to sign a

contract with an additional entrepreneur who wants to establish a pilot project of floating panels on the water of the waste-water reservoir on Kibbutz Elifaz. At the same time we are trying to arrange a delegation of Israeli entrepreneurs to Toronto to meet with investors.



Timna Industrial Area

Congratulations are in order – on July 7, 2009 the national council for planning and building, under the authority of the director-general of the Ministry of the Interior, approved the preparation of a zoning plan for three solar energy stations in the Timna industrial area, on an area of some 5,300 dunams, (approximately 1,300 acres) close to the Timna copper mines. The output of each of the stations will be 50-75 megawatt. At the same time we are continuing to promote writing of the tender for the area and are coordinating between all the entities in order to ensure that the tender

will be ready when the plan is approved by all of the planning committees.

Statutory advances in the establishment of the mid-sized solar energy station on the land of the kibbutzim

The officials responsible for the national zoning plan for power stations visited the region in order to familiarize themselves with the area and with our special needs, before advertising the principles for installation of the 5 megawatt solar power stations.

The visit was successful, and the team understood that priority has to be given to the Hevel Eilat area, mainly due to the strategic administrative efforts invested in the region. Directly following the visit, the Ministry of Agriculture published an opinion according to which it approves use of 10% of the agricultural fields and up to 500 dunams for the establishment of solar power stations, and approves up to 800 dunams in the Arava due to the lack of water and scarcity of sources of employment. This ruling is extremely important for the kibbutzim for the establishment of the power stations.

Educational Program

The steering committee for the writing of the educational program meets regularly once a week. The work is coming along well. The Ministry of Education has recognized the educational program as a program which will receive funding and can be taught as part of the pilot project for the

coming school year. The team is made up of four teachers from Eilat, three from Hevel Eilat, experts in writing study programs, a renewable energy expert in education and Ministry of Education inspectors.

Students in the Excellence 2000 program from the Ma'ale Shacharut Middle School made it to the final stage in the national competition for self-built solar desalination facilities. The students built the facility on the study farm which was established at the school, assisted by funding from Toronto.

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

Writing of the master's degree program has concluded. The program is awaiting approval from Ben Gurion's academic committee. Last year two courses in the field of renewable energy were taught to the students at the Institute. During the coming semester the students will also study two courses in the field of renewable energy. Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed is currently working on four studies for which he received research grants.

At the Science Center Dr. Gabi Bennet is continuing his study of algae; at the beginning of the year a new doctoral student will come to assist him in the study and will also teach English part-time at the school.

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Renewable Energy Job Growth

As of today there are 24 new jobs total in the region, five of which were filled by people who came to the region due to the Renewable Energy Initiative. In addition, there are several consultants and employees working in the center of the country to support the project, and a new commercial company was founded in the region in partnership with Kibbutz Ketura: The Arava Power Company.

Position	Full name	Marital status	Residence	Comments
Technological director, business development and implementation, Renewable Energy Initiative	Noam Ilan	Married + 1	Lotan	Arrived three years ago from Tel Aviv
Regional strategy and development director, Renewable Energy Initiative	Dorit Davidovitz Bennett	Married + 2	Grofit	Her transfer to this position left an opening for director of the Eilat – Hevel Eilat Environmental Unit
Administrative director, Renewable Energy Initiative	Tali Adini	Married + 2	Ketura	Came to the region a few months ago and looked for work
Director of the Renewable Energy Dept at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies	Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed	Married + 3	Ketura	Came from East Jerusalem
Doctoral student working with Dr. Bennett: Arava - Dead Sea Science Center (study of algae for bio-diesel)	Orit Hadar	Married + children over 18	Grofit	Will arrive in Sept. from Jerusalem
Director of the APC (Arava Power Company)	Jon Cohen	Married + 4	Yahel / Eilat	Returned to the region from Tel Aviv
APC planner	Ronit Dodge	Unmarried	Ketura	Has lived in the region for many years
Representative of the Brimag Co. in the Arava	Gabi Yifrach	Married + 2	Lotan	Was terminated from working on regional field crops and found a new job in the energy field
Bloicher Co. – installation of photovoltaic cells	Civil engineer Engineer Conservation 2 electricians 6 installers Salesman Secretary	All of the employees have families	Eilat	An engineering company that established a new solar energy dept and employed 14 new employees
Director of the thermo-solar site on Samar	William Weisinger	Unmarried	Eilat	Studying for his MA in industrial engineering and management at Ben Gurion
Representative of Dorel Solar Co. in Eilat	Yosef Tikolsker	Married + 4	Beer Ora	Came to the region four years ago from Rosh Pina

