

Eilat - Eilat

Renewable Energy Initiative



Update Review No.1

December 7, 2008

As concluded at our recent Steering Committee, we are launching "Update Review No. 1"

Renewable Energy is still much alive.

A statement was made by Hezi Kugler regarding "The death of RE". This statement was made as part of a dispute between the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of National Infrastructure (MNI) regarding means that should be used towards promoting renewable energy production in Israel, Kugler was trying to put public pressure on MOF through his statement.

Furthermore, the fact that this dispute became public, is part of the political environment in Israel, prior the general elections in February 2009.

The MOF promoted a government decision that was accepted a while ago with a scope of 5 years, allocating some 60 million shekels towards the RE technological center and much more for RE activities in the south. Both ministries endorse the Timna project and are committed to take action in order to promote it and other project in the region.

We are sure that after a new government is elected the exact details of the long range RE goals will be determined. In the meanwhile the work towards realizing our immediate Timna and other plans is being conducted with mid range government officials (those that always remain in office and usually make the real decisions...) and is progressing very well

Government Bid for a Solar Cooling Pilot

The City of Eilat won the MNI bid to award financing for a unique Solar thermal cooling national pilot in a school in the city. MNI will grant 30% of the 600,000NIS project using state of the art technology.

Ministry of Environment

Usually the biggest obstacle for big RE projects are environmental concerns. Last week the Eilat RE staff met all relevant Ministry of Environment officials. The officials stated that they support the Timna project and will do all they can in order to promote it ASAP.

Technological Center update

Last week the RE staff met Professor Jacob Karni, Head of the Solar Energy Center, Department of Environmental Sciences and Energy Research at The Weizmann Institute of Science. Professor Karni expressed his support of the Eilat bid for the center and proposed that we negotiate an agreement with the Weizmann Institute towards joining the group. Such an agreement will assure that the two academic institutes that are the leaders in RE R&D in Israel, BGU and Weizmann will be our partners. Karni also offered some other potential partners. In the meeting the major role of AIES in the center was also discussed together with David Lehrer and Dr. Tareq.

The International RE Conference

The tentative schedule is now online: www.eilatenergy.com. Leading international experts are going to speak at the conference and some major launching events are going to take place. We are proud to invite representatives of the Federation of Greater Toronto to receive the first Brian Medved prize for contribution to RE in Eilat & Eilat Regional Council. The Ceremony will take place during the Gala Event on February 17th. The schedule also offers many opportunities for business people in Toronto to participate in sessions and learn about business opportunities in the region. Please, distribute the schedule to potential interested business people and ask them to mail Noam at noam@eilat.org.il regarding their possible participation in the conference.

Business Opportunities for Toronto Business People

The Arava Power Company is seeking investments in some exciting RE business endeavors in the region. They would be happy to receive a list of potential investors so they can approach them through their offices in Canada.

Installations of P.V. Systems - Kibbutz Yotvata

The Kibbutz got all approval assurance from the authorities, in order to start installing 2 P.V. systems of 50kw one on the cowshed roof, and one on

the restaurant. By the end of December 2008, the systems which will be the biggest in the country will be operational.

The Promotional Film

Describing the Strategic Program has been started by "Promo" – Productions & Television Company. The sub-committee that is in charge of the film consists of Sharon Schwartzman, Haim Blumenblat and Hanoch Bar-Nov. The target date is the 10th of Feb. 2009, just before the International Conference in Eilat.

Branding & Positioning

We have signed an agreement for 6 months, with a well known company, "Deby Communications" – public relations & media strategy, to cover our various RE activities. The prime goal is to create the right atmosphere for the Tech Center bid and for the upcoming conference.

SunPower Corporation visit.

This week we are expecting a very significant visit of executives from "Sun Power" Corporation, USA. We will be delighted to update on progress and achievements as we will conclude the meetings.