



## Commonwealth Jewish Council

### 'Yom Ha'atzma'ut - Israel

**Independence Day** - this week give us a chance to note and celebrate Israel's remarkable record in environmental initiatives and contribution. As part of our Small Islands: Big Challenges support and advocacy programme, we are pleased to be able to draw attention below to just some of Israel's amazing achievements in this field for the world's benefit. **Truly the world's 'Innovation Nation'**.

We hope that as countries, especially small island nations, cast about for solutions to the problems that all face, Israel will be able to offer ever more help to improve the world! **See inside for more info!**



Every country has a role to play in reducing its emissions and in adapting to the now inevitable impacts of climate change. Israel has identified its role as becoming a **knowledge centre for climate-change adaptation technology**, and is at the forefront of high-tech innovation, backed by a highly educated and creative workforce and a sound infrastructure.

The Israeli industry is always reaching for newer and innovative technologies. Today Israel has about **350 clean tech companies** and they are developing and growing constantly. Blessed with ample sun

light but challenged by water shortages, Israel is continuously developing alternative technologies that generate significant energy from the sun as well as from a host of other renewable energy sources.

**Go Israel!**



## **Israel Builds World's Largest Solar Power Tower**

Many of the world's leading solar-energy companies are Israeli and a large proportion of the large-scale solar-energy facilities around the world — from California to Spain — are being built by Israeli companies.

Israel and Cyprus are the per-capita leaders in the use of solar hot water systems with over 90% of homes using them, *estimating a saving of 2 million barrels of oil a year!*

Negev Energy, Israel's largest renewable energy project launched in late 2014. The plant plans to reduce approximately 245,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year – the equivalent of removing 50,000 vehicles from the road – and provide clean power solely from renewable energy to 60,000 households in Israel by 2020.

When Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, declared his vision "to make the desert bloom" he could not have predicted a multi-billion-dollar initiative combining three massive solar power plants and the world's tallest solar tower!

Israeli organisations are also offering solutions and know-how to those in need living in rural African

villages. They are using solar energy to pump clean water and provide schools, orphanages and medical clinics with light and refrigeration to store vaccines and medicines. *For more information see [www.innoafrica.org](http://www.innoafrica.org)*

We are very proud to celebrate Israeli engineers being at the cutting edge of solar energy technology.

*For further resources please visit Arava Institute: Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy consumption [arava.org](http://arava.org)*

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## **An ancient land with modern ideas for reclaiming ecosystems**

With over 240 million planted trees, Israel is one of only two countries that entered the 21st century with a net gain in the number of trees, due to massive **afforestation** efforts.

Israel is one of the few countries in the world that has more trees now than it had a century ago and most Israeli forests are the product of a major afforestation campaign by the Jewish National Fund, (KKL - JNF).

KKL is at the forefront of technology and over the years has actively cooperated with many countries and international organisations on a wide range of projects. KKL is committed to enhancing international cooperation activities by addressing key global issues through mutual technological exchange, knowledge-sharing and dissemination of advanced environmental methods to other countries.

KKL has created a platform to share and export its knowledge and experience all over the world, and has participated or sponsored numerous international conferences and workshops demonstrating Israel's technical experience and applied research.

KKL is at the forefront of technology in the areas of:

- Managing open areas and forests in semi-arid and arid regions
- Combating desertification
- Developing and implementing advanced methods for harvesting water runoff
- River and stream rehabilitation and water purification through wetlands and biofilters
- Land conservation through sustainable agriculture and research
- Research and application of biological pest control technique

*See here for more information [www.kkl-jnf.org](http://www.kkl-jnf.org)*



## Israel's water miracle could save a thirsty world...

With ongoing water stress worldwide, finding long-term solutions to severe drought is imperative!

Israel is home to one of the world's largest and most advanced desalination plants, annually producing 130 million cubic meters, **the most cost- efficient operation of its kind in the world!**

Worldwide, some 700 million people don't have access to enough clean water. In 10 years the number is

expected to explode to 1.8 billion. In many places, squeezing fresh water from the ocean might be the only viable way to increase the supply.

Sorek, the world's largest modern seawater desalination plant just south of Tel Aviv has created a chemical free system - just one of the many Israeli breakthroughs in technology which has made desalination much more efficient.

Sorek, transforms seawater into enough drinking water to supply 1.5 million people, 55 percent of its domestic water is from desalination, and that has helped to turn one of the world's driest countries into the unlikeliest of water giants!

Israel is able to squeeze more out of a drop of water than any other country on Earth and they are taking their pioneering technologies global, developing resilient well systems for African villages and biological digesters than can halve the water usage of most homes!

Other Israeli projects like Eco-Peace, aim to create the 'Good Water Neighbours Methodology' -offering its services to facilitate and disseminate best practices developed in the Middle East by bringing together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists with the primary objective to promote cooperative efforts to protect a shared environmental heritage.

*For more information please visit [ecopeaceme.org](http://ecopeaceme.org)*



**Farming methods sold to more than 100 countries around the world...**

Israel's single largest environmental contribution to the world — and Israel's most-exported environmental technology — is the drip-irrigation plastic emitter, allowing for much more efficient watering of crops.

By 2050, there'll be 10 billion people living on our planet, and 20% less arable land per person to *grow enough calories*. Include increasing water scarcity, and it's clear why we need a way to increase agricultural productivity *and* resource efficiency. That's where drip irrigation fits in, changing the economics of global agriculture by allowing farmers to produce more calories per hectare and cubic meter of water.

Drip irrigation is the most efficient water and nutrient delivery system for growing crops. Known for pioneering drip irrigation technology since its establishment at Kibbutz Hatzerim in 1965, Netafim remains a global leader in precision irrigation worldwide.

To date, it has provided millions of farmers in over 110 countries with innovative solutions for irrigation and fertigation – fertilization via an irrigation system – through the company's 29 subsidiaries and 17 manufacturing plants.

Netafim have irrigated over ten million hectares of land, and produced over 150 billion drippers – for more than two million ambitious and continue to transform lives, enabling higher yields to be produced from any land, while saving water, fertilizer and energy.

*See here for more information on [www.netafim.com](http://www.netafim.com)*

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## Israel is turning garbage green!

Selected waste and by-products with recoverable calorific value can be used as fuels in a cement kiln, replacing a portion of conventional fossil fuels, like coal.

The Hiriya plant, outside of Tel Aviv, is one of the largest of its kind in the world, to produce refuse-derived fuel.

The RDF (refused derived fuel) is recognised by the Ministry of Environmental Protection as an environmentally friendly alternative fuel for the production of clean energy. It emits less pollutants and toxins than fossil fuels like Petcoke, a non-renewable resource used at Nesher in its cement manufacturing process.

The plant produces 500 tons of alternative fuel every day for use in combustion inside the cement kilns, which will replace about 10% of the petroleum-origin fuels Nesher currently uses.

The waste sorting is accomplished virtually without human intervention, using mechanical and optical technology.

Recyclables and organics are separated and sent to recycling facilities, while the remaining dry waste is shredded and sent as an alternative fuel to the Nesher factory in Ramla, which is one of Israel's largest energy consumers.

We congratulate Israel in its breakthrough and contribution to waste management!

## How can you get involved...

As part of our campaign - 'Small Islands: Big Challenges' we ask you to encourage your government to discover whether or not it could use Israel's outstanding technologies.

Please click for CJC's [campaign pack](#) and for further ideas as to what individuals and communities can do, please contact Robby Hoffman, General Secretary [robby@cjc.org.uk](mailto:robby@cjc.org.uk)



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