



UNDER PRESSURE 2018

Israel at 70 and Beyond - Key Environmental Challenges

Strategic Advocates for a Better Environment



OUR VISION

A sustainable, safe and healthy environment for future generations.

OUR MISSION

Adam Teva V'Din works for sustainable policies, economic incentives and innovative solutions to safeguard Israel's physical environment, natural resources and human health.

Adam Teva V'Din - IUED

A registered non-profit organization (#58-017-786-3).
Contributions are eligible for tax deduction under Section 46 of the Israeli Income Tax Code.
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Friends of Israel's Environment (FIE)

A non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Federal ID # 58-1959151.
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Sustaining the Miracle

Dear Friends

Israel at 70! Still vital, still dynamic, and still the beating heart of the Jewish people!

Yes, we danced in the streets on Independence Day, we travelled the country showing our kids Israel's natural beauty and its many accomplishments since 1948. It was optimistic and uplifting.

The next day, it was back to the real world. At Adam Teva V'Din we don't get to enjoy only the miracles.

Daily, our team confronts the shortcomings in environmental protection in a tiny country where, in 70 years, the population has grown tenfold and the economy a hundredfold.

I'm quoting here from the keynote speech delivered by leading economist Professor Manuel Trajtenberg, at our inaugural annual conference on **Law & Environment**. He warned about the increasing burden Israelis are putting on the environment, and his concern for how we can sustain the miracle. The message hit home.

Under Pressure summarizes what we want to see in Israel's future. The report shares our strategic goals that arose from an organizational review over the last 12 months. The process demanded soul-searching and honest self-assessment, and some frank inputs from public figures and colleagues. Board members joined us in affirming our core values and appraising existential stresses on our environment and quality of life.

In Israel's 71st year and Adam Teva V'Din's 28th, we are confident and eager to work for a better environment.

We are challenging to address the reality of an increasingly crowded country.

We are demanding smarter use and new attitudes to managing our resources.

We are investing in keeping our kids safe from harm.

With your continued support, we know that we can help sustain the miracle.

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

Amit Bracha, Adv.
Executive Director



Planning for Reality

It's not a housing crisis. It's a planning crisis.

"The speed and scope of planning in Israel is not keeping pace with rapid population growth and economic development," say land-use attorney Eli Ben Ari and urban planner Yael Dori. New neighborhoods are changing the landscape through the government's accelerated '60,000 homes per year' program.

"But planners are not addressing the public's basic needs for quality of life, a safe environment, and a way to get to work."

Experts believe that most of Israel in 2048 will be as built-up as Manhattan or London, the difference being that Israel's land resources will be insufficient to satisfy the basic human need for green open spaces, peace and recreation.



What we want to see:

- *Better use of land resources for our crowded future*
- *Liveable, connected and mixed use neighborhoods*
- *Robust and convenient public transport infrastructure*
- *Reduced dependency on private cars*
- *A protected coastline with limits on construction*

The reality of the road.

Repeated delays in construction of public transit infrastructure mean that 70% of Israelis have no choice but to use their cars to get to work. The Bank of Israel, the International Monetary Fund and other economic bodies warn that congested roads are adding hours per week to Israelis' commute, with consequent increased exposure to air pollution, loss of productivity, and stress on an already overwrought public.

"There is a better way," says Yael Dori. "Our strategy is to advance the concept of transit oriented development (TOD) to see if development meet any of the criteria for sustainable or 'liveable' communities," says Yael Dori.

The TOD approach will be applied to 15 neighborhoods already approved for expanded development by the government's accelerated housing committee. "Politicians are interested in meeting target figures; no one is looking at the needs of a young family living in a suburban neighborhood with a single access road and no public transport to schools, jobs, recreation and health care."



The Mediterranean coastline is a vital 'green lung'.

The optimal 'breathing space' for all Israelis – secular, religious, and minorities – are the beaches of the Mediterranean coastline. Yet there is constant pressure from real estate investors, municipalities, and tourism operators to build on every square centimeter. The Tourism Ministry has not internalized the need for 'sustainable' management of the coastal strip. "Europeans have recognized the negative impact of the 'sea wall effect' on the urban fabric of coastal towns," says Eli Ben Ari.

While pushing lawmakers to reach resolution of the threat to coastal towns of 50 pending construction plans, Adam Teva V'Din is cooperating with the Planning Authority on drafting revisions to the coastal development master plan. Involved in this are senior officials of the Tourism Ministry.

"We crossed swords on coastal development in court last year. Now we're shifting our tactics from adversarial advocacy to direct dialogue on how to relieve stress on one of Israel's most loved land resources."

For the people and with the people.

Partnerships with community activists bolster our advocacy impacts. They empower people to be involved in decisions shaping their local environment and quality of life.

"We've been working for communities for 20 years," says Yael Dori. "We provide all of our professional services pro bono and grassroots groups also raise their own funds to hire additional expertise if needed. "Some partnerships last for years and run the full course of planning objections, appeals, and lawsuits up to the Supreme Court."

Our approach is to work with 5-6 communities in depth for long periods. "Our partners are from all sectors and socio-economic levels, from Nahariya to Ashdod, to East Jerusalem and Nof Yam.

Adds Dori: "Right now, I'm preparing to guide residents of a low income South Tel Aviv neighborhood through their first planning objections. Getting communities involved is the most effective way of relieving pressure on stressed neighborhoods."



Keeping Our Kids Safe

It's in the air we breathe.

In 2008, the Clean Air Law was a major milestone in environmental protection in Israel. Drafted and promoted relentlessly over several years by Adam Teva V'Din, this was our first legislation with the overall goal of protecting human health. The Environmental Protection Ministry is soon to release a report showing the law's cost benefits in saving Israeli lives from air pollution related diseases.

"Currently, we are working with the inter-ministerial review board on updating and strengthening the law," says Dr. Arye Vanger. "At our insistence, this second 5-year review includes our 9-part proposal on innovative tools for managing air pollution and its sources." Adam Teva V'Din's proposal defines for the first time, limits on ecosystem damage arising from pollutant emissions.

What we want to see:

- Improved air quality
- Reduced exposure to pesticides and other chemicals in the everyday environment

Our objective is to ensure that any revisions in the Clean Air Law take into account projections on population growth, climate change mitigation and changing land-use patterns that bring industries closer to residential areas.

Tammy Ganot, attorney and policy director at Adam Teva V'Din was on the Clean Air team seeking support for the bill. "In addition to serving the public interest as a legislative instrument, the Clean Air Law sent a powerful message to authorities and industries alike: People expect to be protected from environmental hazards, and Adam Teva V'Din will demand it on the public's behalf."



Kids and pesticides don't mix.

A decade after the groundbreaking Clean Air Law, Adam Teva V'Din is again addressing the nexus of environment and health. To reduce exposure of vulnerable populations to chemicals in the everyday environment, we examined regulations and policies on pesticide use in agriculture and in public open spaces. We used a draft Reducing Pesticides legislative bill to spur the attention of the Health and Agriculture Ministries as the two dominant relevant government agencies.

"At first, it was unheard of for a public interest non-profit agency to challenge oversight practices," says Sarit Caspi-Oron, scientist. "Overtime we have built an open dialogue with both agencies; there is genuine support for the policy and regulatory changes we are seeking".

Our draft legislative bill on pesticides management is sponsored in the parliamentary process by the chair of the Interior & Environment Committee. Tammy Ganot, policy director, says support for the bill is wide; the Health and Agriculture Ministries are in favor of it moving forward.

"Our bill calls for a National Action Plan to reduce pesticide use and a publicly accessible database of pesticides and their applications, etc.," notes Tal Granot, attorney working on regulatory amendments in the program. "There is provision in the bill for pesticide-free buffer zones in populated areas where children may be present, like schools and public parks."

Many farmers favor stronger oversight of pesticide use out of concern for the quality of their produce, the ecosystem and of course, for their own kids who live near the fields where pesticides are used.



Our public outreach program has set up a Pesticides Watch of volunteers who will use Adam Teva V'Din guidelines to spread the concept of reducing pesticides in residential neighborhoods. The goal is to reach a critical mass of public activism on reducing pesticides.

Smart Use of Resources

Energy: Moving beyond coal.

Israel is newly rich in offshore natural gas reserves; in 2018 natural gas will fuel (71%) of electricity production. “We have to relate to natural gas as a bridge to the end of reliance on polluting coal,” says Leehee Goldenberg, our attorney on energy and economic resources. Four further coal-fired plants are due for closure by 2022.

Successful inclusion in the energy market of smaller, private power stations is dependent on major reworking of the national electricity grid. “Infrastructure must be expanded, made reliable and resilient in order to carry multiple producers,” comments Dr. Arye Vanger, energy scientist. It is a massive challenge. He adds, “Equally concerning is the lack of policy clarity on how renewables will grow from 2% today to 17% by 2030”.

After successfully suing the Energy Ministry for foot-dragging on the national energy strategy and on energy efficiency, Adam Teva V’Din is now managing a robust stakeholder engagement program. “We sit with the Public Utilities Authority, with renewable energy producers, the Israel Electric Corporation and new energy producers, with communities impacted by energy infrastructure, and even the gas producers,” says Leehee. “Whatever it takes to get things moving in the right direction.”

Adam Teva V’Din is determined that Israel arrive at 2048 with a diverse and sustainable energy sector with minimized environmental and health risks. Arye Vanger: “We are in this for the long haul.”

What we want to see:

- *Speedy transition to a clean energy mix of natural gas and renewables*
- *Remediation of contaminated water sources*
- *Waste management strategies relating to trash as an economic resource*
- *Protection of mineral resources from industrial over-exploitation*

Resources: Mining minerals.

Israel’s natural resources are economic assets providing hundreds of jobs. Yet industrial extraction of potash and other minerals at the Dead Sea has accelerated the unique site’s environmental degradation. “Our grandkids may never experience the awesome natural beauty of the Dead Sea,” says Leehee Goldenberg, attorney. Adam Teva V’Din is in court against Israel Chemicals Corporation (ICC) seeking improved environmental practices and oversight at its Dead Sea factory.

“We are also participating in the Knesset’s review of the franchise law that runs out in 2030; the law dates from 1950s”. Says Leehee “We want the new law to rank environmental accountability very high.”

Adam Teva V’Din is suing the Environmental Protection Ministry for failing – over a decade – to sanction ICC for systematic failures at its Ashalim phosphates plant; a spill last year dumped 100,000 cubic meters of acidic wastes into the desert and groundwater.

Water: It’s not about the rainfall.

“We are proud of Israel’s capacity to develop technological solutions to our chronic drought,” says Sarit Caspi-Oron, water scientist at Adam Teva V’Din, “but desalination plants are a mixed blessing even if they provide relief from acute drought.” She adds that these factories occupy valuable coastal land resources in locations vulnerable to security incidents.

Desalinated water lacks magnesium and other natural minerals, which worries health authorities.

Israel could remediate polluted water wells and underground reservoirs to provide 20% of future water supplies and avoid construction of another desalination plant.

“It’s basic housekeeping; scientists estimate that 100 million cubic meters of groundwater could be recovered each year,” says Sarit. “Based on our analysis of the scope and type of contaminants needing treatment, we believe it’s doable.”

Adam Teva V’Din has drafted a legislative bill and an advocacy campaign to convince the Water Authority and policymakers to approve a nation-wide, cost-effective program of groundwater remediation while it’s still feasible

Waste: It’s not trash, it’s a resource.

“Israel must relate to waste as an economic resource to be reused and recycled,” is the credo of Adam Teva V’Din’s solid waste team. Asaf Rosenblum, Adam Teva V’Din attorney behind several of Israel’s recycling laws says it is crucial that the Ministry of Environmental Protection bring into law a national waste strategy that takes into account population growth, economic development and shrinking land resources.



“Our government loves to apply technological solutions to all environmental dilemmas. But our view – backed up by the national forum of solid waste operators – is that incineration must be one of three pathways at a maximum of 30%, while prioritizing recycling (50%) and landfilling at 20%.”

Amiad Lapidot, Adam Teva V’Din expert on sustainability, points out that nearly 2 million tons of organic waste could be re-used as agricultural compost. “As a small country with limited resources, we have to make maximum use of what we have”. Adam Teva V’Din is pushing for national waste strategy to run to 2050 to allow for consistent policies and development of a circular waste economy. “I know as a former officer in IDF submarines that a change of course is always achievable; it takes time, but it can be done.”



Our Finances

We manage a conservative budget that provides flexibility in program and human resources while maintaining reserves in line with our auditors' recommendations.

Extract from the official audit for 2016 conducted by Ziv Haft/BDO, Certified Public Accountants (Israel).
An English-language version of the condensed balance sheets is available on request.

Income

Foundations	\$1,095,000
Donors & members	\$312,000
Cooperative projects	\$33,000
Other misc. income	\$14,000
Total	\$1,454,000

Expenditures

Personnel	\$987,000
General operating expenses	\$186,000
Office rental, maintenance	\$198,000
Outreach, events, publications	\$14,000
Total	\$1,385,000

Figures reflect the official audit for 2016 conducted by Ziv Haft/BDO, Certified Public Accounts (Israel).

Our Supporters

Our commitment to all our funders is to honor their support by striving to meet program goals while demonstrating transparency and accountability.

We maintain a diverse funding base of North American, European and Israeli philanthropies as well as individual donors in the US and Israel.

Our partners include the following foundations, as well as philanthropies that request anonymity:

- Beracha Foundation
- Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation
- Charles Brown Foundation
- Environment & Health Fund
- Galileo Fund
- Plum Foundation
- The Morningstar Foundation
- The Sam & Bella Sebba Charitable Trust
- Signing Anew

Dear Friends,

In our troubled world, it's a relief to see a demonstration of consistent practices and steadfast beliefs. As one who loves Israel, I welcome Adam Teva V'Din's reaffirmation of its core values: protection of the environment and public health, empowering communities to take part in environmental decisions that affect them and balancing economic gains with conservation of essential natural resources. I'm happy that the new five-year strategy calls for stronger ties with stakeholders in all parts of Israeli society, and I know that the staff will continue to bring their professional expertise and passions to this crucial work.

My own professional experience has taught me the benefits of creating and maintaining practical alliances with other nonprofits, businesses and national and local officials in creating common goals of improving environmental quality.

I sincerely hope you will join me and the Friends of Israel's Environment in supporting Adam Teva V'Din's ongoing efforts for the benefit of all Israelis.

Mike Gildesgame
President of Friends of Israel's Environment (FIE)

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Friends of Israel's Environment (FIE) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions are eligible for tax deduction. Federal ID # 58-1959151. Treasurer Evan J. Kaizer, 4182 Beck Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604.

Dear Friends,

As a practicing lawyer dealing with cross-border mergers and acquisitions, my involvement with Adam Teva V'Din board is refreshingly different. I assure you that environmental advocacy can be as challenging and complex as the world of high finance, and in many respects, the stakes are greater. I saw this as I participated in the heated debates of the professional team planning their strategy for the coming years. Our strategy is ambitious, yet I know – that with your help - it's achievable.

Adam, Teva V'Din boasts a long record of accomplishments, a prominent public profile, and, as I saw at the Law & Environment Conference – the respect of Israel's top law firms, the Minister of Justice and the highest echelons of the Environmental Protection Ministry, all of whom view Adam Teva V'Din as an equal partner in setting standards of environmental governance in Israel.

I am proud to be part of this dedicated group. We are all working for a better future for our children and grandchildren. Be part of it! Thank you.

Barry Levenfeld, Adv.
Chairman of the Board

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