Win-Win With Wastewater Treatment
Cessation of Shafdan sludge emissions into the Mediterranean Sea

Until 2017, Israel discharged every day 16,000 m$^3$ of sludge from wastewater treatment into the Mediterranean. Now, thanks to investments into new technologies, the sludge is recycled in anaerobic digesters and 90-99% of it is used for farm fertilizer.

Link: https://www.igudan.org.il/home-en/shafdan-wastewater-treatment/

Drivers

**Environmental policy**
The main goals of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean is to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and protect and improve the marine environment in the area, thereby contributing to its sustainable development: Israel ratified the convention in 1978, and along with subsequent protocols, is actively participating in its implementation.

**Economy**
Israel produces 585 million m$^3$ of freshwater per year by the desalination of sea water, which covers about two-thirds of its domestic needs. This has become possible through the availability of cheaper energy from Israel's growing natural gas production. The increased use of desalination is also an economic incentive to keep the Mediterranean Sea clean.

**Technology**
Innovation in technological developments allows both for the conversion of sludge from waste water treatment into valuable fertilizer used in agriculture and improved efficiency in desalination.

Shafdan plant

This project is funded by the European Union
Depollution of the Mediterranean Sea • ENI-SEIS success story Israel 1