

Israel



GDP real growth rate: 4.2% (2008)
GDP per capita: 28,900 \$ (2008)
GDP per sector: Agriculture 2.7%,
Industry 31.7%, Services 65.6%
Human Development Index: 0.935 (rank 27)
Number of inhabitants (in 000's) : 7,308

Major industries: Technological projects (aviation, communications, computer aided design systems, medical products, electronics, fibre optics), wood and paper derivatives, potassium and phosphates, food, drinks, tobacco, caustic soda, cement, construction, metals, chemical products, plastics, diamond cutters, textiles, footwear.

Main Issues related to SCP

A significant change in the country's economy that has developed from an agricultural based structure into high-technology sectors has caused a major environmental and economic impact. In 2005 there were over 12,000 high technology plants.

Atmospheric emissions:

One of the major sources of pollution in Israel is traffic. To reduce the environmental burden, green taxation on transport and energy is currently being proposed. Israel is analysing its potential for reducing green house gases in the post Kyoto period. A program has been undertaken to save 20% in electricity consumption before 2020. Service companies have been established to decrease energy consumption in large commerce and industry. The use and research of renewable energy is to be increased. Preferential feed in tariffs and the licensing of solar thermal energy are in place. Incentives are provided for home production of electricity with photovoltaic technology.

Waste Water and water management:

The situation is characterized by increased water scarcity. The water authority has introduced new limitations on irrigation as well as higher prices for industrial and agricultural use of water. Regulations for improving effluent quality standards have currently been undertaken.



Waste Management:

New taxes have been implemented to decrease the amount of waste land filled. Significant progress has been made in the area of recycling construction and demolition waste.



Policies and Strategic Framework

The SCP concept has been integrated within the policy and strategic framework for sustainable development. Since 2007 SCP has been identified as a major issue for the promotion of sustainable development and in 2008 was included in the long-term goals of the Ministry of Environment.

Other important plans integrating aspects of SCP are the National Action Plan for the Reduction of Pollution from the Transport Sector, one the major sources of green house gas emissions in Israel. There is also a plan for the promotion, research and development of renewable energies, for implementation between 2008- 2012.

To reduce air pollution, a policy has been adopted based on the IPPC EU Directive for large and complex industries, and the German Emissions Standard document TA- Luft 2002 for SMEs.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

In 2008 a new Environmental Protection Law was adopted, marking an important change in approach from the “polluter pays” to “pollution prevention is profitable”. A clean air law - to be adopted in 2011- provides a comprehensive framework for the reduction and prevention of air pollution. A similar approach to the EU IPPC directive is under development, and directive principles have been adopted in the permit processes of large industrial facilities. Nevertheless, the effective implementation of governmental regulations for a sustainable industrial development is challenged by a lack in human and financial resources. The MEP has submitted requests to the Ministry of Finance for additional expertise and budget. Israel uses a combination of environmental taxes, fees, charges and incentives and subsidies to support cleaner production. The use of environmental taxes is quite balanced with the incentives for environmental investments. For instance, landfill tax revenues are earmarked to support recycling facilities and landfill reduction programs. Taxes are developed based on recommendations from the Green Tax Inter-ministerial Committee.

The Ministry of Finance is currently developing regulations in Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) to favour green products and services. The use of recycled products is already being promoted with all ministries and associated organisations.

Greening Industry and Society

CSR practices are widely implemented, especially within large and multinational companies. The MAALA index provides an overview on the sustainability rating of all companies included in the Tel Aviv 100 index. More than 150 companies are currently certified under ISO 14001.

Green Investment Funds have been established to promote investment in environmental friendly technologies. A voluntary standard for green residential and office buildings has been developed and it is planned to be an obligatory incorporation in the Planning and Building Law.

Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC) is considered a key topic for integrating sustainable consumption in the formal education system.

Main Actors and Projects

A national committee, including representatives from government, businesses and the civil society, has been established with the aim of leading and coordinating actions on SCP. Other important actors in the promotion of SCP are the **Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)**, in cooperation with institutions such as the **Ministry of National Infrastructures, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour**, and the **Manufacturers' Association of Israel**. All are involved in the operation of the **Israeli Cleaner Production Centre (ICPC)**.

A new **Israeli Water Authority** was established in 2007 centralizing all issues related to water management from scarcity to pricing.

The Heschel Centre New Horizons initiative aims to raise awareness on the importance and methods of sustainable energy production and consumption between different stakeholders.

Israel actively supports the UNEP Marrakech Process and joined the Task Force on Sustainable Lifestyles as an active partner.

