

Win-Win With Wastewater Treatment

Cessation of Shafdan sludge emissions into the Mediterranean Sea

Until 2017, Israel discharged every day 16,000 m³ 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

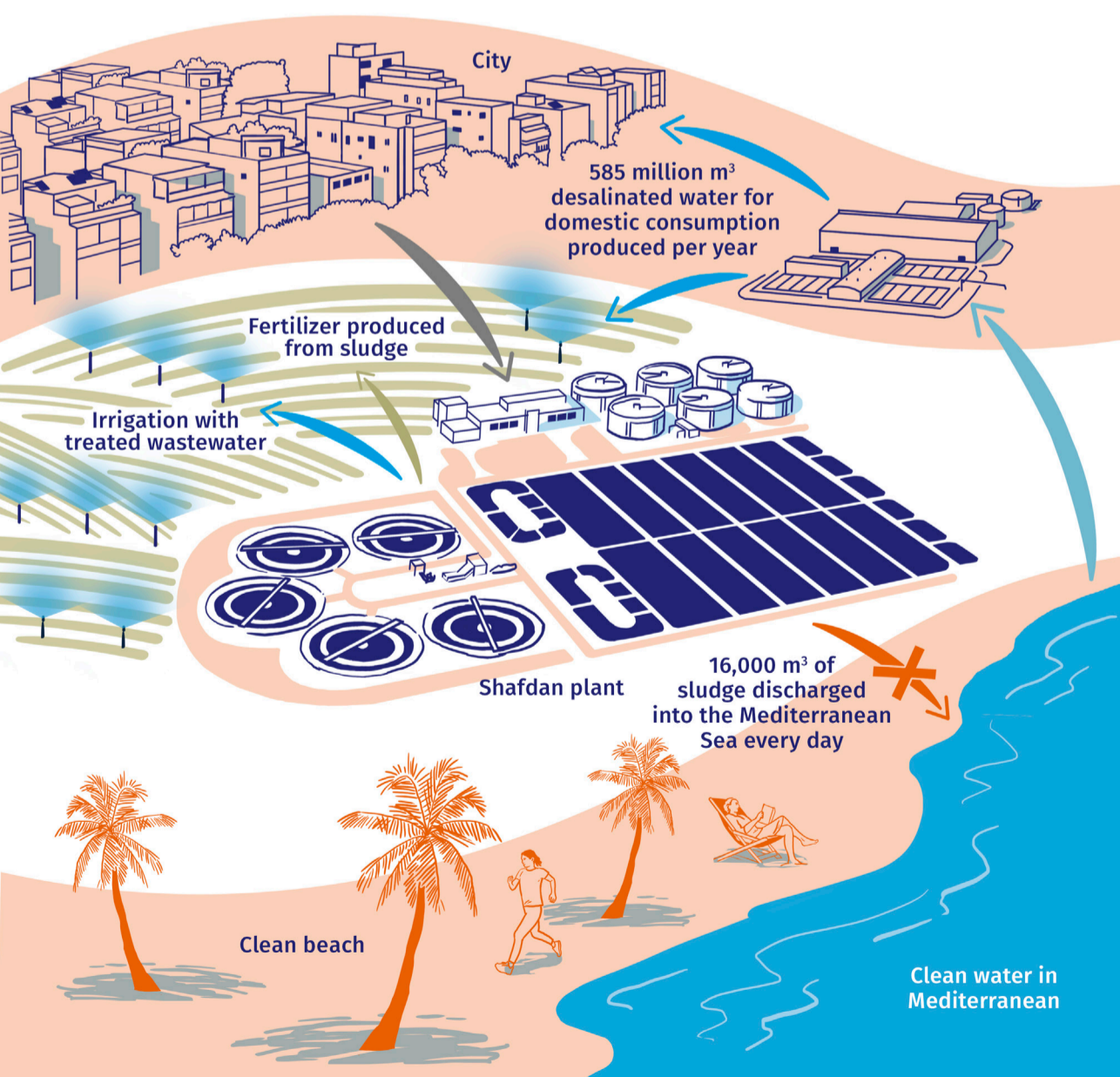
Israel produces 585 million m³ of freshwater per year by the desalination of sea water, which covers about two-thirds of its domestic needs. This has become possible through the availability of cheaper energy from Israel's growing natural gas production. The increased use of desalination is also an economic 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



European Environment Agency



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