

Win-Win with Wastewater treatment

Cessation of Shafdan sludge emissions to 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 has ratified the convention in 1978 and subsequent protocols and is actively participating in its implementation.



Economy

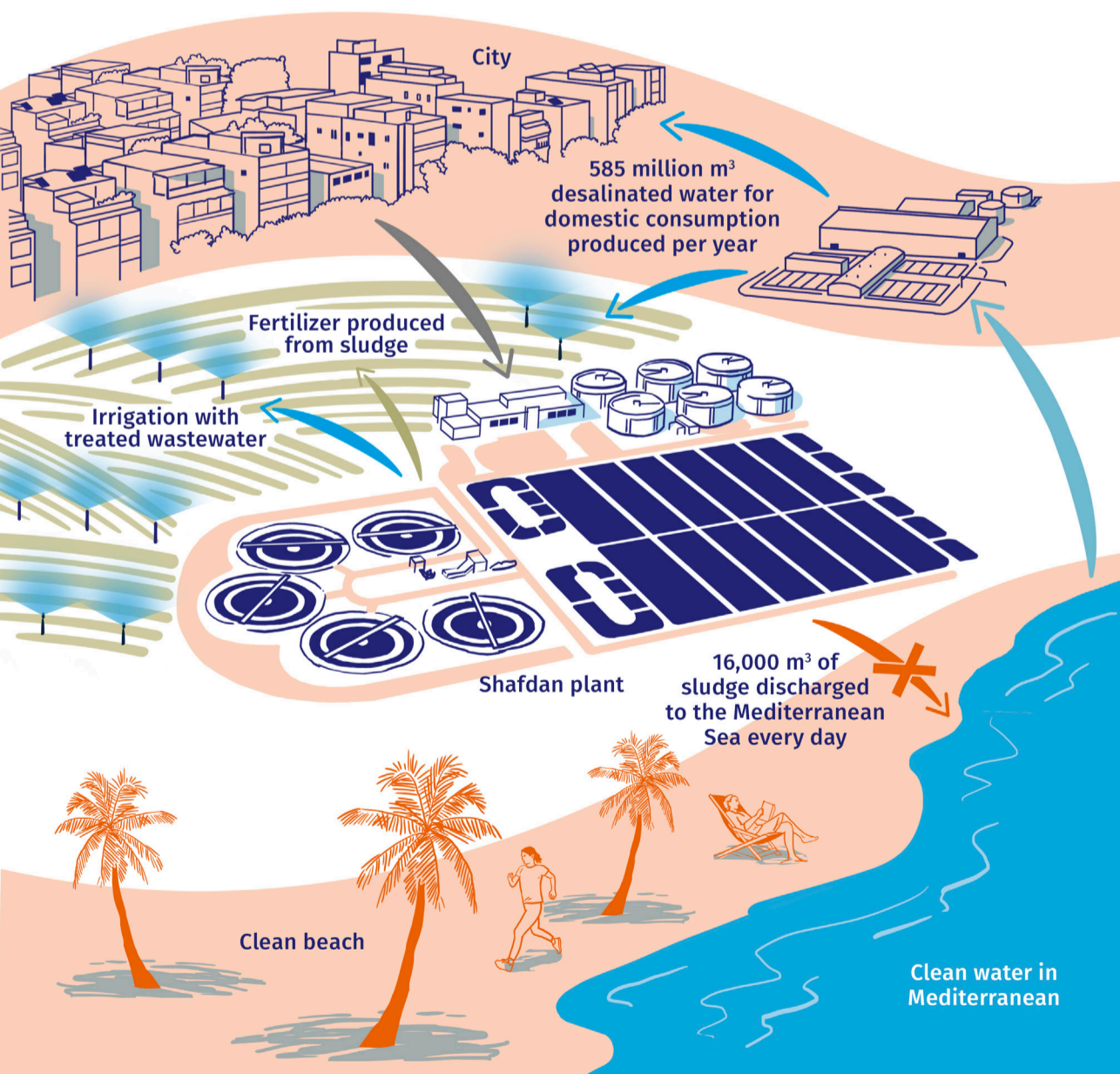
Israel produces 585 million m³ freshwater per year from by desalination of sea water, covering about two-thirds of its domestic needs. This has become possible through the availability of cheaper energy from Israel's growing natural gas production. The increased use of desalination also is an economic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



Technology

Innovation in technological developments allow both 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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