



## Newsletter Feb 2016

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### Promoting Prosperity in Israel's Periphery

With the generous support of the [MEPI organization](#) we are kicking off a new project which promotes development of education and entrepreneurship in the fields of renewable energy. The project generates exposure and opportunities for entrepreneurship and for students in the fields of renewable energy. This project expands economic opportunities for young entrepreneurs/students in the field of off-grid Renewable Energy sector. Furthermore, the project engages middle and high school students in the field of RE.

The project includes three main activities:

Expand Opportunities For Engineers Students In The Field Of Off-Grid Renewable Energy

Engage Middle and High school Students In The Field Of Renewable Energy

Educational Film on Renewable Energy



### The Sprouter

In early January we've launched an exciting program to promote entrepreneurship in the Eilat Region. The program is called "The Sprouter" (word game for the agricultural nature of the area and a sprouting ideas platform). The Sprouter encourages new initiatives that have a direct benefit for the region's resources. 20 projects were submitted, and currently we are in the process of selecting the 10 ideas that will be part of this project. The selected ideas will receive funding of \$10,000 per year + accompaniment of professional consultants to help the enterprise bring the business idea to life. ICA Foundation are the main fund which finances this project.

Project partners: ICA Foundation, Dead Sea and Arava Science Center, Eilat Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative, Capital Nature, Southern Arava R&D, Arava Institute, Israel Oceanographic and lakes Research Center and Ardom regional enterprises.

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### Carbon Capture

To accompany the clean energy production in the region, and based on the existing natural resources in Eilat and the Arava (sun, land, sea and water) we have started promoting the algae industry as it contributes to reducing carbon from the atmosphere. For example, Algatech located in kibbutz Ketura has the ability to fix 50% percent of CO2 for each ton produced algae. We are making progress in several area of this vision – a growth territories program by the Israeli ministry of agriculture (experimental pilots and commercial activity), promoting the topic in the prime-minister office, building a broad overview of algae products potential and promoting international academic cooperation. Our vision are active experimentation field with closed water systems linked to the oceanographic and limnological research institute in Eilat, algae growing plants, dozens to hundreds of new job openings in Eilat and in the Arava and using compressed CO2 originating in Aqaba's power station.



### New Start-Ups in Eilat Region

Two new start-up companies have joined investments group Capital Nature who are working in the Arava to develop innovative renewable energy technologies.

BladeRanger are developing an autonomous inspection and cleaning system for photovoltaic solar and CSP fields, based on robotics components and advanced algorithms.

ZevaLED are developing a patent-based LED bulb capable of producing uniform daylight and variable color lighting in a very high lighting efficiency, without glare and interchangeable with a regular lighting bulb.



### Green Neighborhoods in Eilat

The city of Eilat launched an innovative project that increases energy efficiency in selected neighborhoods. The communities in these neighborhoods are well involved in the process and operations that include: replacing street lighting, implementing of monitoring systems to track consumption, including educational material in schools and increasing awareness in the public. The project is part of our long-term vision for Eilat and Eilat to transform the region to energetically independent and free of fossil fuels. The project has high potential to be duplicated and expanded to other cities in Israel, more so a number of communities have already expressed interest and offered their support during after viewing results from our pilot.



### Eilat-Eilat 7th International Conference

The beginning of 2016 marks the arrival of the Eilat-Eilat 7th (!) international conference for renewable energy. The conference will be held on 27-29.11.2016 in Eilat. Updates and calls for lectures submission are published on [our website](#), on [Facebook](#) and in the newsletter.