

Summary & Courses of Action

English Speakers' Focus Group

18 Jan 2022

Topic: Urban Trees! In honor of Tu Bishvat

(And a quick note on Waste Management & Recycling from Batel Spivack)

Summary

1. Benefits of Trees and Open Space for Jerusalem and Beyond by Gary Schiff – former Urban and Community Forest Staff and Policy Director for US State Foresters (and new Jerusalem Stakeholder!) Be in touch with him via [email](#). His powerpoint presentation is attached to the email including the links to the research articles.
2. Noga Rippin our new Student Intern presented our new Urban Tree Conservation program with Jerusalem Stakeholder and former Dept. of Agriculture tree expert, Yisrael Galon. He will guide a team together with the Jerusalem branch of Saving the Trees, (NGO), prepare up-to-date information for urban residents, give workshops and training sessions to become “Urban Tree Guardians.” The team will think of new and creative action plans in order to protect the trees of our city, and engage in cooperation with Urban Tree Guardians from other cities in Israel. We are looking for volunteers. [Email Noga if you would like to get involved in this new effort.](#)
3. The truth about Jerusalem’s waste management and recycling is not rosy.
 - a. With the new national bottle deposit law which includes plastic bottles of 1.5 liters, all bottle cages are being removed from the public domain, as the bottles are meant to be brought to supermarkets where you exchange them for cash.
 - b. Jerusalem took away other recycling bins and has not distributed orange bins for plastics & packaging waste as in all other municipalities because it invested in a facility called GreeNet which separates the different materials in our garbage at the end of the cycle (as opposed to at source by the residents).
 - c. This facility takes a high percentage (over 30%), although not all, of the city’s mixed garbage and divides it into the particular streams (plastic, glass, paper, metal, organic) to be sent to other recycling facilities in the country or abroad.
 - d. Many of the materials separated out in this manner are low quality and may not be recycled. The most acute being organic waste- once it has been mixed with other polluting materials it can no longer be used in agriculture/gardening and goes to the landfill. The same goes for paper.
 - e. There are very few recycling companies in Israel that cannot, altogether, process all of the waste produced locally and therefore much of it is either thrown “away” (i.e. dumped) or shipped to 3rd world countries and burnt or maybe recycled. Therefore our waste is still waste, just in someone else’s backyard and not our own! We have been told that all the current landfills will be used up within 2 years!
 - f. The Jerusalem Municipality needs to be transparent with its residents on its grand plan and involve them. It also needs to invest more in educating its citizenry.



Courses of Action

Trees:

As suggested by Gary (see his final slide):

- Review Jerusalem's Climate Change Plan section on trees and open space
- Make suggestions and advocate as appropriate
- Build a coalition of interested parties
- Support budgets and implementation of the plan utilizing a coalition of partners

Whoever would like to be involved in the above greater actions, email [Batel](#).

Individual Actions:

1. When you see a tree being cut down and you feel something is not right:
 - a. Demand to see the license. If they do not have one, demand them to stop!
 - b. Immediately call 106 and ask them to send an investigator right away. Keep your case # for follow up.
 - c. Call the Min. of Agriculture's hotline to report: 03-9485816
 - d. Take photos of the tree, location and email the Min. of Agriculture (see #4 below)
2. [Contact](#) Customer Service of the Gardening Department/City Improvement of the municipality. You may attach photos if relevant.
3. [Review](#) the municipal list of trees set to be cut down and/or uprooted, including the last date to appeal. (Hebrew)
4. Appeal the license to cut down a tree, [email](#) the Min. of Agriculture using the information from the above list.
5. Jerusalem Post article, October 2021 "[Save the Trees of Jerusalem](#)" featuring Lobby member Ilana Sirkis and Naomi Tsur!
6. Haaretz article, January 2022 "[Israel Wants to Plant More Trees to Combat Climate Change, but Just Cut Down 300,000 of Them](#)"
7. Israel21C article, Nov 2020, "[Solving the dirty secret of recycled plastic](#)"

Waste Management:

1. The real solution is reduction in consumerism and purchasing high quality products that last longer; buy less, use less, throw "away" less ([Tips](#))
2. Demanding that companies we patron use less packaging and eco-friendly packaging materials. ([Ideas how to](#))
3. Compost your organic waste (see last meeting's notes on how to...!)
4. Join the Sustainable Jerusalem Lobby's new team, coordinated by [Batel](#), on the topic, called #אשפּעולה which is a play on words for אשפה meaning garbage and פעולה meaning action.
5. Visit [Plastic Free Israel](#) website for local Israeli campaigns, information in English.
6. Join [Zero Waste Jerusalem](#) Facebook Group for ideas, give/take, sharing around the city.
7. Refill liquid cleaning/care products in Jerusalem with the new company [ZewelRebel](#) !

****How to become a Jerusalem Stakeholder of the Jerusalem Green Fund, click [here](#).****