

ISRAEL

ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Israel is an emerging market for environmental products and services. Israel's Ministry of Environment was created only in 1988. Prior to its establishment, there was little meaningful legislation in the area of environmental protection. However, it is now likely that much needed legislation will be enacted as the situation with regard to the environment has become intolerable and there are more and more pressure groups urging that new laws in this area be passed and that existing ones be enforced. In addition, there is a genuine will amongst key decision makers to enact tougher regulations on a wide range of environmentally related areas.

Water - Deterioration in water quality is now the most serious environmental problem in Israel. Drinking water provided by the two main aquifers show traces of chemical and microbial pollutants, salination, nitrates, heavy metals, fuels and toxic organic compounds.

Wastewater remains a serious problem. Sixty percent of treated wastewater is now used for irrigation. Plans are to utilize some eighty-five percent of Israel's total wastewater flow by the year 2000. As a first priority the Environment Ministry has called upon several municipal authorities to improve and expand their sewage treatment and disposal facilities. Opportunities in this field include providing technologies to ensure more effective recovery of wastewater and services to assist the authorities in better implementation of existing regulations.

Air Pollution - The main sources of air pollution are energy production, transportation and industry. Air pollution levels are monitored constantly. In the past two years, several power plants and refineries have been compelled to install scrubbers in their facilities. Israeli automobile owners are not presently required to use unleaded fuel, which has only recently become available. In addition to industrial scrubbers and filters, opportunities for pollution abatement technology and equipment exist, (e.g. emission reduction devices). Most industrial and commercial vehicles burn diesel fuel thus creating excessive exhaust fumes, especially in urban centres.

Hazardous Waste - There are plans to build an incineration plant for hazardous waste at the Ramat-Hovav hazardous waste site. However, plans have been delayed due to the upcoming privatization of the government company managing the site. It is expected that a decision will be taken early in 1993. Opportunities also exist for medical hazardous waste incinerators.

Solid Waste - Ninety-eight percent of Israel's solid waste is disposed of in sanitary landfills. There are over 100 of these landfills all over the country. Despite attempts to