

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEN GOD CREATED ADAM, HE TOOK HIM AND LED HIM AROUND ALL THE TREES OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN AND SAID TO HIM: "LOOK AT MY CREATIONS. SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL THEY ARE. I CREATED THEM ALL FOR YOUR SAKE. TAKE CARE NOT TO SPOIL AND DESTROY MY WORLD. FOR IF YOU RUIN IT, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE TO REPAIR IT FOR YOU". (ECCLESIASTES RABBA 7:13)

Protecting the environment and preserving nature in Israel is important for our health, wellbeing, and quality of life. Environmental preservation is both a Jewish value and a societal value, and it has great economic significance. The world was given to human beings to "work and safeguard". Alongside the industrial development necessary for mankind to thrive, we must also safeguard and protect our world.

The Religious Zionist Party's '100 Day Plan' will make the State of Israel a better place to live and promote healthier living by advancing legislation and projects that support development based on dialogue with the public and safeguard and protect the world that we have been blessed with; the world that we have the responsibility to maintain.

GREEN ENERGY

- Advance a national plan to make full use of Israel's solar energy potential
- Advance a national plan for energy efficiency that will significantly reduce the demand for electricity and other energy sources. In this

context, we will also advocate for 'green construction' (sustainable construction) that consumes far less energy and updating appliances that are not energy efficient, among other things.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND JUDEA AND SAMARIA

Through the years, environmental norms, enforcement, and legislation have largely not been implemented in settlements in Judea and Samaria. Accordingly, these areas are replete with environmental hazards, and law enforcement officials do not really have the capacity to monitor the situation and enforce basic standards.

- We will establish an inter-ministry task force comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Defense. Over a period of two months, this committee will map out everything necessary to adapt the environmental legislation prevalent in Israel to Judea and Samaria and prepare a plan of action that reflects the areas/issues that take priority. This plan will be presented for government approval within three months and officials in the Civil Administration will ensure that the commanding general's orders coincide with the new legislation. Additionally, special inspectors will be hired to enforce the legislation.

REHABILITATING ISRAEL'S STREAM AND NATURE HIKES

Israel's streams and nature hikes have changed beyond recognition. Beautiful bastions of nature, filled with a wide variety of animal and plant life, have become an afterthought, overflowing with pollution and contaminated water. Not only does the neglect of Israel's streams and nature hikes harm the environment, but it also harms the health and wellbeing of the public. Restoring life to Israel's hikes and streams

- rehabilitating the water sources, improving the quality of water that flows there, and revitalizing nature hikes, will confer upon the public an important natural resource for leisure and recreation, both within urban areas and in the countryside. In order to revitalize Israel's hikes, streams, and water sources, while simultaneously providing for needs that will arise in the future, it is necessary to take the following steps:

- Implement the government's decision to restore the flow of water in seven streams by the end of 2022 and extend this decision to an additional seven streams that will be rehabilitated by 2025. This step will benefit both the public and the environment.
- Promote plans to connect the national water system to detached water basins, including a direct connection to the Kineret Basin (the water source of the Jordan River and Hula Valley) and Emek Hamaayanot; these connections are critical for preserving agriculture and tourism, as well as the hikes, streams, and settlements near the headwaters of the Jordan River (the Dan, Baniyas, and Hitzbani), the Hula Valley, the Golan, Emek Hamaayanot, and the Kineret.
- Amend the 'Water Law' to include the restoration and sustainable management of natural water sources, restore the flow of water in Israel's streams, and increase transparency and public involvement in the decision-making process.

PRESERVING ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND PROMOTING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY

Israel is one of the most important regions in the world on account of the wide variety of species that thrive here. A healthy ecosystem and biodiversity are the basis for human survival, providing us with oxygen, cleaner air, clean water, food, and medicines. Chipping away at Israel's open spaces strangles the natural corridor and leads to the extinction of different animals and plant life.

THE FOLLOWING STEPS MUST BE TAKEN:

- Ratifying and allocating funding for a national plan to preserve biodiversity, which Israel committed to develop more than 10 years ago.
- Increasing habitats to 30% under the auspices of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority by promoting underrepresented habitats.
- Passing legislation to protect the environment from harmful invasive plant and wildlife species and allocating significant funding to address this issue.
- Promoting revisions to the 'Wildlife Protection Law' to prevent the poisoning of wildlife and outlaw recreational hunting in Israel.
- Advance a government program to prevent birds from colliding with electric poles and electrification. The plan will be developed over a six-month period by the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Electricity Authority, Israel Electric Corporation, and the Society for the Protection of Nature. It will be fully funded and implemented within 5 years.

PRESERVING UNSETTLED TERRITORY AND IMPROVING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Israel is one of the most crowded countries in the western world.

In order to balance the need to provide housing options for Israel's growing population and quality of life of Israel's citizens on the one hand, and the need to preserve unsettled territory and remaining farmland on the other, it is necessary to take the following steps:

- Increase funding and goals for urban renewal projects. This coincides with the national goal of improving quality of life in cities, strengthening the urban sector, using land more efficiently, and limiting the construction of single-family homes.

- Promote urban nature projects in all of Israel's cities that ensure that all citizens have access to nature and preserve important natural corridors within cities and adjacent to them.
- Dissolve the National Committee for Planning and Construction in Preferred Housing Districts and instead significantly increase the power of municipal committees.

IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY BY IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

To provide for the public's growing need for better accessibility, coupled with the development of many new communities and neighborhoods, it is necessary to transform the way that the transportation system functions, and the resources allocated to this issue, by taking the following steps:

- Increase funding allocated toward public transportation, at the expense of infrastructure for private vehicles. At least two-thirds of the Ministry of Transport's funding should be diverted toward public transportation.
- Ratify the National Outline Plan for Integrated Transportation (Tama 42) that will implement a comprehensive planning policy to promote the use of public transportation and bicycles.
- Build lanes for public transportation and carpools.
- Use different means to increase the 'travel factor' (the number of passengers in a private car), including financial incentives and perks for using carpools, and financial deterrents for traveling alone, including compensation offered by employers.
- Establish an efficient public transportation system that links outlying cities with the center of the country, by increasing the frequency of direct lines, alongside adjusting the specific type of vehicle (van/minibus/bus) in accordance with the number of passengers who use the bus line.

- Establish a general transportation headquarters to manage public transportation optimally and efficiently.

DEALING WITH WASTE AND GARBAGE

The State of Israel suffers from a serious problem with garbage and waste. It is important to advance national policies that will protect the environment and take to task those who illegally dump garbage. The plan will include the following components:

- Increased oversight and enforcement of illegal garbage disposal
- Increased enforcement against the illegal dumping of construction waste in open areas. It is important to ensure coordination among the different government agencies that address these issues - the police, the 'green police', Israel Nature and Parks Authority officials, local municipal officials, and regional council officials.
- Promote a government motion to clean up the country together with the nonprofit sector, predicated on education, publicity, improved infrastructure, and law enforcement.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, EDUCATIONAL TRIPS, AND RESEARCH DEDICATED TO NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Love for the land begins with education that is steeped in values and connected to nature, the environment, and familiarity with the land. Environmental education and educational trips engage the next generation of Israel's citizenry, and it is therefore important to strengthen educational initiatives and research projects in the realm of nature and environment and ensure that everyone learns about it.

The following steps must be taken:

- Teachers around the country will be trained to teach about the environment in conjunction with training programs conducted by the Ministry of Education.

- All schools will have programs and activities that relate to the environment in the context of curriculums about the Land of Israel.
- Students in universities and colleges will be trained in environmental education.
- A program that promotes love for the land and responsibility for nature and the environment in our beloved homeland, will be launched in every school. The program will include a series of multiday trips predicated on these values and endow students with a comprehensive educational process.