

Sustainable Engineering in the Eastern Mediterranean: Second Annual Meeting

Solar for Gaza & Sderot (S4G/S)

Renewable Energy in Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Introduction of Concept

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Thursday, March 4, 2010
Palm Beach Hotel and Bungalows, Larnaca, Cyprus

Vision

- S4G/S strives to prepare for a time when normal community development may resume in Gaza & Sderot...
- ...To help forge a renewably powered world and direct our creative energy towards overcoming our foremost enemies: poverty and the upset of the global climate balance.

S4G/S is a project of **Climate for Peace**, a global call for the cessation of armed conflict in order to mobilize all resources to address the overriding challenge of averting climate catastrophe and fossil fuel supply cataclysms.

Mission

- ◆ To facilitate the building of sustainable infrastructure; and
- ◆ To promote the rehabilitation of the peoples of Gaza, Palestine, and Sderot, Israel

Through

- ✦ Educational opportunities
- ✦ Renewable energy technologies
- ✦ And Cross-border cooperative enterprises

Objectives

1. To form a sustained, productive **coalition** of young Palestinian and Israeli **engineers** working in and with the communities of Gaza and Sderot to develop and deliver **renewable technology** to address the **self-identified needs** of the communities involved;
2. To achieve the **admission** of 2-4 Gazan Palestinian engineers or engineering **students** into the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies so that they may join an equal number of Israeli engineers or engineering students from Sderot in the **intellectual**, pragmatic, and **emotional struggle** for a common and peaceful **future**.

Project Origins

Background

2009

- Began as a Climate for Peace **educational project** in an Architecture and Planning course at Hochschule Liechtenstein
 - “Solar for Gaza” report
- The **First Annual SEEM Conference** cohered the S4G/S concept and introduced potential partners for the project.

2010

- The Institute for Global Leadership and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies entered into a **partnership to create the S4G/S educational and organizational framework.**

Project Origins

Context

Marginalization

Psychological and physical devastation of war

Inhibited community development

Abundant potential for energy autonomy



Project Origins

Reasoning

“It was precisely the instability of the situation and all the dire human consequences of the Israeli-Palestinian strife that provided the justification for sustainable civic development and concerted efforts in planning a renewable future for Gaza and the wider region.”

-- 0.1_Introduction, Project S4G/Renewable City / Summer Session 2009

Meeting our Objectives

#1 ~ Engineering across borders

Potential Partners

- EWB-Gaza, -Palestine, -Israel, -Jordan & -Tufts
- Communities of Gaza & Sderot – schools, hospitals, relief centers, etc.

Next Steps

- Summer 2010: IGL facilitates face-to-face brainstorming and action-orientated meeting with representatives of EWB chapters mentioned above and other participants at a neutral, accessible location
- Engineering teams identify needs of respective communities
- Engineering teams conduct project feasibility assessments

Outcomes

- Trust building and knowledge sharing

Meeting our Objectives

#2 ~ Educating across borders

Potential Partners

- Arava Institute - Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC)
- Higher education institutes in Gaza & Sderot

Next Steps

- IGL student interns at Arava Institute over summer 2010
- Arava and IGL identify potential applicants; develop application process; secure scholarship funding; apply for Gazan visas; contest IDF in Supreme Court if necessary

Outcomes

- Technical training and capacity building
- Reconciliation and peace-building through deliberate emphasis on trust-building and understanding

Institute for Global Leadership
Tufts University

Organizations currently participating

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

Peter Droege & University of Liechtenstein

Solar for Gaza & Sderot

EWB-Israel

EWB-Gaza

Sapir College in Sderot

Islamic University of Gaza

Potential partners whom we may approach in the future

Other EWB Chapters

Questions

1. Potential to collaborate?
2. Suggestions?
3. Criticisms?