

## Environmental Problems in Jerusalem

Prepared by SPNI Jerusalem

Problem	Possible Solutions
<b>Air Pollution</b> Vehicular Pollution – Jerusalem highest number of pollution violations and gets secondary pollution from Tel Aviv area. Health problem, as well as destroying historical sites	Light rail system, Promotion of affordable and user-friendly public transportation (the purpose of NGO called Lanooa), Rechov Haneviim (Street of the Prophets) preservation
<b>Solid Waste Management</b> Construction and demolition debris, street litter, household waste sent to landfills	Municipality's construction waste treatment plan, national bottle deposit campaign, anti-litter campaign, compost workshops and compost bins in each SPNI community garden
<b>Urban Ecology</b> Biodiversity and access to nature  General lack of awareness	Jerusalem Bird Observatory, Preservation of Gazelle Valley, Preservation of Jerusalem Forest  Jerusalem Green Map ( <a href="http://www.greenmap.org.il">www.greenmap.org.il</a> ), public campaigns, Environmental Education in schools, Judaism and Environment programs to reach religious public, neighborhood community gardens
<b>Urban Open Space Destruction</b> Gazelle Valley	Public opposition, creation and acceptance of alternative plan for park in valley
<b>Urban Open Space Destruction/Neglect</b>	SPNI Community Gardens Network – protects open space from development, teaches principles of ecology, keeps nature accessible to urban residents
<b>Urban Sprawl</b> Jerusalem Hills (Safdie Plan)	Coalition for the Preservation of the Jerusalem Hills successfully campaigned to overturn the Safdie Plan for the western expansion of the Jerusalem Hills. Key elements of the campaign included public opposition and formulation of an alternative plan based on research that proved that necessary residential and commercial growth can take place within existing city limits (urban renewal and intensification instead of sprawl)
Electromagnetic Radiation	Public Awareness Campaign

- Israel's guidelines on the allocation of open space in terms of square meters per capita are much lower than in other countries.
- While Europe and the U.S. allocate more than 20 square meters of land for urban parks and gardens per capita, Israel's guidelines call for half this amount – less than 10 square meters per person.
- Deviations in plans are often permitted for the construction of public institutions or even infrastructure at the expense of open spaces.
- Many public open spaces are left derelict and remain undeveloped.
- The hierarchy of parks – city, community, and neighborhood – is either inadequate or non-existent.