



ISRAEL'S NEW HORIZONS ENERGY SECURITY

Israel's energy security is transforming.

Energy independence is a shared objective of the United States and Israel, and a central pillar of each nation's security. The recent discovery of natural gas deposits off the coast of Israel catapulted the country from energy dependence to a potential role as a regional energy exporter. Similarly, the United States' energy resources have expanded over the past decade. With improved energy security, both nations are well positioned to cooperate further in the advancement of mutual interests—reducing the influence of OPEC, increasing energy efficiency and access to natural resources, and developing alternative transportation fuels.

Israel's natural gas is improving its regional position.

Israel is developing its natural gas fields, which is improving energy independence and bolstering its economy. This development is encouraging regional trade and cooperation, and providing the option of pro-Western energy supplies to a region dominated by Russia, Iran and Qatar. Israel has reached preliminary agreements to provide energy to Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority, and is exploring partnerships with Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and other regional powers. Israel's commercial partnership with U.S. company Noble Energy has also expanded the U.S.-Israel energy relationship.

America and Israel are partnering to develop renewable energy.

Israel is investing in research and development to create new transportation fuels and move proven technologies to market. Israel's nation-wide Fuel Choice Initiative is tackling gasoline dependence by leveraging Israel as a test bed for new "off-oil" technologies—its objective is to reduce Israel's gasoline consumption 30 percent by 2025 and 60 percent by 2030. Since 2013, the number of alternative fuel companies investing in Israel has increased five-fold. With America, Israeli solar company Energiya Global recently completed construction of a 22.5-megawatt solar project in Georgia while partnering with the U.S. government to expand energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

AIPAC actively works to advance U.S.-Israel energy security cooperation.

In 2008, AIPAC lobbied Congress to connect the U.S. Department of Energy with Israel's Ministry of Energy and Water by creating a dedicated energy arm of the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation. Today, AIPAC promotes annual funding for the joint program that has facilitated nearly \$50 million in grants for the co-development of renewable energy, natural gas and water technologies. In 2014, AIPAC supported the U.S-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, which expanded this relationship by authorizing a U.S.-Israel Center of Excellence to connect the two countries at academic, public and private levels through joint R&D, technology transfer and government-to-government cooperation. In 2016, the U.S. Energy Secretary and Israeli Energy Minister signed an agreement to encourage further exchanges and cooperation between U.S. National Laboratories and Israeli research centers. Partnership is also accelerating through the U.S.-Israel Joint Economic Development Group, an annual economic policy dialogue involving the Departments of State and Treasury.