

Israel and Jordan inch closer to water-for-energy deal

Jordan faces severe water scarcity, which has been exacerbated by drought and scorching heat.

By Mohammad Al-Kassim / The Media Line

Published: August 22, 2023

Last week, Israel and Jordan signed a letter of intent in Abu Dhabi for a so-called “water-for-energy” project, under which Jordan will build a [massive solar farm](#) in the desert that will generate clean energy to be sold to Israel in return for desalinated water.

“This is going to be the flagship example of bilateral relations and also of the Israeli integration into the region,” said **Oded Eran, a senior research fellow at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies and former Israeli ambassador to Jordan.**

The idea was first announced in 2021 when Jordan planned to export 600 megawatts of solar power from its southern desert to Israel. In return, Israel would provide the water-scarce kingdom with 200 million cubic meters of desalinated water from the Mediterranean.

“This clearly makes use of the energy advantages of Jordan and Israel in the sense of the proximity of quantities of water that can be made available by desalination on the Israeli side, and the large areas that can be used in Jordan to produce solar energy,” Eran explained.

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