



STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT

June 8, 2010  
2010-1137

**Press Release**

**Minister of Finance Dr. Yuval Steinitz, supported the request of  
Minister of Environmental Protection Gilad Erdan to amend the Land Fill Levy  
Order while promoting the Packaging Waste Law**

**The goal of the new policy promoted by the Ministries of Finance and  
Environmental Protection is to reduce the negative impact of burying waste that  
pollutes the ground, water and air**

Minister of Finance **Dr. Yuval Steinitz** and Minister of Environmental Protection **Gilad Erdan** today approved the amendment to the Maintenance of Cleanliness Order. The order was amended in order to enhance awareness of the negative ramifications of burying waste in the ground and to create incentives to develop alternatives for waste treatment. Under the amended order, as of 2012, the levy for burying waste will be NIS 125 per ton instead of NIS 50 per ton.

Minister of Finance **Dr. Yuval Steinitz** noted that “the goal of the process is to bring us up to the international environmental protection standard, which is also required by our membership in the OECD. It is important that the polluters see and internalize the real economic cost of pollution. It is important to emphasize that the process is contingent on the parallel promotion of the Packaging Waste Law, so that in the final analysis, the local authorities will not suffer.”

This process of amending the Land Fill Levy Order stems from its being part of a comprehensive process to change waste treatment in Israel, which is being promoted by the Minister of Environmental Protection as part of the implementation of OECD recommendations. This process also includes promotion of the Packaging Waste Law, which places the responsibility for the recycling of 60% of the packaging waste on the packaging manufacturers and marketers. In effect, the law transfers the responsibility for treating part of the waste from the local authorities to the manufacturers, thereby reducing the authorities' direct costs for waste treatment. The recycling objective for the manufacturers is also expected to develop a recycling market, which in turn will create jobs.



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The goal of approving the levy is to encourage alternate waste treatment (such as recycling, producing energy from waste, etc.) from an economic – environmental standpoint: creating alternatives to burying waste will decrease the waste burial and its subsequent negative affects, and the development of this market will create jobs, encourage the development of technologies and, ultimately, will lower the costs of alternative waste treatment.

All revenues from the land fill levy are transferred to the Maintenance of Cleanliness Fund and are designated to finance actions to reduce waste burial. A large part of this budget is transferred to the local authorities to support those actions. The Ministry of Environmental Protection also provides funds to the local authorities to support their waste burial reduction efforts through the Cleanliness Fund budget, giving priority to local authorities with a low socio-economic rating.