Waste management in Russia

Current situation

Russia does not have a tradition of recycling, waste separation, and/or incinerating waste. The existing landfills are increasingly reaching their capacity limits. Moreover, many of Russia’s landfills are outdated, leading to a number of challenges for the local population and the environment, such as bad smells, pollution of ground water and even release of toxic gases. In recent years, the issue of waste management, specifically the growing landfill troubles, has become a concern to both the public and the government. In 2018, the government introduced the National Project ‘Ecology’ to better protect the environment. Part of this plan is to introduce a solid waste management system for industrial- and household waste and to liquidate all unauthorized landfills in cities by 2024.

Main figures

- More than 90% of waste in Russia is brought to landfills
- In total, about 70 mln tons of waste are brought to landfill every year
- The country has a total of 1.000 municipal solid waste landfills, 5.500 authorized and 17.000 unauthorized landfills
- Waste disposal sites with a total surface of 4 mln hectares (similar to that of the Netherlands). This annually increases by 400 thousand hectares
- Waste at Russian landfills generally is composed of: 34% food, 19% paper, 14% polymers, 12% glass, 6% wood, 6% street waste, 4% metal, 3% textile, 2% other

Russian Ecology Project: Waste

The Russian government has launched the National Ecology Project to improve environmental protection in Russia towards 2024. The project focuses on different areas, among which the quality of air and water, sewage in rivers, forest preservation and waste management.
In order to implement the Ecology project, the state-owned company Russian Ecological Operator (REO) is set up in January 2019. In the field of waste, its core tasks are to:
- Ensure sound regulation of household waste in practice (separation, processing, recycling);
- Build adequate infrastructure for waste management;
- Raise awareness among consumers and producers.

Where REO is responsible for the formulation of policy at the national level, the regions are responsible for the implementation of the Ecology project. Regions cooperate with private regional operators for the collection of waste, and will now be tasked to ensure sound waste separation, processing and recycling. To this end, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has encouraged the development of ‘ecotechnoparks’ in Tatarstan, Samara Region, Moscow Region and Arkhangelsk.

**Market development**

The Russian market for waste-management is expected to develop in the coming few years in the following areas: development of sound systems for waste collection and separation, smart landfills, waste incineration (household and construction waste), recycling infrastructure and awareness raising among consumers and producers.

For successful implementation, regional operators are looking for appropriate technology. Suppliers are attracted by (federal)

governmental loans and stimulated to play an active role in the waste management process. The government introduced a localization requirement of 40% for technology suppliers in the waste sector.

Companies are increasingly involved in collecting used products and waste. The capacity to recycle used products (i.e. electronics, plastics) in Russia however still falls behind the amount that is collected. An increase in demand for recycle plants is therefore expected. Growing consumers’- and producers’ awareness will contribute to this trend.

**Policy figures**

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<th>Aims and targets</th>
<th>Means</th>
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<td>- Close 76 unauthorized landfills in cities by 2021 and 191 by 2024</td>
<td>- 296.2 billion Rubles</td>
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<td>- Increase the processing of municipal waste from 10% in 2018 to 80% by 2030, and build 200 waste processing installations</td>
<td>- 107.9 Federal</td>
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<td>- Increase the number of companies to process hazardous waste from 0 in 2018 to 7 in 2024</td>
<td>- 6.3 Regions</td>
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<td>- Increase the recycling of packaging and waste by producers to 10-30%</td>
<td>- 182 companies</td>
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<td>- Increase the share of total solid household waste that is recycled from 3% in 2018 to 26% in 2024</td>
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**Trade fairs**

- WASMA, Moscow 22-24 October 2019
- Aquatherm, Moscow, 11-14 February 2020
- WasteTech, Moscow, 8-10 September 2020
- Moscow International Recycling Expo, 2020

**What can the Embassy do for you?**

The Netherlands Embassy in the Russian Federation can facilitate your company in a number of ways:
- Provide more detailed market information based on your specific questions and needs;
- Answer first-line questions re. doing business in Russia;
- Facilitate contacts with regional authorities (or federal).

**More Information**

For further information, you can contact the Economic department of the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow via mos-economics@minbuza.nl or phone no. +7 495 797-29-21.

You can find general information about doing business in Russia, available subsidies and financing for entrepreneurs on the Embassy’s website and on the website of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (in Dutch).

**Sanctions**

Please note that EU sanctions are imposed on the Russian Federation. Companies are responsible to ensure that their activities comply with the sanction regulations. For more information about sanctions, you can contact the Netherlands Enterprise Agency’s sanctions desk (in Dutch) and consult the handbook on dealing with sanctions on their website.

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1According to the ranking of Fineexpertiza