



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Waste management in Russia

Photo by Alfonso Navarro

Current situation

Russia does currently not have a tradition of recycling, waste separation, and/or waste incineration. Meanwhile, 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 Moreover, many of Russia's landfills are outdated, leading to a number of challenges for the local population and the environment, such as bad smells, pollution of ground water and even release of toxic gasses. 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 therefore 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.

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:

Main figures

- More than 90% of waste in Russia is brought to landfills;
 - In total, 65 mln tons of waste were landfilled in 2019. Russia has capacity to landfill merely 55 mln tons a year. 32 Regions have the capacity to landfill its waste for no more than 5 years;
 - 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.
- Ensure sound regulation of household waste in practice (separation, processing, recycling);
 - Build adequate infrastructure for waste management;
 - Raise awareness among consumers and producers.

REO currently prepares the Federal Scheme for Solid Waste Management, to be adopted in November 2020, in which it revises the targets for waste management in 2024. With this scheme, the government raises its targets and aims to recycle 36 percent (7% in 2019) and to sort 100 percent (2019 12%) of household waste in 2024. This should also lead to a reduction in landfilling waste in 2024, from 64% to 50%. Despite these ambitions, this will require the opening of another 348 landfills in Russia in the coming years.

In addition and to ensure a transition from landfilling to processing waste, the Russian government plans to build 361 waste separation- and processing plants (composting and biofuels) and 154 plants for incineration and waste to energy by 2024. According to REO, more than 5 billion euro will be invested in the Russian waste sector until 2024.

Whereas 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.

Current industry information for 2019¹ [source: REO]

Total amount of MSW	65,0 mln tons
Amount of MSW per person	450,0 kg per person/year
Average rate in RF	545 560 rub/m ³
Number of MSW accommodation facilities	976
Number of processing objects	207
The amount of MSW directed to processing	18,2 mln tons
The amount of MSW directed to recycling	2,7 mln tons
Processing capacities introduced (incl. modernization)	4,68 mln tons
Disposal facilities introduced	2,3 mln tons
Number of introduced objects	55
Total amount of investments in facilities for processing and disposal of MSW	27,9 bln rubles

¹According to the Russian Environmental Operator (REO)

Top 10 regions with municipal waste challenges²

Moscow is the most densely populated unit of the country. The Moscow region, in addition to the regional municipal waste, receives around 20% of the municipal waste produced in Moscow. And only 4% of Moscow's waste is recycled. The region is putting a lot of efforts in closing unauthorized landfills, improving waste collection and separation, and in increasing recycling.

TOP-10 regions with most municipal waste²

Region	m ³ /year
Moscow Oblast	27 538 237
Moscow City	24 123 852
Krasnodar Krai	17 366 530
Bashkortostan Republic	12 761 699
Sverdlovsk Oblast	11 135 961
St. Petersburg	11 059 467
Rostov Oblast	10 467 049
Tatarstan Republic	9 590 802
Nizhny Novgorod Oblast	8 903 819
Samara Oblast	7 577 275

²According to the ranking of [Finexpertiza](#)

European (in particular Finnish, German, French and Swedish, as well as Dutch companies' technologies have been supportive in this process. Starting in January 2020, the collection and separation of municipal waste will be facilitated by separate containers for plastic, glass, paper, carton and metal in neighborhoods. For the success of these initiatives, appropriate awareness raising and informing of citizens, as well as transportation and technologies for processing and incineration of different types of waste are required. The regions where problems are most urgent (capacity<3 months) are Magadan, Buryatia, Zabaykalsky Krai, Jewish Autonomous Region and Sakhalin. Krasnodar, Kamchatka, Kabardino-Balkarskaya, Yakutsk, Omsk and Volgograd have landfill capacity for no more than one year.

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, which often includes foreign companies. Suppliers are attracted by (federal) governmental loans and stimulated to invest in the waste management process in Russia, whereby production facilities are built and production is largely localised. To this end, currently a localization requirement of 40% applies 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

AIMS AND TARGETS

- Close 76 unauthorized landfills in cities by 2021 and 191 by 2024;
- Increase the processing of municipal waste from 10% in 2018 to 80% by 2030, and build 200 waste processing installations;
- Increase the number of companies to process hazardous waste from 0 in 2018 to 7 in 2024;
- Increase the recycling of packaging and waste by producers to 10-30%;
- Increase the share of total solid household waste that is recycled from 7% in 2019 to 26% in 2024.

MEANS

- 296.2 billion Rubles
 - 107,9 Federal
 - 6.3 Regions
 - 182 companies

Project Funding

There are several ways to receive funding for waste management projects. Did you know that:

- The [Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership Fund](#) (NDEP) combines financial contributions from several donors, among which Russia, the Netherlands and the EU, to fund projects in waste management in Russia?
- More than 60 percent of the EU's [Horizon 2020 programme](#) budget is devoted to sustainable development, building green, circular and sustainable economies worldwide?
- Already in 1992 the EU developed [LIFE](#) as part of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of the European Commission, aiming to support projects in the fields of environment, climate action and energy?

Relevant events

- [WasteTech](#), Moscow, 8-10 September 2020
- [Moscow International Recycling Expo](#), 1-3 October 2020
- [Aquatherm](#), Moscow, 2-5 February 2021
- International exhibition of equipment and technologies for waste management, recycling and wastewater treatment ([WASMA](#)), Moscow, 2-4 March 2021

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, including a company check on a prospective partner on the Russian market;
- Answer first-line questions re. doing business in Russia;
- Facilitate contacts with regional authorities (Moscow, Moscow Oblast, Leningrad Oblast, etc.).

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.