

Information about initiatives for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy in waste management

The major document which specifies measures to be completed and objectives to be achieved in waste management is the 2010 National Waste Management Plan (Kpgo2010) approved by the Council of Ministers on December 29, 2006 by way of Resolution no. 233 (Official Journal of the Republic of Poland, No. 90, Item 946). The Plan includes the scope of tasks necessary to ensure integrated waste management in Poland, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy in a manner which ensures environmental protection and considering the current and future possibilities and economic conditions and the technological level of the existing infrastructure.

Kpgo2010 defines the following objectives to be achieved in hazardous waste management:

- maintaining the recovery of waste oil at the level of 50% and recycling at the level of at least 35%,
- achieving required recovery and recycling levels of batteries, used electrical and electronic equipment, waste oil, end-of-life vehicles, used tyres,
- increasing the efficiency of selective collection of hazardous waste,
- extending and ensuring full performance of recovery and recycling facilities for various types of dangerous waste,
- eliminating totally PCBs from the environment by controlled treatment of PCBs and decontamination or neutralisation of equipment containing PCBs,
- removing dumping grounds and warehouses with plant protection products past their expiry date,
- extending the explosive waste management system.

Furthermore, the aim assumed is the achievement of required packaging waste recovery and recycling levels and increasing the quantity of municipal sludge processed before being discharged to the environment and also maximisation of the utilisation of biogenic substances contained in the sludge.

With respect to the development of the sustainable development policy in waste management, the hierarchy of waste management is most important, according to which priority is given to preventing the formation and minimising the generation of waste. Furthermore, environmental education which promotes appropriate waste management is under way.

With respect to the reduction of waste generation, innovative integrated solutions are supported which ensure prevention of the generation and reduction of pollution of various environmental compartments, in particular by the implementation of advanced, low- or non-

waste technologies which may contribute to the production and consumption of goods so as to ensure the achievement of high profitability and environmental protection.

The national legislation also promotes the introduction of the EMAS environmental management system which encourages entrepreneurs to identify environmental issues and to plan relevant measures in order to reduce negative environmental impacts. Certain incentives are introduced for companies which participate in the environmental management system. For example, in the case of the Register of Entrepreneurs who trade in batteries a registration fee is paid for the entry into the register. However, entrepreneurs who have implemented an Environmental Management System consistent with the European Eco-Management and Audit System (EMAS) and obtained the entry into the register referred to in the Act of March 12, 2004 on the national eco-management and audit system (EMAS) (Journal of Laws No. 90, Item 631 as amended) are exempt from paying the fee.

Moreover, a system of product and deposit fees has been introduced, which imposes a requirement on manufacturers and importers to recover and recycle packaging and after-use waste. Product fees already include:

- packaging,
- electrical and electronic equipment,
- batteries,
- lubricating oils,
- tyres.

The product fee creates an incentive system for the reduction of the generation of environmentally troublesome waste and promotes waste recycling. Furthermore, other financial instruments, such as increased fees for waste storage, are also applied. Moreover, research of and launching new, more durable products with lower content of hazardous substances is supported to ensure their easier recycling.

Efforts are also made to execute the provisions of the *2009-2032 National Asbestos Removal Programme*¹. The chief activities are of education and information nature and aim to increase public awareness of the harmfulness of asbestos. Approx. PLN 5.75 million from the state budget was spent for the project in 2007-2008.

¹Approved by way of Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 122/2009 as continuation of the *Programme for the removal of asbestos and asbestos-containing products in Poland*.