

Town of Gusev, Kaliningrad Oblast

RUSSIAN-DANISH PILOT PROJECT
WITHIN THE PROGRAMME OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

Solid Household Waste Collection, Separation and Processing: Concept Development

Introduction

Solid household waste with high pollution potential for the air, water, and soil is now recognized as a major threat to the environment and to human health. A modern approach to solid household waste management has not yet been introduced to Gusev Urban District. Situated in the centre of Europe with an outlet to the Baltic Sea, Kaliningrad Oblast borders on Lithuania and Poland and has an area of 15,1 thousand square km and 950 thousand inhabitants. Limited area and lack of waste recycling facilities result in an increasing number of dump sites used for the disposal of solid household waste. With waste volumes growing at an alarming rate, each disposal dump extends steadily every year. Forests and protected nature reserves along the rivers and lakes are also getting affected by hazardous waste. Rivers of the South-Eastern part of Kaliningrad Oblast head from Vištytis Height and flow into the Baltic Sea, which makes their eventual pollution an issue of cross-border and international significance.

Meanwhile, there is a serious concern about the lack of public awareness of waste management. Environmental crisis looms as waste is generated several times faster than it takes to decay. New environment-friendly solutions to mounting waste problems have to be found. It should be widely recognized that waste management expenses lead to a raise in tariffs and taxes and place an additional burden on the local community. Increasing pressure on landfill sites presents an imminent environmental hazard to the region. Negligent human activity may cause catastrophic losses in biodiversity and global health problems, whereas an efficient and careful approach to waste collection and recycling can help improve environmental standards in the region.

Project objective and targets

The long-term objective of the project is to reduce the harmful effect of waste on the environment and on human health. Account must be taken both of ethical and economic aspects of the waste problem. First of all, a massive public awareness campaign should be carried out to build public support and commitment to the eco-friendly lifestyle. International experience shows that this process may take quite a long time, yet the widespread understanding and the rising public concern over the key environmental issues keeps us enthusiastic about the eventual result of the project. The economic aspect implies building up facilities for waste separation which will allow to reclaim the valuable content of the waste for further use to the benefit of the region.

The project will assist the authorities of Gusev Urban District in the establishment of a cutting-edge facility for the collection and recycling of solid household waste.

Project activities

The project will be implemented in several stages:

1. Preliminary activities
2. International co-ordination of the initial project activities
3. Analysis of the current situation with waste management in the project pilot region; review of relevant best practice of the Danish municipality
4. Waste management concept development for Gusev Urban District
5. Completion of the project

STAGE 1

- Agreeing with the municipal administration of Gusev Urban District upon the start of the project activities. Setting up a working group.
- Analysis of the current situation with waste management in Gusev Urban District.

STAGE 2

- International co-operation in the area of waste management. Co-ordination of joint project activities. Organization of the kick-off seminar.
- A visit of the Danish project partners to Gusev Urban District.

STAGE 3

- Analysis of the waste management experience in Gusev Urban District and problem identification.
- Analysis of the waste management experience in the Danish municipality and identification of solutions to the problem of waste management.
- Analysis of performance of collectors, scavengers and recyclers of solid household waste.
- Identification of partners among foreign companies active in the sector of waste recycling.

STAGE 4

- Development of a waste management concept for Gusev Urban District

STAGE 5

- Final seminar
- Dissemination of project findings to specialists and the general public
- Final report

EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS

- Development of a cutting-edge facility for the collection and recycling of solid household waste.
- Reduction of the area of the dump site.
- Reduction of toxic emissions to the atmosphere.
- Setting up a self-sustaining system of solid household waste management.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- The project findings will be used by the administration of Gusev Urban District in the further realization of a cutting-edge concept of solid household waste management.

- Use of recycled materials will help cut expenses on collection and processing of solid household waste.
- The project findings will be made available for other administrations of Kaliningrad Oblast.

PROJECT WORKING PLAN

No.	Tasks / Activities	Dates	Results / Responsible
1.	Analysis of the current situation with waste management in Gusev Urban District	May – June 2008	Analytical note / Russian expert
2.	Analysis of the waste management experience in the Danish municipality	June – August 2008	Analytical note / Danish expert
3.	Development of general principles of a waste management concept for Gusev Urban District	June 2008 – July 2009	General principles of a waste management concept/ Danish and Russian experts
4.	A visit of the Danish project partners to Kaliningrad Oblast	October – November 2008	Administration of Gusev Urban District
5.	A visit of representatives of Gusev Urban District to Denmark	February – March 2009	Municipality of Odense
6.	Organization of a joint seminar in Russia	October – November 2008	Seminar report / Administration of Gusev Urban District
7.	Organization of the final seminar	July 2009	Seminar report / Administration of Gusev Urban District
8.	Reports	August 2009	Reports / Danish and Russian experts