

Experience, national trends and challenges in plastic pollution

Friends of the Baltic, Russia

Plastic Free Ocean project workshop
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Sub-goal 1. To promote voluntary phase-out of plastic in different public sectors within the BSR (our activities)

- Fact sheet with [Top 10 plastic items](#) found on the coast of GoF
- Developing the strategy for schools and other educational organizations
- Info-campaign within CCB against plastic pollution in [VKontakte](#) (almost 2000 views)
- Municipalities interested in education of locals
- Collecting data about bars and small cafes
- With Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety - [Environmental friendly advices](#)



General trends and current situation

- Committee for nature use of St. Petersburg is the most advanced in Russia (reduce on their events, develop recommendations how to reduce, Ban on the launch of balloons)
- Single-use plastic free events by the Committee on culture of the Leningrad region (they use single-use «paper»)
- The number of «shops without packaging» and interest in them is growing
- Small companies in food sphere are starting to implement solutions to reduce waste generation

Bars (glass recycling with support of local initiative [ForMemoryProject](#)), glass recycling and zero waste life style with support of [Koskenkorva](#))

Cafes and restaurants ([ЭкоHoReCa project](#))

- Students have [launched](#) an initiative for separate collection in schools
- Generally, main approach to environmental friendliness in various sectors of business is currently focused on recycling, But not on reducing ([McD](#), [IKEA and MEGA](#), ...)

Sub-goal 2. To advocate policy changes towards BSR as a region that is free from single-use plastic

- [Presentation](#) of PFO and «BSR free from SUP» idea on the Union of the Baltic cities meeting
- Alliance against burning, for recycling of waste (with GreenPeace, Razdelny Sbor, ECA, Dront, Center of resources saving)
- Appeal to Ministry of natural resources to develop restrictions on single-use plastics, [promoting](#) joint petition for people to the ministry
- Appeal to Ministry of natural resources against the adoption of the new concept of extended producer responsibility and [Campaign](#) for people to vote against
- The [position paper](#) on communal waste of the Russian NGOs with focus on preventing waste generation and reducing the use of single use plastic was developed and disseminated
- BSD ML&MP event and resolution to HELCOM Regional action plan and revising BSAP on Martine litter prepared – postponed

General trends and current situation

- Government agencies have started talking about reducing single use plastic:

The Minister of natural resources [said](#) that this is necessary but there is no action from the Ministry in this direction yet (May 2019)

The human rights Council under the President of the RF [recommended](#) to Government develop regulations on reducing single use plastic (July 2019)

ROSPOTREBNADZOR [announced](#) amendments to the legislation on the gradual reduction of production and sale of plastic bags by 2024(October 2019), but later they refuted this information

- 84% of Russians support The idea of a legal restriction on single-use plastics ([GreenPeace and LEVADA center](#))
- Waste to energy = utilization
- There are less cosmetics products with Microplastics in the shops (TNCs due to EU and USA legislation are changing production, for example, in scrubs they use cellulose instead of polyethylene (with the exception of Russian manufacturers)

Sub-goal 3. To increase public awareness and literacy on measures to prevent plastic pollution of the Baltic sea and oceans

- Citizen science – very interesting for activists and schools, we provided a lot of trainings and investigations. But we will not focus on MP monitorings anymore. Waste audit and marine litter monitorings is useful until the government restrict single use plastic.
- Our Exhibition on plastic widely disseminated and work [successfully](#) in SPb (2 places), Arkhangelsk region, Irkutsk region. (More than 12000 views in social network, in SPb - permanent excursions on the basis [of the largest center for environmental education in St. Petersburg](#))



General trends and current situation

- Interest in the topic of marine litter, microplastics and their reduction, sustainable life style and zero waste concept is growing. The number of requests to us for comments/expert assessment/interviews/ lectures proves this.
- Among young people (schoolchildren and students), awareness of microplastics, marine debris and disposable plastics is higher than among the older population working in a non- environmental field. Adults support the idea that separate waste collection should cause reducing bills... and decreasing necessity of incineration and landfills.
- «Waste riots», number of appeals to the court related to waste management system is increasing , as well as the number of applications and public expertise in this sphere.
- But the problem is that people do not see the connection between the appearance of the landfill and the plastic bag purchased today.

Challenges

- COVID-19 – many restaurants, cafes, that have introduced reusable returned to disposable, because customers are concerned about the situation with virus.
- To move from discussing the problem to solving it
- To develop technological solutions (for reducing single-use plastic in packaging, for holding microplastics in cleaning rooms, for cleaning garbage stains..)
- To show people connection between their plastic bag and landfill
- To work with large producers, retailers, delivery using single-use package
- To do with litter and microplastics that already have got into the sea

Thank you for your attention!



<http://www.baltfriends.ru/>
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More Baltic, less plastic!