

TACKLING THE ISSUE OF WASTE CRISIS

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The problem of garbage is now relevant because today people consume several times more than our ancestors. Every year the consumption grows and with it the amount of waste grows. The problem with rubbish is that most plastic products are used for a short period of time before ending up in landfills, such as plastic bags or packaging. There is a threat to the security of our planet because plastic decomposes poorly.

The problem of garbage in different countries.

- One of the most polluted countries in the world is the United States of America, where about 157 million tons of garbage is generated annually. Unfortunately, the problem of household waste in the country is almost not solved, only a fifth of waste is recycled, everything else is taken to municipal landfills.
- In Sweden, the problem of garbage is partially solved by disposing of cans of beer and juices. People return two-thirds of the cans to specialized collection points. In a year, thus, about 600 thousand cans are sent for processing, which saves about 96 percent on the production of new cans.
- India has 62 million metric tons of waste each year, of which only 43 million is collected. Of these 43 million metric tons of waste, 12 million is disposed of and 31 million metric tons goes to landfill. About 19 million metric tons of garbage remains on the streets or waterways or is burned illegally.
- France became the first country in the world to ban food waste in supermarkets and demand that sellers donate leftover food. Other countries, such as Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, have also decided to fight for zero food waste by teaching consumers to be

environmentally-aware when disposing waste. Thanks to the changes, hungry people are fed and carbon emissions from organic waste are reduced. To assist with food waste prevention strategies, France and other European countries have introduced "no waste" grocery stores where food is stored in bulk and customers are encouraged to shop for only the amount, they need using containers from home.

- In Ukraine, about 10 million tons of garbage are dumped annually, of which only 600,000 are recycled or incinerated. The rest is buried in landfills, of which, according to official data, there is more than 6,000 in Ukraine. They occupy 9,000 hectares. Another thousand hectares are unauthorized landfills.
- There is a big garbage island in the Pacific Ocean. Pollution began when plastic was invented. Slowly decomposing, plastic causes serious damage to the environment. Plastic waste in the Pacific Ocean kills more than a million seabirds a year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals. Syringes, lighters and toothbrushes are found in the stomachs of dead seabirds – all these objects are swallowed by birds, taking them for food.

Tackling the issue of waste crisis:

1. Give up plastic bags. You can use reusable bags in the store instead. This will not only reduce the amount of polyethylene you consume but also help you save.
2. Discard disposable bottles and utensils. Instead of buying water in plastic bottles, you can buy a reusable bottle and carry water with you. Instead of disposable tableware one can use ordinary.
3. Save energy in everyday life. Many simple methods will also help save a lot. During the day, make the most of natural light resources. Use energy-saving lamps – they last longer and consume less energy than conventional ones.
4. Sort garbage and give it for recycling. Instead of ending up in the landfill or in the ocean, glass, plastic and paper can be recycled into other products. To do this, we have to sort waste and dispose of it in special landfills for recycling. You can recycle things like paper, batteries, plastic, glass and other things.

5. Do not throw away household items you do not need. By putting furniture, clothes, appliances outside or in special rooms, you can help another person and preserve nature.

6. Give up plastic CD players, DVD players, discs and use music and videos on the Internet.

So, if everyone takes responsibility for waste sorting and using household items wisely, we will be able to save our planet. Many countries around the world have a long-established system of recycling and recycling of waste, making money on it and not polluting the environment. In turn, Ukraine, using its own experience and the experience of other countries is actively fighting this problem.

References:

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