

Resolution of the seminar "Waste management and Circular Economy"

June 14, 2018, Petrozavodsk

On June 14, 2018, a seminar "Waste management and Circular economy" was held in Petrozavodsk. The seminar was organized by the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE (within the framework of the Russian-Finnish bilateral AB-Waste project), the Working Group on environment of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Karelia, the Swedish-Karelian Business and Information Centre.

The seminar focused on the most pressing and urgent challenges which regional waste management systems in the North-West Russia are currently facing.

The seminar was attended by more than 50 participants: representatives of state authorities and local self-government of the NW Russia, experts in waste management, environmentalists, public figures, research workers, foreign and Russian experts. In the opinion of the participants, the seminar became a platform for finding practical ways of applying the most effective solutions for waste processing and recycling.

The seminar participants discussed a wide range of issues related to the transition to a new waste management system in Russia and presented a vision of this task by the government, local authorities, regional operators responsible for handling solid municipal waste, entrepreneurs, scientific organizations and foreign experts.

Seminar participants noted:

- positive trends in development and strengthening of the legislative foundations for the new waste management system in the Russian Federation;
- Timeliness and relevance of attracting attention of legislative and executive authorities, the entire waste management professional community to the problem of development and promotion of modern methods and technologies.

The seminar participants agreed on a common practice-oriented position in understanding the main directions for the practical implementation of the tasks of developing a waste management system in the regions of NW Russia and developed the following RECOMMENDATIONS:

Establish in the Republic of Karelia a working group consisting of the main actors engaged in the collection (including separate collection), transportation, processing, disposal of solid communal waste.

Promote introduction of systematic approach in the development of training programs for educating specialists in the field of waste management, and in organizing environmental activities in educational organizations on the theme of separate waste collection.

Facilitate the practical implementation of the approaches of separate waste collection and circular economy.

Continue introduction of the best available technologies in the sphere of waste management, also with the support of the Barents cooperation tools.

Include representatives of regional waste operators from NW Russia to the group being formed for a study visit to Northern Europe as part of the AB-Waste project.

Use the opportunities provided by the international financing instruments for such projects (Arctic Council programs, Barents cooperation, cross-border cooperation programs, etc.) to introduce the best waste management practices in the Russian part of the Barents Region.

When organizing similar events in the future, more attention to be paid to the technological aspects of introducing new methods of waste management and the best available technologies for waste management.

Consider the issues of solid municipal waste management together with solutions for industrial waste.

Welcome the use of the foreign experience in the modernization of the waste management system in Russia, the development and implementation of training programs and the work with the population on the issues of separate waste collection, especially noting the contribution of the County Administrative Board of Västerbotten in the implementation of such projects through the Swedish Karelian Business and Information Center .