

# SECTION 1

## PROBLEMS OF MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

(BIO-MONITORING, BIO-INDICATION, BIO-REMEDIATION, RADIOECOLOGY AND  
RADIATION SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, MANAGMENT AND AUDIT,  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN ECOLOGY)

---

### HOW MUCH YOU ARE READY FOR A ZERO-WASTE WAY OF LIFE?

---

**E. Astapovich, K. Sinkevich, A. Korotkevich**

*Belarusian State University, ISEI BSU,  
Minsk, Republic of Belarus  
astapovichkatya@gmail.com*

This thesis is based on results of opinion poll and contains public view about zero-waste way of life.

*Keywords:* zero-waste, opinion poll, way of life, ecology, waste.

Zero Waste is a philosophy that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are re-used. The goal is for no trash to be sent to landfills or incinerators. The process recommended is one similar to the way that resources are reused in nature.

During the opinion poll there are more than 100 people were asked. The interview contained 12 questions which helped us to get information about readiness to start the new way of consumption.

There is 88% of the participants who thinks that the zero-waste conception can change our lives and the whole world for the better. This question was the last one but it shows us people's opinion after being asked another questions and thinking of them.

The first question showed us that there is 65% of asked persons are trying to reduce the quantity of waste. But there is only 28,4% who refused one-time dishes and 58.7% who finds it possible to do in the year. Watching answers, we saw that there are some people who are not even trying to reduce wasting but they have already refused one-time dishes. It shows us that it's not the necessity in the modern world and it's not the ecological question only. Zero-waste is like a minimalism.

There is 36.7% of people who thinks it's impossible to give up disposable plastic packages for fruits, vegetables or meat in shops and supermarkets. It shouldn't be as cheap as it does. And of course it can't be free. There is a lot of examples what shows us that it's possible and it can be even more economically than buying new useless things every day. In some chains of stores it's impossible to buy one fruit without package.

We were glad to see that there is only 0.8% of people who are against banning one-time plastic bags in stores. There are some alternatives what were offered: reusable packets from thick plastic or bags made of fabric.

The next question was about reusable nappies. There is only 3.7% who use it and 41.3% who thinks it's possible for them to replace the disposable ones by them.

21.1% of askers didn't hear about the opportunity to hand over the old equipment. 11% did it before. And 77.1% handed over old batteries.

The main half of asked people (33.9%) are not ready to pay more for goods without package or with green-pack. 10.1% are ready to pay 50% more and 56% are ready to pay 20% more for this goods.

We asked people about not too popular movement as 'my cup please'. And 33.9% have already joined it! There are two main advantages: you don't pay for your cup and don't make waste. 70.6% of people are ready to use bike, scooter or cruiser in short ways in the city and 11% have already done this. There was a question about food wasting and we learned that there is only 60.6% are using products with an expired shelf life.

It follows that now we are not ready for zero-waste life. There are a lot of good examples how to do it in European countries and not too much for our region. The main problem is the complexity of the refusal to one-time things because they are cheap or even free. If we can't start it by ourselves, we have to get push to action from the government level.