

THE POLYETHYLENE PROBLEM AND THE WAYS OF ITS SOLUTION

A. Tkachenko, L. Kuzina

*Belarusian State University, ISEU BSU,
Minsk, Republic of Belarus
anyatkachenko2000@mail.ru*

Garbage production has long become one of the main environmental problems. A plastic bag is the kind of plastic waste that not only carries a danger to the environment, but also has a bad effect on human health. Billions of tons of polyethylene products are produced annually in the whole world, and their production accounts for 4% of the world's oil. The average statistical family, consisting of 3 people, annually uses 1500 large plastic bags and about 5000 small ones.

Keywords: polyethylene, polyethylene bags, environmental protection, plastic processing, waste sorting

The average time for using a disposable polyethylene bag is 12 minutes, then at best it falls into a landfill, at worst it rushes into the forest, gets into the river and the sea, where it causes great harm to the environment. Currently, the fourth part of the water surface is covered with plastic, 9% of the debris – plastic bags. One million birds and 100,000 marine mammals perish each year, entangled in garbage or swallowing plastic waste.

Polyethylene does not decompose in the ground, carbon dioxide is released during combustion. In order to protect the environment, many governments are motivating the population to abandon the production and use of this product. In 40 countries around the world, there is a ban or restriction on the production, sale and use of plastic bags and packaging. Here are some of these countries; Canada, Australia, China, Germany, Israel, India, France, some states of America (San Francisco, Hawaii, California). But Finland was the most advanced in solving the "polyethylene" problem; in the country's shops are machines for the processing and production of new plastic.

In Belarus, at the household level, the problem is not yet understood, and plastic bags continue to be actively used. The government also does not hurry to solve this problem. Moreover, outlets in accordance with the legislation in force in the republic are obliged to provide packaging for bakery products, vegetables, fruits, etc. free of charge. Meanwhile, about a hundred Belarusian enterprises are engaged in plastic processing. And polyethylene - one of the most popular types of processed plastic products. But in order to reuse the material, it is necessary to sort the waste initially in the places of their direct education, which many people in our country are skeptical about. Therefore, the most effective way to solve the "polyethylene" problem in our country is still the decline in consumer demand. But not everything depends on the government. The inhabitants themselves can, if possible, refuse to use plastic bags or use them as long as possible. In addition, plastic bags have a great alternative. These are eco-bags, which are made from cotton, paper, etc. For a year of service such a bag can replace more than 500 plastic bags.

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ECOLOGICAL CULTURE OF SOCIETY

A. Verbitskaya, N. Kozelko

*Belarusian State University, ISEI BSU,
Minsk, Republic of Belarus
nastya.verbitskaya.18@mail.ru*

Ecological culture presupposes such a way of life-support, in which society system of spiritual values, ethical principles, economic mechanisms, legal norms and social institutions forms needs and ways of their realization that do not pose a threat to life on Earth.

Keywords: ecological culture, ecological consciousness, ecological education, society.