

WASTE EXCHANGES

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Money is a stronger motivator for actions than caring about pollution. If there had not been any state or interstate regulations like paying money for violations of the standards and laws, mankind would poison itself more intensively. Saving on fines and possible benefits from utilization and selling waste for recycling pushed to the appearance of such infrastructural elements like waste exchange.

Waste exchanges that appeared at the market over 60 years ago today play a significant role in formation of global ecologically clean economy.

With every year growth of the recycling secondary raw materials and industry wastes plays an increasing role in global economy. According to the experts, on the average over a half of world balance of the raw materials is secondary raw materials, in the developed countries it reaches 70 %. Today more than 1,5 million people are occupied in this industry; about 600 million tons of secondary raw materials are recycled per year for total amount over 160 billion US dollars.

One of problems that enterprises of the recycling industry have is search for suppliers. For many years in the developed countries the waste exchanges help to solve this problem. The principle is put in a basis of their functioning: « unnecessary waste for one business is valuable raw material for another». Its main function is providing a platform, on which companies having unnecessary, but potentially recycled waste, or a waste which can be reused, could meet buyers of this waste.

Main goals of the modern western waste exchanges are encouragement of trade in industry wastes for the purpose of their recycling or reusing with a view of rational use of natural resources, reduction of health hazard of the population, and also decreasing influence on the environment. The last is expressed in reduction of quantity of raw materials that finishes its production cycle on dumps of industrial and household garbage.

Besides the main purpose, the waste exchanges carry out a number of supportive functions, such as providing information on recycling or reusing these or those types of industrial wastes; granting possibility for reuse of an industrial waste with low commercial cost, and also utilization of the difficult, unusual, non-standard, polluted waste. They also assist in recycling of small firms and companies, in development of new markets for industrial wastes.

Experts agree in opinion that the most valuable component in work of the waste exchanges is its function of provider market information of waste market conditions and recycling. The most western waste exchanges are represented today by the electronic trading platforms publishing lists of offered and demanded secondary raw materials. Usually the lists consist of 10 - 15 types of industrial wastes. The structure of the list can vary depending on a geographical position of the exchange and structure of industries in this location. For recycling plastic products are offered usually, then paper and cardboard follow. On the third place of popularity sellers have wood wastes.

Wood and plastic wastes are of the greatest demand, then metal and paper wastes go. The peculiarity of lists of the majority of waste exchanges is that on the majority of positions the offer of wastes exceeds demand for them, sometimes more than twice. Among groups in which demand is approximately equal to the offer are computers, electronics and office equipment, industrial oils, and also organic wastes (first of all wastes of productions on agricultural products recycling).

Why is support of the western waste exchanges is profitable for the authorities both on state and on local levels? First of all the exchange is cheap, but a highly effective way of ecological, nature protection and resource-saving promotion. In addition, waste exchanges bring to local economy quite notable financial profit through building of the new recycling industries and also economy of budgetary funds on construction new and maintenance of old dumps and plants on utilization (for example burning) of wastes.

Besides, by creation of the waste exchanges the authorities show local businesses the readiness to work with them over measures for reduction of nature protection tax burden, and also for adaptation to environmental standards that are becoming tougher.

Opening of universal national information systems and increasing number of the national and local exchanges through them is a way on which formation of the waste exchange market should be performed in developing countries.

For the countries in which the system of waste exchanges is not created yet, experts recommend to begin preparation for its creation with increase of ecological literacy of government officials and local business elite. They should know how this nature protection mechanism works, and to understand that its high-grade work is impossible without support of big business, and first of all the government.

For Ukraine with its difficult ecological situation and absence of necessary number of waste recycling plants, the problem of waste recycling is very important. Considering it creation of waste exchanges would give opportunity for the solution of many environmental issues. Governmental financing and support of local authorities are necessary for creation of the similar exchanges. The private capital also should participate in this process. The first waste exchanges in Ukraine could be created at social - enterprise corporations, and then in each region.