

## ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS AROUND US

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I want to draw your attention to the urgent problem of your life: Technical progress and Environment. Because of the lack of time I will start with the short characteristic of the environment. Its common knowledge that environment is everything that is around us and affects the character and growth of living things. When talking about the environmental problems, ecological issues can't be separated their effect on mankind nor can't human activities be separated from their effect on the ecology. Taking into consideration the experience of several generations, witnessing the results of people's activity, we can say that the problem of our environment and technical progress is closely connected. Being a result of people's activity, environmental pollution is a term that refers to all ways how human activity harms the natural environment.

It is done in different ways - black smoke and fume of factories etc.

Some kinds of pollution do not actually dirt the land, air and water, but they reduce the quality of life of people and other living creatures, for example, noise from transport, some air pollutants have reduced the capacity of our atmosphere to filter out the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. The unreasonable usage of mineral resources, the desire of fast profits leads to the point when it will be too late to return.

Today we can speak about population expansion. Our planet holds more than 7 billion people. The rapid growth of the population makes people find new ways of the solution of this problem, how to feed, dress and give shelter to them.

It's difficult to imagine anyone in the world not using sprays, washing powder, plastic bags etc. Farmers have to use fertilizers and pesticides to grow better harvests, but nowadays we hear more often about famine. Farmers use fertilizers and pesticides not always rationally. It leads not only to pollution of agricultural products but to the pollution of land and water resources.

Science as well as people's personal observations come to the conclusion that most products of people's activity sooner or later become pollutants which cause climatic changes. Severe frosts, longer periods of droughts, heavy floods make us stop and think what to do. To end or greatly decrease pollution people will have to find new sources of energy such as wind, sun instead of gas, oil or coal, to reduce use of cars and other modern conveniences, to close or change production methods. Pollution can and must be reduced in many ways without serious disrupting people's life. For example, governments can pass laws that encourage business to adopt less polluting methods of operation, to install purifying filters, ban usage of plastic bags, washing powder with harmful chemicals etc. As to the situation of the environment in Sumy and Sumy region, the latest analysis shows that the level of emission of harmful substances decreased: in 2010 – 31.7 thousand tons of toxic substances were thrown out into the atmosphere. But still the main sources of the pollution are not only our plants and factories but also transport. It contains 64% of total pollution or 54,2 thousand tons. It's interesting to mention that the emission of toxic substances per person is 2000 – 61kg (kilos) per person, 2010 – 76,2kg per person. The total emission is 88,9 thousand tons in Sumy region, it is 1% of total emission in Ukraine. As to our factories and plants the main pollutants are our plant "Frunze" – 480 tons (2010), Сумы ЛВУМГ – 9770 tons and "Хімпром" – 1990 tons.

Such measures can help to improve the situation:  
use of new sources of energy, especially new kinds of fuel such as "Euro 3" and "Euro 4", building of new road bypasses and highways, strengthening of existing control, extending and improving monitoring of air pollution.