

INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAMS FOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION IN DNIPROPETROVSK REGION

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The problem of resource depletion and environmental pollution on national and global scales has acquired a systemic character. On the one hand, the scarcity of all types of resources constrains production growth, services growth and technical upgrading (in case of a favourable situation for selling domestic products on world markets), on the other hand, the lack of funds for technical and technological modernization leads to over-consumption of material and energy resources and to unsustainable use of these resources. Thus, a no less important problem of economizing of material and energy resources arises.

Despite the extreme urgency and efficiency of energy conservation measures, their implementation at Ukrainian enterprises today is hindered by a number of problems such as unavailability of funding sources for resource conservation projects, imperfection of national legislation, shortcomings of national planning in resource conservation, inefficient use of economic instruments to stimulate resource conservation, underground economy, deficit of pertinent information and lack of skilled personnel in this sphere. Besides, it is necessary to consider such negatives caused by competition in a market economy as free prices aimed at receiving super profits through the creation of artificial deficit via decrease in supply, and substitution of domestic resources with foreign supplies which are often accompanied by lobbyism and corruption. Therefore, the efficiency of the national economy becomes dependent on the dictates of foreign countries.

However, the main issues to be addressed include the development of an effective mechanism for resource conservation, the ways to stimulate investments in alternative technologies, improvements in energy efficiency, introduction of energy saving projects, and provision of reliable financial support for these measures.

Everyone has the right to a safe living environment, which has to be implemented through environmental policy instruments on national and regional scales.

The main instruments of national environmental policy encompass a range of tools: a) cross-sector partnership and involvement of stakeholders;

- b) evaluating the impact of strategies, programs and plans on the state of the environment;
- c) improving the permit system in the field of environmental protection;
- d) environmental impact assessment;
- e) environmental audit, environmental management system, and environmental labelling;
- f) environmental insurance;
- g) technical regulations, standards and accounting in the field of environment, natural resources and environmental safety.

Regional environmental policy is implemented at two levels: as a national level strategy and as regional policies. The latter are aimed at creating conditions for improving resource use efficiency in the region, ensuring people's well-being, refining the structure of material production, improving environmental quality, developing social infrastructure, promoting entrepreneurship, and stimulating economic and social growth of the region. The provisions of regional policy are founded on the principles of balanced development, which are formed in their turn on the systemic basis and include all aspects of sustainable regional development.

The following regional programmes operate in Dnepropetrovsk region:

- the regional integrated waste management plan;
- the programme for environmental protection in Dnepropetrovsk region for 2005 - 2015;
- the programme of creation and development of the national ecological network in Dnepropetrovsk region for 2006 – 2015;
- the environmental monitoring plan in Dnepropetrovsk region;
- the programme of improving the ecological condition of Dnepropetrovsk region by reducing emissions of pollutants from major enterprises for 2007–2015;
- the regional targeted programme of using disturbed soil in the area of mining enterprises as elements of the ecological network in Krivoy Rog Iron Ore Basin and Nikopol Manganese Ore Basin for 2010 - 2014.

The implementation of these programmes will help:

- to create an effective system of environmental education of Ukrainian population;
- to improve the environment so that it is safe for the life of people - with the European standards of environmental quality being taken into account;
- to permanently reduce and gradually eliminate the relationship between economic growth and environmental deterioration;
- to stop the loss of biological and landscape diversity and to form a coherent and representative ecological network;
- to create a system of sustainable use of natural resources;
- to minimize soil pollution by dangerous pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals and harmful wastes;
- to make the transition to integrated environmental management in the sphere of environmental protection and ensure development of the environmental component in sectors of the economy;

- to reform the tax system by reinforcing the importance of environmental taxation which is viewed as a stimulant to reduce a negative impact of business on the environment;
- to develop an effective economic mechanism of environmental management;
- to improve the state system of environmental monitoring and the system of information support to managers during the decision-making process.