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## THE ECOLOGICAL STATE OF SOVETSKY DISTRICT OF MINSK

Nowadays the current state of the environment is a cause of major concern.

We've decided to study this issue to understand whether it is true that the ecology of the place where we live is in a catastrophic situation and, if it's so, what we can do to avoid even bigger problems. The aim of our research was to

identify the sources of environmental pollution, to find out the existing problems in the ecology of the area, to promote the ideas of green environment and ecological protection among young generation and finally to change the consumer attitude to nature.

For reaching the aim we carried out a survey to identify the level of emotional perception and environmental literacy of the participants on nature protection; held a photo contest of environmentally conflict situations in Sovetsky district. The analysis of its results helped to identify the main environmental problems in our district students are concerned about. We also made a glossary of environmental terms for students.

In the process of work we used the following methods: gathering information from a variety of sources; informing students about current environmental situation, presenting the potential solutions and risks associated with the problem; viewing, analyzing the information, interpreting results and making conclusions.

We would like to mark that in Minsk, the areas of high pollution include zones in the south-east of the city. The city center and the south-eastern sector are more polluted. The south-western, western, northern and north-eastern regions can be considered relatively “clean”. (Sovetsky district is located in the north-eastern part and it benefits from the location and a large green area)

Compared with the rest of the city of Minsk, Sovetsky district is the closest to the natural state of the soil cover.

There are enough supplies of clean drinking water in the capital of Belarus. In Sovetsky district we are lucky to get water from underground water sources while residents of Frunzensky, Moskovsky and part of Oktyabrsky districts consume drinking water from a surface source of water supply after appropriate water treatment.

Minsk remains one of the cleanest, most beautiful cities in Europe. But, unfortunately, in conditions of high technogenic load on the environment provided by industrial enterprises, transport, it is impossible to completely eliminate the negative consequences of economic activity.

We fully agree with the opinion that it is important to raise young people’s environmental awareness, because the environmental state directly depends on us, the young generation. Researches have shown people who learn about environmental issues at younger age are more likely to participate in sustainable acts in their future. Every year in our gymnasium №6 we organize a recycling competition and reward a person or a team, who brings more paper, we participate in different eco campaigns such as yard improvement actions, annually take part in the contest “Best flower bed”, hold a contest called “The second life” where altered from old-fashioned clothes new garments are demonstrated and the ideas of “Upcycling” are promoted, carry out different events to encourage individuals and communities to save the energy and natural resources. This year we have initiated class-based lessons and extra-curricular activities, where we discuss problems mentioned in our research. We also have some plans for the nearest future.