

**CURRENT PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECOLOGY IN  
THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

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**Annotation**

This article shows that today environmental problems are manifested not only at the global level, but also in the life of each neighborhood, city and village. Improper use of natural resources, uncontrolled waste disposal and low environmental culture of the population are considered important problems at the local level. The article analyzes the research of scientists on resource efficiency and environmental sustainability based on international experience [5, 8, 9].

**Keywords**

Environment, sustainable development, rational use, resource conservation, research, technology, environmental safety, environmental problem, neighborhood, conservation, public participation.

**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada bugungi kunda ekologik muammolar nafaqat global miqyosda, balki har bir mahalla, shahar va qishloqning kundalik hayotida ham yaqqol ko'rinib turgani ta'kidlangan. Tabiiy resurslardan noto'g'ri foydalanish, chiqindilarni nazoratsiz yo'q qilish va aholi o'rtasida ekologik xabardorlikning past darajasi asosiy mahalliy muammolar hisoblanadi. Maqolada resurslardan samarali foydalanish va ekologik barqarorlik bo'yicha ilmiy tadqiqotlar xalqaro tajribalar asosida tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar**

Atrof-muhit, barqaror rivojlanish, oqilona foydalanish, resurslarni tejash, tabiiy resurslar, tadqiqot va ishlanmalar, texnologiya, ekologik xavfsizlik, ekologik muammo, mahalla, himoya, jamoatchilik ishtiroki.

**Аннотация**

В данной статье подчеркивается, что в настоящее время экологические проблемы проявляются не только в глобальном масштабе, но и в повседневной жизни каждого района, города и деревни. Неправильное использование природных ресурсов, неконтролируемая утилизация отходов и низкий уровень экологической осведомленности населения считаются основными локальными проблемами. В статье анализируются научные исследования в области ресурсоэффективности и экологической устойчивости на основе международного опыта.

**Ключевые слова**

Окружающая среда, устойчивое развитие, рациональное использование, сохранение ресурсов, природные ресурсы, исследования и разработки, технологии,

экологическая безопасность, экологическая проблема, район, защита, участие общественности.

**Introduction.** Environmental problems are of urgent importance not only at the state or world level, but also in the daily life of each neighborhood. The ecological situation in the neighborhood directly affects the health of the population, quality of life and comfort of the living environment. Therefore, in solving environmental problems, not only state bodies, but also the activity, level of environmental knowledge and joint action of local residents are important. If each citizen contributes to keeping his neighborhood clean, tidy and green, as a result, the ecological environment of the entire region can be improved.

One of the biggest problems in the neighborhoods is the irregular disposal of household waste. In many cases, residents throw waste on the side of the street, in ditches or in empty spaces, rather than in special containers or designated places. This situation leads to several negative consequences. First of all, the land and air are polluted, the environment is damaged. The risk of spreading various diseases also increases, especially for children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems. The increase in waste spoils the appearance of the neighborhood, spreads unpleasant odors and negatively affects the overall healthy living environment. Inefficient use of water resources is also a common problem in the neighborhoods. In many areas, there are interruptions in water supply, while used wastewater is discharged to the surface or into ditches, not to special treatment facilities. This situation pollutes groundwater, reduces the fertility of agricultural land and threatens the lives of aquatic animals. Therefore, it is necessary to save water, keep it clean, and use used water treatment systems.

Another pressing problem in neighborhoods is the lack of green areas. In many neighborhoods, trees have been cut down, but new saplings have not been planted in their place. The lack of trees and other green plants leads to poor air quality, increased heat in the summer months, fewer places for recreation for residents, and also a narrowing of the living space for birds and other animals. Therefore, planting saplings, expanding gardens, and preserving existing trees in neighborhoods is very important.

The low ecological culture of the population also exacerbates environmental problems. Many people do not know where to throw away waste or do not pay attention to it. Children and young people do not have environmental education, and environmental education and preventive work are not carried out sufficiently in schools and neighborhoods. As a result, waste is improperly disposed of, water and energy resources are misused, and the cleanliness of the neighborhood is impaired.

There are several effective solutions to solve these problems. In particular, it is necessary to introduce a system of sorting and recycling household waste, conduct environmental education among the population, enrich the neighborhood with green areas and plant trees, use water resources economically and establish wastewater treatment systems. It is also important to organize local environmental control groups and involve the public in active participation. Various types of waste are generated in neighborhoods every day, including plastic, paper, glass, food waste and other types of waste. Separating them by type and disposing of them in designated places is of great importance for environmental protection, public health and rational use of resources. Therefore, every citizen should contribute to improving the ecology of their neighborhood, take a responsible approach to nature and help each other. If we all work together, we can keep our neighborhood clean, tidy and green.

Why is it necessary to separate waste by type?

1. It allows for recycling, for example, plastic, glass, paper and metal waste are processed and turned into new products.

2. Separate collection of organic waste (food scraps, bottles) helps to obtain compost or biogas from them.

3. Hazardous waste (batteries, lamps, chemicals) must be disposed of in a special manner, otherwise they will be dangerous for nature and humans.

4. If household waste is not disposed of properly, it will lead to the sanitary condition of the neighborhood, the spread of odor and infection.

Types of waste and special bins for them:

Blue - Paper and cardboard: newspapers, paper bags, cardboard boxes.

Yellow - Plastic: beverage bottles, packages, plastic containers.

Red - Metal: cans, aluminum containers.

Green - Organic waste: food scraps, peels, rotten fruits.

White - Glass: glass bottles, jars.

Black - Hazardous waste: batteries, medicine waste, lamps.

Measures that can be implemented in neighborhoods:

1. Installing special containers for different types of waste.

2. Conducting public awareness campaigns - through posters, flyers, meetings.

3. Teaching children a waste culture from a young age in schools and neighborhood institutions.

4. Organizing regular waste collection.

5. A group of neighborhood supervisors or volunteers will conduct monitoring and explanatory work. Separating waste by type in the neighborhood will not only comply with sanitary requirements, but also create a sustainable ecology, a healthy life and a clean environment for future generations. If each citizen develops a culture of waste disposal, the general situation will improve significantly [4, 6, 9, 12, 15].

**Literature review.** A number of scientists have conducted research on the study of environmental problems at the local level and finding solutions to them. In particular, Sh. Tokhtayev, in his work "Ecological Safety and Local Governance", extensively covered the issues of proper waste management in the neighborhood and raising environmental awareness among the population. In his opinion, environmental problems can be solved not only at the state level, but also through the participation of local residents [2, 4].

Another important source is I. Sultanov's work "Problems of Environmental Sustainability in Uzbekistan". This study focuses on resource efficiency, air and water pollution, and the low ecological culture of the population in cities and villages. The author developed mechanisms for identifying environmental problems in the neighborhood and finding solutions to them on the spot [3, 4]. Referring to international experience, E. Austin's work "Sustainable Urban Communities" is also noteworthy. It analyzes the issues of waste separation, recycling and establishing environmental education among the population in neighborhoods using the examples of Germany, Japan and Canada [5]. A. Abdullayev and B. Karimov's articles on "Environmental problems in rural areas and ways to solve them" cover problems related to clean drinking water, sewage systems and waste disposal in rural neighborhoods. They propose solving these problems through collective solutions. Thus, it can be seen from the analysis of the literature that environmental problems in neighborhoods are an important scientific issue both at the global and local levels, and social activism, education and effective use of resources are decisive factors in solving them [4].

Research methodology. This study used a comprehensive scientific and practical approach to study environmental protection and ecological problems in the mahalla [1, 3, 4]. The following methods were used in the research process:

Empirical methods: Observation The situation related to waste, air quality, water consumption and construction waste in the mahalla was directly studied [4].

Questionnaires and interviews Anonymous surveys and interviews were organized among mahalla activists, residents and representatives of local self-government bodies [4, 6] (total 120 respondents).

Photo and video fixation Modern information technologies were used to document existing problems [6].

**Analysis methods:** Qualitative analysis - the collected data was analyzed in terms of content, and the environmental awareness of the population, the causes of the problems and possible solutions were described.

Quantitative analysis - the amount of waste, survey results, and air pollution indicators were analyzed based on numbers.

SWOT analysis - the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood's environmental opportunities and challenges were assessed [1, 4, 5].

Analysis of legislative and regulatory documents: Laws and government resolutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, national programs and documents in the field of ecology (for example, the "Green Space" project) were studied [10].

Recommendations of international organizations: A comparative analysis of local problems was conducted based on recommendations provided by organizations such as UNEP and UNDP [8, 9].

Geographic and map analysis: Geolocation and map analysis were conducted in the study area using GPS and Google Earth to identify areas with the highest levels of waste accumulation and air pollution [8].

**Analysis and results.** During the study, the environmental situation, current problems, and population attitudes in the area were studied. Based on empirical data and sociological surveys, the following conclusions were drawn:

Analysis of the waste problem:

According to the survey results, 63% of the population noted that waste is not disposed of in designated areas in the area. The lack of a waste sorting and recycling system is increasing environmental risks. For example, in 3-4 parts of the area, it was found that waste is accumulating on the side of the streets and near watercourses [4, 5, 8].

Results on water and air quality:

Unpleasant odors and dirty conditions were observed near water supply points. The community often draws water from deep wells, but the conditions do not meet sanitary requirements. Air quality monitoring has shown that noise and gas pollution are high due to construction work and vehicle traffic [1, 3, 9].

Level of environmental awareness of the population:

According to surveys, 70% of citizens said that they did not fully understand the causes of environmental problems. Only 18% of the population participated in environmental activities. It was noted that there were insufficient lessons and activities aimed at raising environmental awareness among schoolchildren [6, 7].

Analysis of the activities of state and local authorities:

Although some work is being carried out by local authorities on waste collection, they are not continuous and effective. The environmental control mechanism is weak and preventive measures are not being taken sufficiently [3, 4, 10].

Final indicators:

Population awareness of environmental problems 30% [4.6]

Those who believe that there is a waste problem 63% [4.6]

Those who participated in environmental events 18% [6] Those who expressed dissatisfaction with water quality 52% [3, 9]

Those who contacted government organizations 22% [4, 6]

**Discussion section:** The results of the study of environmental problems in neighborhoods show that the factors shaping the current environmental situation are complex and systematically interconnected. When the problems and proposals identified during the study are compared with international experience, the need to establish effective mechanisms for environmental management in local conditions becomes clear.

Firstly, the insufficiently formed ecological culture of the population appears to be one of the most pressing factors. The observations confirm that the weak culture of proper waste sorting, neglect of green areas, and the lack of economical use of water and energy resources depend on the level of environmental awareness of the population. This indicates that environmental education and regular educational work are not sufficiently established at the mahalla level.

Secondly, the weak waste management system is one of the factors that has the greatest negative impact on the ecological situation. Due to the lack of special waste bins in mahallas, the underdevelopment of the recycling system, and weak control, waste is often disposed of in an unorganized manner. This process leads not only to an aesthetic appearance, but also to soil, air, and water pollution.

Thirdly, the insufficiently strong environmental control of local authorities further exacerbates the problems. The lack of regulation of cooperation mechanisms between mahalla committees, environmental departments, and the public prevents the rapid and effective resolution of existing problems. This indicates the need to improve governance and strengthen public control over environmental issues.

Fourth, international experience confirms that direct citizen participation is crucial in achieving local environmental sustainability. The experiences of European countries, South Korea, and Japan have shown that increasing the environmental literacy of the population, developing a waste sorting and recycling system, and strengthening the institution of public control give high results. By adapting these experiences in local conditions, it is possible to significantly reduce environmental problems.

The data studied confirm that an integrated approach is necessary to eliminate environmental problems in neighborhoods: increasing the activity of the population, strengthening environmental education, modernizing waste management, increasing the area of green areas, and improving the activities of local government bodies. Also, public control, volunteering, and increasing the effectiveness of environmental measures are important factors in achieving positive results. Thus, the results of the study indicate the need to strengthen cooperation between state policy, local government, the public and the population in the process of solving environmental problems in the neighborhood. Only when comprehensive measures are implemented will it be possible to ensure ecological stability in the neighborhoods and create a healthy living environment.

**Conclusion.** Environmental problems at the local level constitute the initial link of the ecological crisis, which is becoming increasingly acute in the process of globalization today.

Excessive and inefficient use of natural resources, uncontrolled disposal of household and industrial waste, and insufficient formation of the population's ecological culture in terms of environmental protection are seriously harming the ecological stability of neighborhoods. Population growth, urbanization processes, and changes in consumer culture are also contributing to an increase in the ecological load.

To effectively solve these problems, it is first of all necessary to strengthen environmental education and awareness among the population, and to widely implement environmental education programs at the school and neighborhood levels. Creating a waste sorting and recycling system, strengthening environmental control, expanding the area of green areas, and regularly continuing planting activities are also important factors. The main factor in solving problems is mutual cooperation between local authorities, non-governmental organizations, environmental activists, and the population.

International experience shows that in developed countries, it is local initiatives, community activity, conscious participation of citizens and the level of environmental education that give high results in creating a sustainable environmental policy. Therefore, every citizen should feel personal responsibility for the ecological environment in his neighborhood, adhere to environmental standards, and make a constant contribution to environmental protection. Because achieving ecological sustainability is achieved not only through state policy, but also through the active participation of each member of society.

Thus, eliminating local environmental problems not only makes the environment healthier, but is also one of the most important factors in increasing the well-being of society and leaving a clean and healthy ecological space for future generations.

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