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## ON THE QUESTION OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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**Abstract.** The article considers the ways youth can participate in the protection of environment in cities and towns, as cities are the main sources of pollution, therefore the issue of urban environmental protection is topical. The article considers the elements of the legal regulatory mechanism because improving of such elements as well as the active role of a civil society contributes to the quality of the environment and the city legal protection. Young people are an integral and important part of a society that can actively deal with environmental issues. It is necessary to create a human image oriented towards the sustainable development of the country through environmental education, awareness and the creation of an ecological culture among the population. Therefore, one of the most important conditions is a change in the fundamental attitudes and views of people, which can be achieved only through the establishment and development of environmental education.

**Keywords:** environmental protection, legal regulation, environmental education, youth, environmental culture

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## К ВОПРОСУ ОБ УЧАСТИИ МОЛОДЕЖИ В ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ В ГОРОДАХ

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**Аннотация.** Проблема охраны окружающей среды в городах актуальна, поскольку существенное количество источников загрязнений окружающей среды сосредоточено в них. Улучшению качества окружающей среды и правовой охраны города способствует совершенствование элементов механизма правового регулирования, которые перечислены в статье, а также активная позиция гражданского общества. Молодежь является неотъемлемой и важной частью общества. Она может принимать активное участие в решении экологически важных вопросов. Экологическое образование, просвещение и формирование экологической культуры населения – факторы, которые будут способствовать формированию образа человека, направленного на обеспечение устойчивого развития страны. В связи с этим необходимость изменения основополагающих установок и мировоззрения людей является одним из важнейших условий, которое может быть достигнуто через создание и развитие системы экологического образования.

**Ключевые слова:** охрана окружающей среды, экологическое образование, экологическая культура, правовое регулирование, молодежь

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The issue of urban environmental protection has recently become increasingly important for human health, as it is in cities that transport and industrial capacities tend to be concentrated, and hence the main sources of pollution. At the current stage, priorities were being redefined, so that environmental protection could take precedence over economic interests. Since the environmental specificity of each city determines the living conditions of people, the study of this issue is relevant.

The risk of global environmental change makes it necessary to seek solutions, primarily through a centralized environmental policy to reduce pollution [1, с. 54]. The elements development of the legal regulations mechanism improves the environmental quality and the city law enforcement. The elements of legal regulation

are legal rules in certain legal forms, which constitute legislation, and law enforcement activities, which are an integral part of law enforcement activities.

The performance efficiency in regard to environmental protection and management of natural resources hinges on the quality of federal legislation, the norms of which regulate such relations directly or indirectly. In order to solve environmental problems, it is necessary to analyse the present methods and mechanisms of legal regulation in this area, to combine forces and to work on systematizing and generalizing the instruments and methods of environmental policy.

Young people must also be involved in environmental issues. To do so, legal platforms must be in place to provide guidance. The success of any environmental project is primarily determined by ecological culture as part of the general culture of the population. The formation of an environmental culture provides for basic principles of ecological knowledge in the system of education and awareness building in environment for different social groups of the community. The active participation of civil society, the interest and the personal involvement of the people at large determine the success of this issue. To this end, there must be a strong development platform in the form of entrenched provisions in existing regulations.

The United Nations has played a significant role in raising awareness of the need for and defining the content of youth policies. Between 1965 and the present, the United Nations has adopted a number of instruments that set out new principles for the treatment of young people. In our country, the first document on youth was the Law of the USSR «On the Fundamental Principles of National Youth Policy in the USSR», which was adopted in 1991 and after the events of the same year ceased to be valid. Subsequently, several legislative documents were published, as well as several draft laws on youth (Doctrine of Youth Policy of the State, Framework of the National Youth Policy of the Russian Federation, etc.).

Current Russian Federation legislation includes all types of legal and constitutional references with respect to youth policy of the State: regional, federal-regional, federal, and international<sup>1</sup>. While the Russian Federation Constitution contains comprehensive, fundamental provisions that are applicable to establishing and adopting youth policy of State, the law-making activity of the Russian Federation territorial subjects is carried out mainly in the following areas: noted by the federal legislator.

At the federal level, such legal acts as: «Federal Law of the Russian Federation 98-F3 of 28 June 1995 «On State Support for Youth and Children's Public As-

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<sup>1</sup> Конституция РФ : принята всенародным голосованием 12.12.1993 (с учетом поправок, внесенных Законами РФ о поправках к Конституции РФ от 30.12.2008 № 6-ФКЗ, от 30.12.2008 № 7-ФКЗ, от 05.02.2014 № 2-ФКЗ, от 21.07.2014 № 11-ФКЗ, от 14.03.2020 № 1-ФКЗ // Российская газета. 2020. № 144.

sociations»<sup>1</sup>, which defines the general principles, Maintenance and State support for youth and children's voluntary associations. November 29, 2014. The Government of the Russian Federation approved the Fundamentals of State Youth Policy until 2025<sup>2</sup>, which defines the principles, priorities and mechanisms providing youth policies. According to this strategy, the «State youth policy» refers to the system of State conditions and opportunities for successful socialization and effective self-realization of young people, capacity building for the benefit of our country and, hence, on socio-economic and cultural advancement of the country, ensuring its competitiveness and strengthening homeland safety.

Local law should also be noted, as it presupposes the existence of other by-laws that develop the legal regulation of various aspects of youth policy. In the Republic of Bashkortostan there is the Law «On Policy of Youth in the Republic of Bashkortostan»<sup>3</sup>. The law outlines the principal areas of youth policy in the Republic. It also lists legal, economic and social guarantees of their implementation. The Republic of Bashkortostan Act of 31 October 1996 is also in force: 53-3 «On support of activities of children, teenagers, youth clubs and centers»<sup>4</sup>.

The present local rules and regulations call for strengthening the role of environmental culture and strengthening environmental education and awareness among all institutions of civil society and the State. It should be noted, that ecological problems are an integral feature of working oil refineries, petrochemicals, chemical enterprises on the Republic territory. Based on the Rosstat's data, it is possible to observe the dynamics of environmental degradation. The study of the number of offences and crimes in the field of environmental protection, based on the data of the Central Information and Computing Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, shows an upward trend of ecological offences. Taking into account the established practice in applying the law, the evolution of the amount of offences in the environmental field, as well as the dynamic pattern of changes in the ecological quality, it is clear that the development of ecological education and awareness, enhancement of environmental cul-

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<sup>1</sup> О государственной поддержке молодежных и детских общественных объединений : федер. закон от 28.06.1995 № 98-ФЗ // Собрание законодательства РФ. 1995. № 27, ст. 2503.

<sup>2</sup> Об утверждении Основ государственной молодежной политики РФ на период до 2025 г. : распоряжение Правительства РФ от 29.11.2014 // Российская газета. 2014. 29 нояб.

<sup>3</sup> О молодежной политике в Республике Башкортостан : закон Республики Башкортостан от 12.11.1991 № ВС-9/74 // Законы Республики Башкортостан. 1992. Вып. III.

<sup>4</sup> О поддержке деятельности детских, подростковых, молодежных клубов и центров : закон Республики Башкортостан от 31.10.1996 № 53-з // Известия Башкортостана. 1996. № 220 (1344).

ture requires upgrading the regulatory basis and consolidating the role and active State and civil society participation in the process.

In our view, ecological educational projects should be updated, which will motivate youth, activists and local residents to clean parks and beaches, give experience in waste sorting, teach to work in teams. It is necessary to offer an alternative to city Saturdays, for example using game techniques, mobile technologies. The experience of the organization of ecological quest «Clean Games» is remarkable. Since 2014, the organizers have held 42 games in eight cities of Russia, involving 4,000 people. Players collected 116 tons of garbage, more than half of which was recycled.

The State is aware that environmental well-being can be achieved only through a high level of culture among young people. This is why a number of activities have been targeted, including the development of environmental education in schools, the development of non-formal education, environmental education, and as well as supporting environmental activities in all aspects of the youth movement. The most important activities in this area are:

- 1) Summer Profile Shift «Ecological Quest»;
- 2) The National Convention for Young Environmentalists and Foresters;
- 3) City Festival «Ecology. Creativity. Children».

Regarding youth participation, it is useful to highlight in this regard the ecological education and awareness state, as well as measures aimed at improving environmental literacy in the Republic. 5.10.2021 Bashkortostan Law 449-3 «On Making Changes to the Environmental Code of the Republic of Bashkortostan»<sup>1</sup> [7] was introduced.

Ecological education, awareness and shaping public ecological culture are the foundations of the construction of a human image aimed at maintenance of the steadfast development of the country. Consequently, one of the most important conditions is a shift in the guidelines and people's world views, which can be achieved only through the establishment and development of environmental education, beginning in childhood. In connection with this significant event is that ecological-educational project «Green Planet» (Republic of Bashkortostan) became a winner in the contest of Presidential Grants Fund in the direction «Environmental Protection and Animal Protection». This project is aimed at fostering an environmental culture among children and adolescents, youth and students engaged in the ecological education field in Bashkortostan. The "Green Lessons" Best Methodological Development Competition has been organized, followed by the publication of a compendium of supplementary education teachers, and it is

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<sup>1</sup> О внесении изменений в Экологический кодекс Республики Башкортостан : закон Республики Башкортостан от 05.10.2021 № 449-з [Электронный ресурс]. URL: <https://npa.bashkortostan.ru/33252/> (дата обращения: 11.10.2021).

intended to encourage the winners of the best environmental education and education practices.

In the furtherance of this goal, the project consolidates the efforts of educational establishments, community, government agencies and specialized organizations responsible for environment preservation.

Moreover, the development of the environmental awareness training system includes the retraining of personnel of industrial enterprises and State environmental protection bodies. Another condition for implementation is logistical support for environmental protection structures. Non-governmental organizations and the community should be widely involved in environmental management.

The Constitution of Russia states that education, science and culture, as well as environmental protection and environmental safety, are matters of joint responsibility between the Federation and its territorial subjects. Thus, regulations concerning formation of the environmental consciousness are under control of the federal legislation and the legislation of the territorial subjects of the Federation.

The basis for regulating legal relations in the sphere of environmental education is the federal law «On Environmental Protection». The Act establishes the organization and development of the system of environmental education, the fostering and formation of environmental culture as a mandatory principle to be carried out by the State governments of the territorial subjects of Russia and by local government bodies, legal entities and natural persons carrying out activities having an impact on the environment. The legislator has established not only the obligatory nature of environmental education and training, but also its connection with activities that may have an impact on the environment.

Article 73 of the Law on Environmental Protection explicitly states that the leaders of organizations responsible for taking decisions that may affect the environment must be trained in environmental protection and environmental safety. Article 55 of the Constitution provides that human and civil rights and freedoms may be restricted only to the extent necessary to protect the morals, health, rights and legitimate interests of others. Thus, compulsory environmental education can (and should) be introduced only to the extent that it aims to prevent and reduce risks to the natural environment and to the health of citizens associated with anti-ecological negligence, destructive or aggressive behaviour. Evidence of the impact of anti-ecological stereotypes of domestic or professional behaviour is the justification for the development of appropriate standards for education and academic curricula.

However, there is another aspect of the legal relationship in the field of environmental education. Article 58 of the Russian Federation Constitution states

that every citizen of Russia is in charge of the preservation of nature, environment and careful treatment of natural wealth. The requirement of environmental protection is a constraint on the ownership of land and other natural resources (art. 36).

Taking into account the complexity of contemporary environmental problems, the magnitude of the impact of human activities, ambiguities in the assessment of risks, remote and indirect effects of activities, it is clear, The ability of a citizen to fulfil his constitutional duty is directly linked to his or her education. Consequently, it can be said that the obligation to preserve the environment implies the right of citizens to receive the environmental education they need. The State is obliged to ensure the quality and accessibility of the relevant educational services, including through the establishment of educational standards and material, organizational and informational support for programs in ecological education.

The national educational standards form the basis for the working out of academic programs and teaching aids, so the responsibility for compliance lies with the institution. It is therefore very important to legislate procedures that will enable parents and the public to monitor compliance with these standards and the quality of educational services.

We believe that the efforts of the public authorities should be combined and coordinated in laying the groundwork for ecological education, awareness and the environmental responsibility creation; environmental, educational and other public organizations, scientific and cultural institutions, the media, the business community and all interested citizens. In turn, young people are an active participant in environmental protection measures and a «strategic resource» of the nation, a carrier of progressive change. In our view, youth policy and environmental education seem to be the priority vector of State development. The success of solving many problems is determined by a stable concept, which is enshrined in the law.

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