

## **ARE ORGANIC EMISSIONS HARMFUL WASTE OR AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE?**

student Svetlova Y.S.

scientific supervisor – senior lecturer Yalovik E.I.

Belarusian National University of Technology

Minsk, Belarus

One-third of the world's food produced, or 1 billion tons of food, is wasted or spoiled, the authors of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the 2021 food waste index concluded. The evidence presented in the Food Waste Index report demonstrated that food waste at the consumer level is everyone's problem. The problem is not just a reflection of wasteful use of resources. It affects the climate, as experts estimate that 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from unused food. They also reduce biodiversity and pollute the environment.

Organic waste is biodegradable waste generated in households, catering and retail establishments. These include food, as well as wood and vegetable waste from green areas and household plots. When organic waste is buried in landfills, they become an ideal breeding ground for dangerous pathogens, a source of unpleasant smell, carry the risk of spontaneous combustion, and when they decompose in anaerobic conditions of the landfill, greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere [1].

The priority should be to ensure environmentally safe and cost-effective use of waste. Depending on this, there are the following technological directions of processing of the organic part of municipal solid waste: composting (with the production of organic compost for the recultivation of disturbed lands, landscaping); solid-phase fermentation under anaerobic conditions (with the production of biogas, electric and heat energy); the use of organic solid

municipal waste as solid fuel (for direct combustion in power plants). An important factor in solving many problems, including in the field of waste management, is to be able to establish a dialogue with the population. To do this, it is necessary to regularly expand the knowledge of citizens about the types of waste, their disposal and recycling through billboards, brochures, announcements, holding various events to make the population aware of the current situation and ways to improve it. Since population has to pay for waste recycling, separate collection is one of the ways to reduce citizens' expenses.

The most effective method of solving the problem of food waste is to minimize their formation. With so many hungry people around the world and the worsening problem of global warming, letting our food go to waste is simply unacceptable. So, in many countries there are food banks – organizations for the collection of high-quality food residues, which, instead of recycling, can be redistributed among people in need. It is important to note that reducing food waste will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, slow down the destruction of nature due to land transformation and pollution, increase food availability and thus reduce hunger and save money during the global recession [2].

## References

1. Доклад ЮНЕП об индексе пищевых отходов за 2021 год [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://np-mag.ru/save-food/otchet-ob-indekse-pishchevyh-othodov-za-2021-god-ot-unep-i-wrap/>. – Date of access: 18.03.2023.
2. Why One Third of All Food Produced in the World Is Wasted [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: <https://thealternativedaily.com/third-food-produced-world-wasted/>. – Date of access: 18.03.2023.