

'Let's protect our landscapes with a friendly- environmentally attitude to what heritage tourism means'

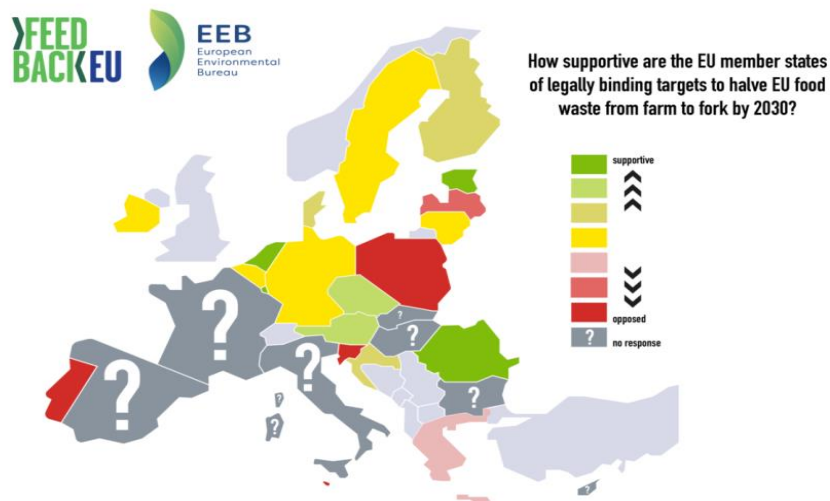
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of the European Union



NAME OF THE SCHOOL:
ZST „Mechanik” Jelenia Góra, Poland

FACTS / PICTURES / CHARTS/

DESCRIPTION



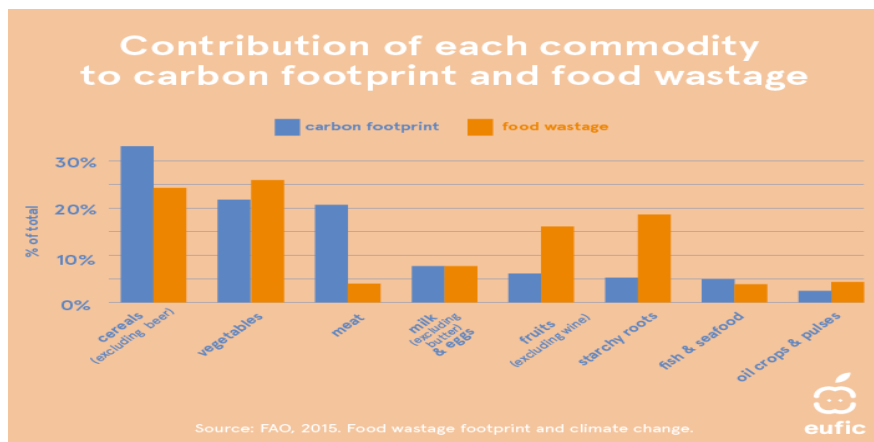
Indeed it is estimated that 153.5 million tonnes of food are annually in the EU every year. We cannot allow food that we don't eat to go to waste. There are several ways to change this, and by doing so, we will change the world for the better.

Polish people annually waste 235 kilograms of food per person, per statistical inhabitant, we are fifth in the UE. Approximately 5 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in Poland, and 60% of losses are caused by ordinary people. Despite the enactment of the law, it has not been possible to create a comprehensive system that fully effectively reduces the scale of this problem.

In the EU, the leaders in food waste are countries such as The Netherlands, Belgium, and Cyprus. Statistically, the least food is wasted in Malta and Romania. In Poland, many people donate the food they don't eat to those in need. In the centre of our city, there are fridges to store the food. Everyone can taste these products, there are also charity points or community shops

A Few steps:

- You need to buy only what you need
- Check expiry dates
- Donte to a food bank
- Use up the food to the end
- Programme "ZERO WASTE"
- Use leftovers
- Compost food scraps



FACTS / PICTURES / CHARTS/



DESCRIPTION

Clean transport zones are now being introduced in cities across Europe. They are successfully operating in Berlin, London, Paris and Antwerp, among others. In Poland, Krakow was the first city to introduce a Clean Transport Zone – in November the city council adopted a resolution on the matter.

The zone would come into effect on 1 July 2026. Entry would only be possible for diesel meeting at least the Euro 5 emission standard. In the case of passenger cars, this means that they must have been manufactured in 2010 or later.

Polish air is among the most polluted in Europe. Air quality standards in the winter season are repeatedly exceeded. A better option would be to choose a bike for such zones.

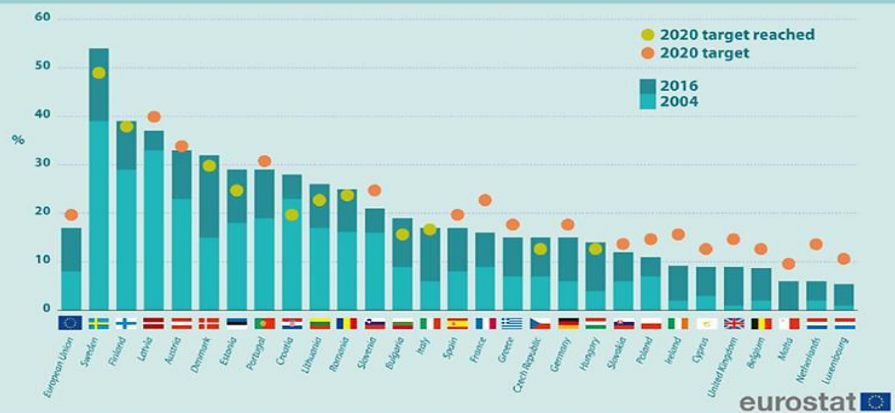


FACTS / PICTURES / CHARTS/

Udział energii ze źródeł odnawialnych – cele dla państw Unii Europejskiej

Share of energy from renewable sources in the EU Member States

(in % of gross final energy consumption)



Źródło: Eurostat.



DESCRIPTION

According to the draft Energy Policy of Poland to 2040, the share of coal and lignite in electricity generation will be reduced from just under 80% in 2017 to less than 56% by 2030, and with increased prices of CO2 emission allowances, it may even fall to the level of 37,5%

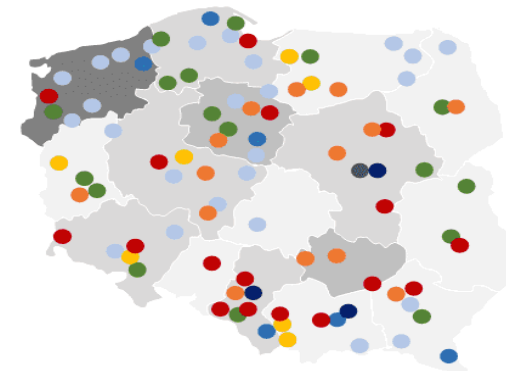
But the state of the environment in Poland is the worst in the EU as a whole. Air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk, especially for people living in the city centre. The reason is the large number of cars in the city, it is better to choose a bike. Also burning of coal cookers contributes to air pollution, a lot of people are changing their heating to be able to free themselves from exhaust fumes. Another step is to build isolating green belts around industrial plants to stop some pollution. This energy allows us to transform lives in our country. We use free and infinitely renewable energy from the sun, water or wind. The cost of bills is less than that of fuel, which spoils our health and has a high efficiency.

Renewable energy on the map of Poland

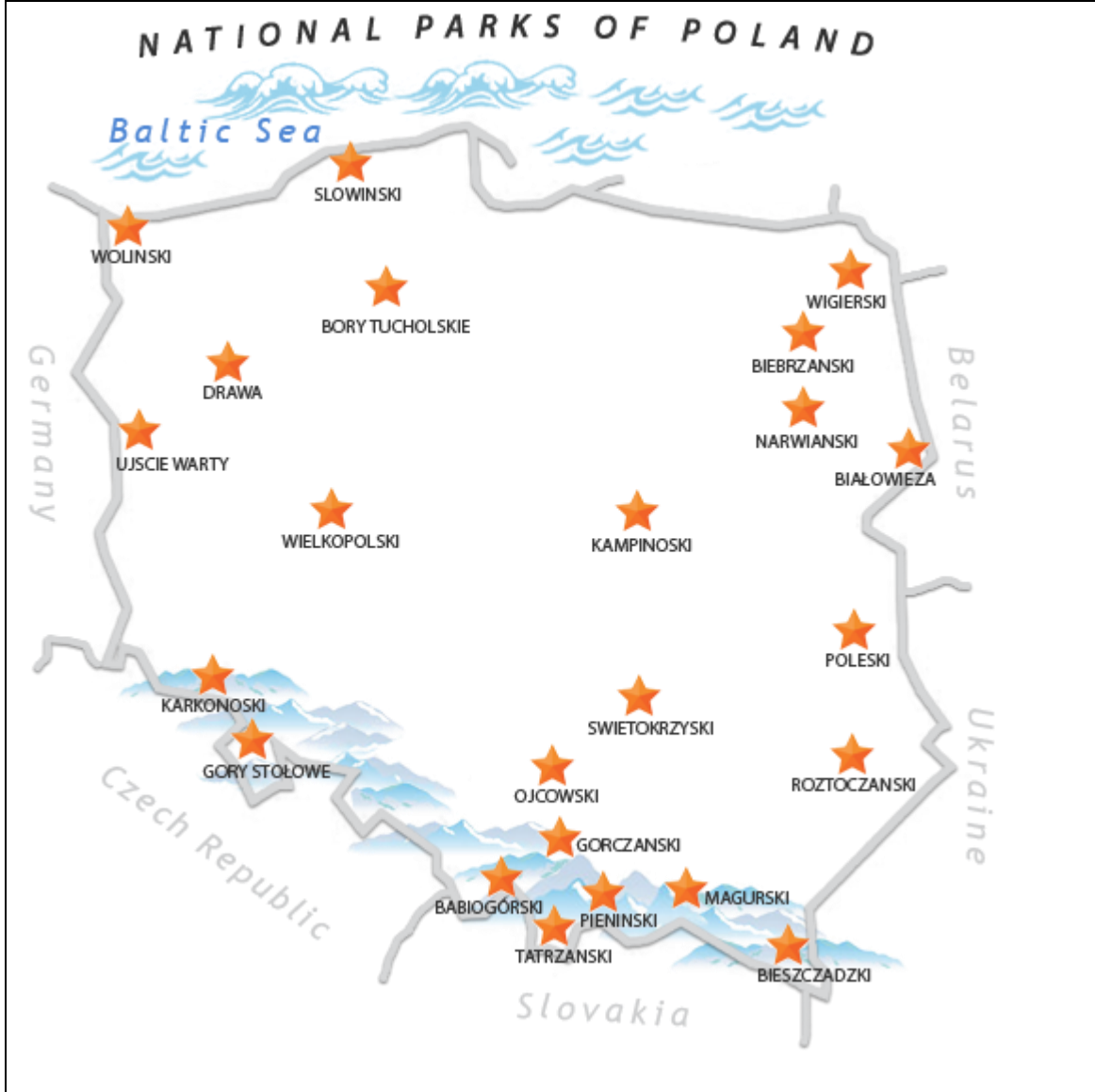
- Wind farms
- Large hydropower stations
- Biogas installations
- Production of biocomponents, biofuels
- Co-firing of biomass
- Biomass power stations
- Municipal waste incineration plant
- On-grid PV installations

Energy production from renewable resources by voivodships in 2014

- >3000 GWh
- 2001-3000 GWh
- 1000-2000 GWh
- <1000 GWh



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DESCRIPTION

Most national parks are divided into strictly and partially protected zones.

In Poland, as amended by the Nature Conservation Act, of 2004, a National Park “covers an area of outstanding environmental, scientific, social, cultural and educational value, with an area of not less than 1000 ha, which protects the whole of the nature and qualities of the landscape.

A national park is created to preserve biodiversity, resources, objects and elements of inanimate nature and landscape values, to restore the proper state of natural resources and components and to reconstruct distorted natural habitats, plants, habitats of animals and habitats of fungi.



The area of a national park is divided into different zones using separate methods of conservation. There are strict protection zones, as well as active and landscape-related ones.

SAY NO TO PLASTICS



One of the most effective ways to protect the Baltic Sea environment is to reduce emissions of pollution and the exploitation of its resources for example by reducing the use of artificial fertilisers in agriculture and treating wastewater more effectively.

Researchers estimate that over one million animals die each year after becoming entrapped in or ingesting litter. The most common killer of animals is plastic litter, notably impacting marine animals. Each year more than 100,000 dolphins, fish, whales and turtles drown after becoming entangled in eating plastic. This is just the verified count of impacted animals; many more deaths remain unrecorded.

Animals that live in the sea are not the only ones impacted by improperly disposed trash. Depending on the type of litter, birds can die from ingesting poisons from mouldy food, cigarette butts and other substances. Plastic, balloons. The project "Clean Bałtyk", which takes care of the condition of beaches and the green areas around them, is being implemented in Poland. More than half a tonne of rubbish was collected by volunteers and residents. Many people do not clean up their rubbish and other people and animals suffer. For more than 20 years there has been a seal sanctuary on Hel, which protects and prepares seals for re-establishment in Baltic waters.

A few steps:

- Recycling
- Plastic substitute
- Green companies
- Beach cleaning
- Reusable packaging

PROBLEMS: SUMMARY

Air Pollution:

Poland has one of the highest levels of air pollution in Europe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 33 out of the 50 most polluted cities in Europe are located in Poland. The main sources of air pollution in Poland are coal-fired power plants, industrial emissions, and household heating with low-quality coal.

Deforestation:

Poland has experienced significant deforestation in recent years, primarily driven by the timber industry and expansion of agriculture. According to the European Environmental Agency, Poland lost approximately 1.2 million hectares of forest cover between 1990 and 2020.

Water Pollution:

Many rivers and lakes in Poland suffer from pollution due to industrial and agricultural activities, as well as inadequate wastewater treatment. According to the European Environment Agency, only 25% of Poland's water bodies have good ecological status.

Loss of Biodiversity:

Poland is home to several important ecosystems, such as the Białowieża Forest and the Carpathian Mountains, but they are under threat due to habitat destruction and fragmentation. The Białowieża Forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been impacted by excessive logging and infrastructure development. Several species in Poland, including the European bison and the wolf, are endangered or face population decline due to habitat loss and illegal hunting.

Waste Management:

Poland faces challenges in waste management, including insufficient recycling infrastructure and a high reliance on landfilling. The recycling rate in Poland is relatively low compared to other European countries, with only about 30% of municipal waste being recycled. Illegal dumping and mismanagement of hazardous waste further contribute to environmental degradation.

PROBLEMS SOLVING: SUMMARY

Air Pollution:

Poland has introduced stricter emission standards for industrial facilities, including power plants, to reduce air pollution. The government has implemented programs to improve the energy efficiency of residential buildings, reducing the reliance on coal for heating. Investments in renewable energy sources, such as wind farms and solar power, aim to decrease the dependence on fossil fuels.

Deforestation:

Efforts have been made to increase the protection of forests, including expanding national parks and nature reserves. The government has introduced regulations to ensure sustainable forestry practices and promote reforestation.

Water Pollution:

Poland has improved wastewater treatment infrastructure, particularly in urban areas, to reduce pollution from industrial and domestic sources. Stricter regulations have been implemented to control agricultural runoff and promote sustainable farming practices.

Loss of Biodiversity:

Protected areas have been established to preserve and restore important ecosystems and habitats, such as the Białowieża Forest and the Carpathian Mountains. Conservation programs focus on the reintroduction and protection of endangered species, such as the European bison and the wolf. Collaboration between governmental organizations helps to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management practices.

Waste Management:

Poland has implemented waste management plans that prioritize waste reduction, recycling, and waste separation. The government encourages the development of recycling infrastructure and supports initiatives to increase recycling rates. Awareness campaigns and educational programs promote responsible waste management practices among citizens and businesses.