

Battery recycling tbilisi

The project was launched during the coronavirus lockdown by the NGO Parki Ar Minda [Geo. I don't want a bag] to help people who couldn't bring their waste to collection points, which were closed due to the quarantine.

We launched the Eco-Taxi service as a response to closed collection points during the [coronavirus] lockdown. With time, we realized that there is a demand for such services even when collection points reopened," said Mariam Pesvianidze, Co-founder of Parki Ar Minda.

We highly appreciate the Parki Ar Minda team, as a meaningful bridge between people and entities in charge. This NGO offers convenient services to our citizens and contributes in developing the relevant supply chain, as well as to increasing awareness and recycling culture," says Beka Ponjavidze, the commercial manager of Polyvim LLC.

Several members of parliament have initiated amendments to the code of waste management, according to which the individuals who deliberately burn municipal waste, including leaves, garden/park waste, domestic waste in the open air or inside an inappropriate burning device, will be fined by 500 GEL (\$178).

The Georgian parliament has approved tougher penalties for violations of the Waste Management Code for polluting the environment with animal and inert (building, demolition waste, sand, gravel, stone) waste.

Tbilisi's Mziuri Park came alive on 30 March as hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the International Day of Zero Waste, marking a step towards a cleaner, greener, and healthier lifestyle in Georgia.

Organized by the Caucasus Environmental NGOs Network (CENN), in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, and supported by the European Union, Norway, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the day-long event drew guests, participants, and organizers alike to engage in interactive and educational activities promoting sustainable practices.

Humanity generates over 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste annually, with approximately 2.7 billion people lacking access to proper waste management. This waste crisis exacerbates climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, posing significant threats to human well-being and economic prosperity. Without swift action, municipal solid waste generation is projected to reach 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050. (Source: UN-Habitat. 2023)

In Georgia, plastic production and imports have surged by 71 percent over the past decade, resulting in widespread illegal dumpsites, particularly in rural areas. Plastic accounts for over 95 percent of litter accumulated on Georgia's beaches. In 2020, up to 93 percent of produced and imported plastic items in



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Georgia ended up as waste contributing to environmental pollution. (Sources:World Bank. 2021. EU/UNDP/EMBLAS Project)

In response, UNDP and Norway, in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and CENN, launched an initiative to promote robust policies, enhance coordination, and foster engagement towards a plastic-free Georgia, ensuring every citizen's right to a clean and healthy environment.

"We are excited to host the International Day of Zero Waste in Tbilisi as part of our ongoing "End Plastic Pollution" campaign! The overwhelming response underscores public commitment to a cleaner environment," said Nana Takvarelia, CENN Project Manager.

"The concept of zero waste involves recycling any type of waste and turning it into a new resource. Modern waste management practices have already been introduced through the Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) on the following four waste streams: tires, batteries and accumulators, electrical and electronic equipment and oils. It's important to increase public awareness and engagement throughout this process," noted Irma Gurguliani, Deputy Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Department at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

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