

“A bottomless pit”

In the municipality of Nikšić waste management is reduced to its collection, transport and disposal from urban areas and suburban areas where the concentration of population is largest. Currently there is no organized collection of special waste types such as oil and grease from engines, accumulators, batteries, and which have a strong negative impact on the environment.

Waste is disposed of in the temporary landfill Mislov Do, in Mount Budoš, which is located at a distance of 6.5 km from the city and has the status of a temporary disposal site rather than a landfill, although it has been used in the past ten years. Since 2003 this landfill has been managed by the Public Enterprise Utility Nikšić. The capacity of the disposal site is limited in time and can almost not be used anymore. And for the problem to be even greater the Utility Company also "conceded" Mislov Do to the costal municipalities that do not have their own landfills so solid, medical and industrial waste from the municipalities of Kotor, Budva and Cetinje has been arriving for years. This has further influenced the temporary disposal site to become an "overloaded landfill".

Since in the municipality there is no appropriate location for disposal of slaughter waste, Mislov Do also served for the disposal of animal carcasses and meat waste.



“Recycling of waste does not exist, except for the individual collectors who separate metal, old paper and accumulators at the very dump and which are then taken to be sold to certain private dumps. These are then used for the production of different raw materials. This separation is done in a primitive, disorganized, and unhygienic manner, and the waste is also often incinerated in a disorganized manner and improperly. Thus the amount of waste is reduced, but harmful consequences are caused that are released into the atmosphere such as: waste gases, ash, slag and other often toxic waste”, said Aleksandar Perović, Director of the Ecological Movement "Ozon" which for many years now has been dealing with the problem of the "bottomless pit".

The European Agency for Reconstruction through the Master Plan envisaged the construction of a sanitary landfill in the municipality of Nikšić. With the existence of a landfill, conditions would be created for disposing of all types of waste in an orderly and safe manner. Several years ago the company "Budoš" was established in order to manage the new landfill, which unfortunately has not yet been built.

The future site of the landfill, which would be located near the existing one, causes disapprovals from both locals and experts who suggest re-examining the possibility of finding another location.

Using the Law on Free Access to Information, the Ecological Movement "Ozon" obtained six reports of the Review Committee on the Project of the Regional Sanitary Landfill for the municipalities of Nikšić, Šavnik and Plužine, whose conclusions show, as pointed out by Mr. Perović, that the design company did not do the task properly.

"Mislov Do is the location where temporarily for almost ten years waste is disposed of and it needs to be rehabilitated. The Regional Sanitary Landfill is planned to be at another location called Konjev Do and not here", said Perović. According to his words the responsibility that waste is managed in a way that brings enormous environmental and economic damage is borne by the relevant institutions and their wrong policies.

"I hope the time comes when those who were consciously breaking the law and working against public interest will be properly punished. We from "Ozon" strongly believe in respecting the law and advocate for non-selective and effective application of penalty measures, because we are convinced that this is the only correct approach if you want to be a civilized society", said Perović.



We also wanted to find out what the authorities from the Public Enterprise Utility Nikšić thought about the landfill Mislov Do but their doors were closed for us. They did not want to comment on this issue, and we got the impression that they were not interested in the environmental degradation of Nikšić.

By looking at the current situation of collection, transportation and disposal of waste, we see a number of shortcomings and actions that are contrary to modern practice in treatment of municipal waste, as human health may be threatened and the environment is already degraded. A Waste Management Plan needs to be produced urgently, a new sanitary landfill and recycling centre need to be constructed, the scope of collection in all settlements in the municipality needs to be expanded, the illegal dumps need to be cleaned-up, communal police control needs to be introduced, a plan for management of animal, medical and hazardous waste needs to be made and the education of the population needs to be carried out.