



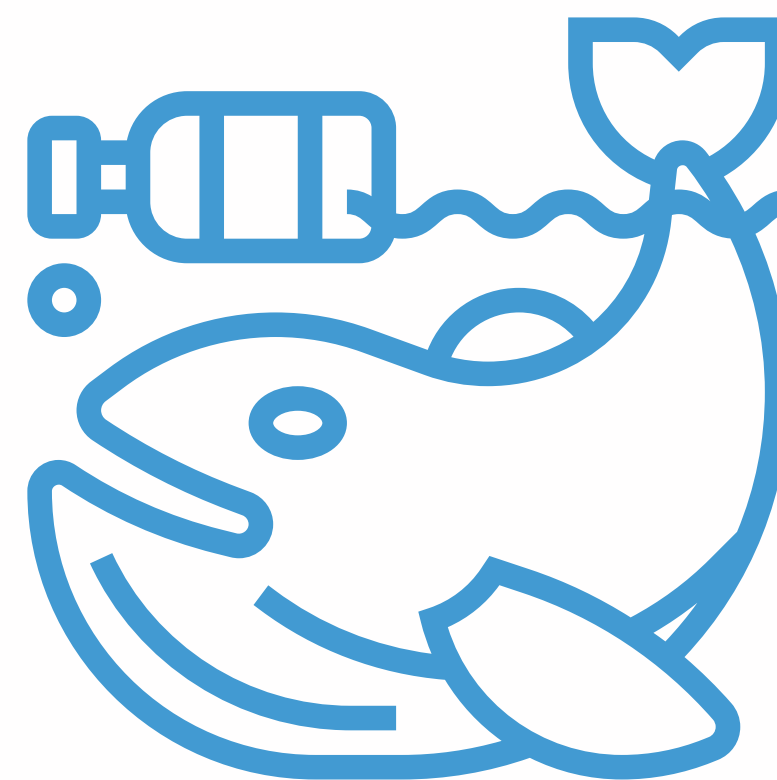
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WATER POLLUTION SITUATION IN LITHUANIA

Kaunas, Lithuania
2024



Lithuania is rich in water resources, with abundant lakes, rivers, and groundwater. The country borders the Baltic Sea, which plays a key role in its coastal ecosystem. Major rivers like the Nemunas and Neris, along with over 3,000 lakes, provide vital water for both people and nature. Lithuania has high-quality drinking water, mainly sourced from groundwater, and has made strides in wastewater treatment to protect its water resources for the future.



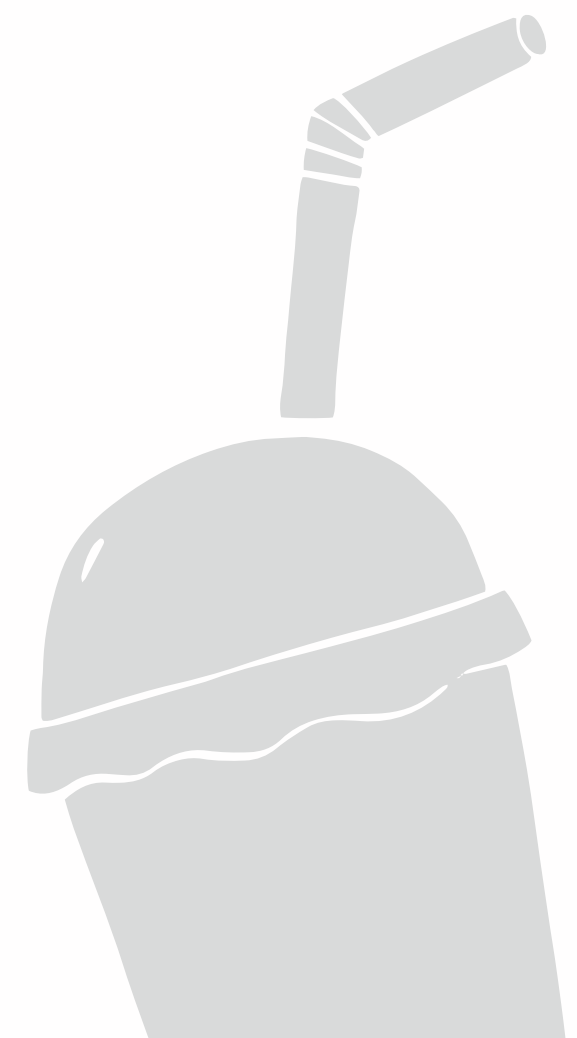
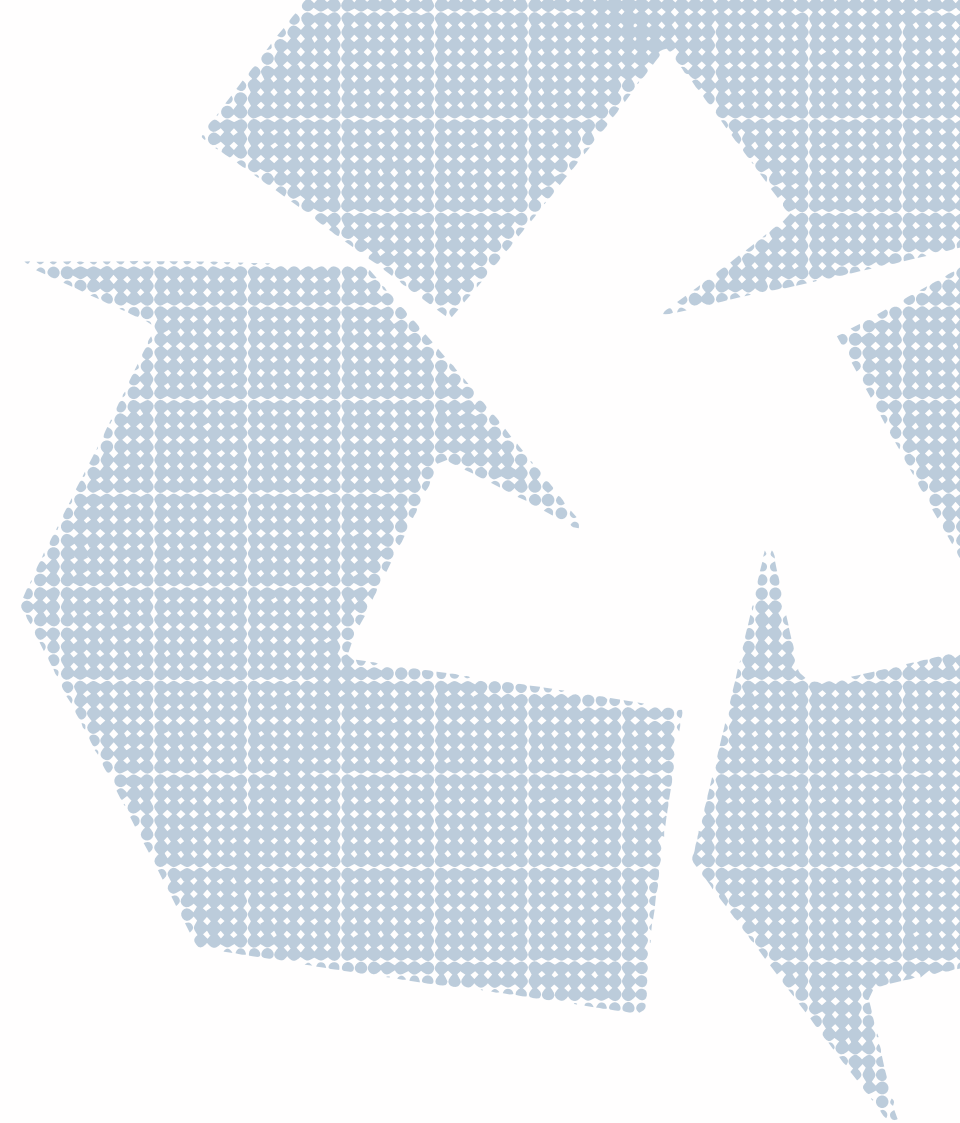


In Lithuania, air quality has improved in recent years, with fine particulate levels now below the EU limit.

However, urban areas still face occasional pollution from traffic and industry. Water pollution, especially from agricultural runoff, remains a concern. In 2020, about 30% of surface waters had poor quality, mainly due to high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Efforts to improve wastewater treatment and farming practices are ongoing.



In Lithuania, the most polluted areas are typically found in urban centers and industrial regions. Air pollution is highest in cities like Vilnius and Kaunas, primarily due to traffic emissions and industrial activities. Water pollution is also a concern, particularly in rural areas, due to agricultural runoff containing high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Certain rivers and lakes are affected, with about 30% of surface waters classified as having poor ecological status. Additionally, industrial sites, such as those near former Soviet-era factories, have contributed to local soil and water contamination.



Lithuania faces several challenges in reducing pollution:

1. Agricultural Runoff: Excessive fertilizers and pesticides contaminate water sources.
2. Industrial Pollution: Older factories and emissions from industry impact air, soil, and water quality.
3. Traffic and Urban Pollution: Cities like Vilnius struggle with air pollution from vehicles.
4. Waste Management: Illegal dumping and plastic waste are ongoing issues, especially in rural areas.
5. Climate Change: Extreme weather could worsen pollution by increasing runoff and stressing waste systems.

Efforts to address these challenges are ongoing but require continuous investment and regulation.





Best Practices in Lithuania to Combat Water Pollution

Drinking Water Stations in Major Cities

- Ensuring water quality: Public drinking water stations in major cities (e.g., Vilnius, Kaunas) allow citizens to refill their bottles for free, reducing the need for plastic water bottles.
- Fighting plastic waste: Encourages people to avoid single-use plastic bottles, contributing to waste reduction.

Ecological Agricultural Practices

- Sustainable farming: Promotes the use of fewer chemical fertilizers and pesticides that can pollute water sources.
- Reduced nitrate and pesticide contamination: Eco-friendly farming practices help protect groundwater and preserve biodiversity.

Environmental Education and Initiatives

- Protection of landscapes and water bodies: Educational programs aim to raise awareness about responsible water usage and reduce pollution.
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QUESTIONS

for you < 3



What do you think which river in Lithuania is known for suffering from pollution due to urban and industrial waste?

- A) Nemunas B) Vilnia
C) Minija D) Šventoji



What body of water is directly affected by Lithuania's water pollution?

- A) The Mediterranean Sea B) The Baltic Sea
C) The North Sea D) The Black Sea



Thank you for your attention!

