

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Public Opinion Can Help The Environment!

The stacks which rise in the centre of town, proudly crowned with a cap of acrid black or reddish smoke, cause feelings in all of us: resentment, indignation and finally anger. However, the managers of a number of enterprises still give precedence to meeting their production quotas over the health of thousands and thousands of people. In Novopolotsk, the administration of the protein and vitamin concentrates plant, having admitted the error of their ways on paper, have been in no hurry to "carry out air-pollution control measures". In Angarsk, however, the management of a similar plant has gone even further: at the protein-vitamin concentrates plant there, they moved the seals with which the health-inspection station had shut down the operation. What does health matter, if the planned quotas aren't being met?

The result of this rashness was a mass outbreak of allergic illnesses, which affected not only adults, but children as well. Incidentally, "rashness" can scarcely be used to describe what occurred. A much more accurate word to describe this action would be "crime".

Where can a way out be found? In people. At Pavlodar, for example, public opinion came out in favour of protecting the environment and a lot was achieved.

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