

In the environmental protection field, the firm produces a range of devices, including an air purification filter which is on display this year. Recently, an agreement was reached with the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry concerning joint efforts and development of equipment for air, gas and water purification.

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Complaints About Pollution in the Southern Urals
(Original Title "Acid Rain On a Linden Grove")

In the West, any region where 200 kilogrammes of harmful dust fall on a hectare of land is declared an ecological disaster zone.

Onto a similar hectare the enterprises of the Ashi district in the Chelyabinsk Oblast' - a wood chemistry combine, a major local timber industry enterprise (lespromkhoz), an illumination engineering plant, two metallurgical plants and a furniture factory - are jettisoning more than 90 tonnes of dust, which is 450 times the international norm!

What is the lifespan of the inhabitants of Ashi? The answer is, five years less than the figure for the country as a whole. Moreover, they lead the southern Urals in the number of oncological diseases.

The water also is in a disastrous condition. The Sim River, the major waterway of the district, is becoming visibly shallower and decaying. This is hardly to be wondered at, for it