

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF INERT WASTE IN GEORGIA





საქართველოს პარლამენტი



Prepared under the initiative of the Parliament of Georgia with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sweden. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of UNDP and Sweden.

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REPORT ON THEMATIC INQUIRY

APRIL, 2022

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA**

Working Group

In order to conduct a thematic inquiry on the sustainable management of inert waste, a working group was set up at the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, composed of the following members of the Parliament of Georgia:

- 1. Maya Bitadze - Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee (keynote speaker);*
- 2. Khatia Tsilosani - First Deputy Chairperson of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee;*
- 3. Aleksandre Dalakishvili - Member of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee;*
- 4. Davit Kirkitadze - Member of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee;*
- 5. Edisher Toloraya - Member of both the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee and the Regional Policy and Self-government Committee;*
- 6. Sozar Subari - Chairperson of the Regional Policy and Self-government Committee;*
- 7. Davit Songhulashvili - Chairperson of the Committee of Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee, and Member of the Committee on European Integration;*
- 8. Eka Sepashvili - First Deputy Chairperson of the Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee, and Member of the Committee on European Integration;*
- 9. Gocha Enukidze - Deputy Chairperson of the Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee;*
- 10. Nino Iobashvili - Member of the Committee European Integration; and*
- 11. Bezhan Tsakadze - Member of the Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee.*

The thematic inquiry was prepared by:

Office of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee:

Nana Gogitidze, Ani Sisordia, and Salome Kurasbediani.

Experts:

Kakhaber Bakhtadze and Boris Nadiradze.

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1. THEMATIC INQUIRY

- 1.1 Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste is the main policy document pertaining to waste management in EU Member States. Its main objective is to establish a policy framework for waste management in EU Member States. According to the Directive, it is necessary to create an appropriate legal framework and form executive institutions.
- 1.2 Obligations related to waste management are derived from the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, according to which, in 2014, the Waste Management Code of Georgia was adopted. It should be noted that the mere existence of a legal framework without effective implementation mechanisms is insufficient to establish sustainable environmental practices. Thus waste management, and especially inert waste management, remains an important challenge in the country.
- 1.3 As global practice demonstrates, a significant share of inert waste comes from construction. In Georgia, where construction is prevalent, the volume of inert waste increases every year. According to the statistical information provided by the City Hall of Tbilisi Municipality, in 2018-2021, the inert waste deposited at the inert (construction) waste disposal site owned by “Tbilservis Group” LLC amounted to more than 780,000 tons. Thus, encouraging the recycle and reuse of such waste is important to reduce the negative impact on the natural and social environment, as well as to obtain economic benefits.
- 1.4 According to Georgian legislation, inert waste should be placed only in landfills designed for this type of waste. Currently, the separating of inert waste from other types of waste is not generally practiced, nor is there a special landfill in place for such waste.
- 1.5 The goal of the inquiry was to identify problems related to the management of inert waste based on an analysis of existing regulations and practices, as well as to assess the performance of relevant structures, and to develop appropriate recommendations to promote sustainable waste management.
- 1.6 Within the scope of the thematic inquiry, opinions based on specific facts, studies, and findings were presented by governmental and non-governmental representatives as well as academics, industry experts, and other stakeholders.
- 1.7 The thematic inquiry working group processed and analyzed the received substantiated opinions and positions of representatives of state agencies and other available information. Based on the analysis, appropriate recommendations were developed.

2. SUBSTANTIATED POSITIONS

N	AUTHORS OF SUBSTANTIATED OPINIONS AND STATE AGENCIES REPRESENTING POSITIONS
1	“Green Construction Council Georgia» (non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity)
2	Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth-Georgia
3	Caritas Czech Republic in Georgia
4	Environmental Safety Commission of the Georgian Academy of Sciences
5	“Association of Builders” (non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity)
6	«Arsi» LLC (construction company)
7	Technical University of Georgia, Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology
8	Technical University of Georgia, Scientific Center «Nanofermentation»
9	Technical University of Georgia, Faculty of Construction
10	Technical University of Georgia, Department of Construction Machinery
11	Tbilisi Municipality City Hall Environmental Protection Office
12	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
13	LEPL «National Agency of Mineral Resources»
14	City Hall of Gardabani Municipality
15	The State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision
16	Mtskheta Municipality City Hall
17	LEPL State Environmental Protection Agency
18	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
19	Tskaltubo Municipality City Hall
20	Batumi Municipality City Hall
21	«Khelvachauri Landscaping, Cleaning and Utility Service» (non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity)
22	Tsageri Municipality City Hall

*It should be noted that the City Halls of Sagarejo, Kobuleti, and Kutaisi Municipalities all partook in the survey as well, and, according to their written answers, at the time of responding none of them managed inert waste and thus did not have any corresponding information.

3. GENERAL FINDINGS

As a result of the analysis of the opinions presented in the course of the inquiry, together with other feedback related to specific issues, the following general findings were identified, which were then taken into account when developing the relevant recommendations:

- 3.1 Despite the Waste Management Code of Georgia having been in force since 2014 and the technical requirements for setting up an inert waste landfill having also been developed, the implementation of an (efficient) inert waste management system has yet to be realized.** One of the main problems in this regard is the lack of an inert waste management action plan, according to which municipalities would be directed as to how they should create and develop local inert waste management systems.
- 3.2 The conducted research demonstrated that in the country there are no inert waste landfills that comply with Georgian legislation or European standards, nor are there any important prerequisites in place for their creation, which would be necessary for cooperation with businesses and to meet the needs of the local population.** In particular, construction companies themselves have assumed responsibility for managing construction waste, while the issue of managing inert waste generated by the local population remains unregulated and is not included in the duties of municipal government cleaning services. Despite the fact that, according to the Waste Management Code, relatively high fines are imposed for littering with construction or other inert waste, cases of illegal disposal of inert waste are still frequent.
- 3.3 At this stage, there is no manual (methodological) document for inert waste management in compliance with the Waste Management Code and modern best practices. It should also be noted that some municipalities do not manage inert waste at all.**
- 3.4 The lack of cooperation between municipalities in terms of inert waste management is also an important hindering factor.** To date, there is no inter-municipal cooperation in the management of inert waste in the country even though the Local Self-government Code allows for such cooperation.
- 3.5 The above findings highlight that there are significant barriers obstructing the establishment of an inert waste management system in Georgia, which are closely interrelated despite their heterogeneity.** In order to have in place an effective inert waste management system, at the initial stage, it is necessary to develop appropriate action plans and methodological documents at the central level and then share them with local governments through knowledge transfer. Meanwhile, at the local level, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation between self-governments, as well as to set up agencies responsible for inert waste management and increase the qualification levels of their employees..

4. KEY CONSIDERATIONS BASED ON THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED IN THE INQUIRY

Based on the analysis of the opinions presented in the inquiry and the additional information conveyed during oral hearings, as well as other relevant feedback obtained, important topics were identified for consideration in the development of relevant recommendations.

4.1 Is there an inert waste management system in Georgia that is in compliance with Georgia’s legislation and its international commitments?

The majority of representatives of the non-governmental sector asserted that the issue of regulation of construction waste was acute in the country. Despite the existence of the Waste Management Code, there is still no guiding document for inert waste management to have been developed in compliance with Georgia’s legislation and its international obligations. According to one respondent from the Greens Movement¹, the requirements of the law to ensure the management of inert waste in Georgia were not fulfilled at all in 48 municipalities, and, therefore, a significant amount of generated inert waste ends up in non-hazardous waste (municipal waste) landfills.

According to the opinions expressed by representatives of the Department of Waste and Chemical Substances Management of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, waste management plans were developed in accordance with the Waste Management Code to improve the waste management systems in municipalities. Currently, under the European Union for the Environment (EU4Environment) project, a draft of a new national waste management action plan (2022-2026) is being developed, which will include issues related to inert waste management.

4.2 What are the factors hindering the creation and smooth operation of the inert waste management system in Georgia?

According to representatives of the non-governmental sector and academia, there are many factors impeding management of inert waste, including:

- Spatial planning and urban development plans that do not envisage the allocation of areas for construction/inert waste;
- Lack of locations in highland municipalities that meet the necessary conditions for a landfill;
- The inert waste processing industry being of a smaller scale and thus carrying limited business interest; and
- The non-availability of data on waste, due to which the provision of accurate calculations are significantly delayed and it is thus not possible to determine suitable places for the disposal of construction waste.

1 “Greens Movement of Georgia”

4.3 What are the shortcomings affecting cooperation between central and local governments in terms of inert waste management?

The representative of the Greens Movement of Georgia opined that the problems affecting the cooperation between central and local governments in terms of inert waste management were clear and needed to be solved immediately. Specifically, this referred to insufficient sharing of knowledge and tools needed to manage inert waste (including the allocation of landfill areas) between central government agencies and the local self-governments.

The representatives of Green Construction Council stated that due to there being a plethora of municipalities, each with different scales and resources, it would not be appropriate to approach each municipality in the same way and manage inert waste at the level of municipalities.

According to the opinion shared by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, it is necessary to engage representatives of all interested parties (central government, local governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and educational and research organizations) actively in the development and implementation of a new national waste management plan. According to other representatives of the government sector, it is also important to distribute the responsibilities on the mentioned issue between central and local authorities.

4.4 Is there intersectoral and intermunicipal cooperation in place to improve inert waste management issues?

The Greens Movement of Georgia opined that it is necessary to expand intersectoral and intermunicipal cooperation in order to improve the management of inert waste. According to its representative, in highland areas it would be reasonable to implement such cooperation (management) regionally, while in large municipalities and self-governing cities, where a larger amount of inert waste is generated, management should be implemented autonomously.

Architect-urbanist Vladimer Vardosanidze held that intersectoral and intermunicipal cooperation on waste management issues was ineffective in the country. According to him, one example of this problem lay in the development of sectoral plans, as this preceded the preparation of spatial plans. According to his expert opinion, first of all, a country development plan should be prepared, which would take into account sectoral development issues (including sustainable management of inert waste), and then, based on the mentioned plan, a national action plan for inert waste management should be prepared.

4.5 What are the shortcomings of the current practice of inert waste collection, processing, and disposal?

The Association of Builders claimed that the mixing of soil as a naturally-separated waste with other types of waste directly at landfills was problematic. Its representatives asserted that due to the fact that soil waste is generated at the first stage of construction works and given that it is necessary to remove such waste from the territory before such works commence, it is important to separate the soil from other construction waste at the landfill, and the separation of differentiated areas should be ensured by the administration of the landfill/waste disposal facility.

Other opinions presented at the oral hearings included the belief that the issues of collection, processing, and disposal of inert waste were currently not properly regulated, and that, in particular, waste was not separated, processed, and/or reused, while there were no landfills of modern standards in place for the disposal of inert waste.

4.6 Will requiring the preparation and agreement of a waste management plan as one of the prerequisites for issuing a construction permit contribute to the improvement of the inert waste management system?

The representative of the Green Construction Council stated that imposing the requirement of waste management plan and implementation control is necessary not only for large projects, but also for small ones as these make up the largest proportion of the total volume of construction works. According to him, running parallel with measures to promote the processing or collecting industry, a procedure for issuing and enforcing permits should be introduced.

Other representatives of the non-governmental sector opined that imposing the requirement to prepare and agree on a waste management plan as one of the prerequisites for the issuing of a construction permit would significantly contribute to the improvement of the inert waste management system.

According to the opinion of the representative of the Association of Builders, the amount of waste generated as a result of the construction of residential houses, subject to the construction permit (3rd, 4th class), is so substantial that it is practically impossible to dispose it illegally. The dumping of construction waste is mainly carried out during activities that do not require a construction permit (e.g. renovation of old and new apartments). Accordingly, the requirement to prepare a waste management plan as one of the preconditions for issuing a construction permit would not, in their view, contribute to the improvement of the inert waste management system.

Meanwhile, the representative of the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia asserted that it was necessary to issue a construction permit with certain prerequisites, namely that the construction company should present a preliminary plan for the utilization of its generated inert waste. By doing so, they claimed, illegal dumping of inert waste would be avoided. Other representatives of the government sector claimed that it was necessary for the given developer to determine the maximum amount of inert waste when applying for the permit. The same representative added that the mentioned point should be agreed with the relevant agencies of the municipalities.

4.7 How should inert waste management be considered in reclamation plans?

The Greens Movement of Georgia held that the use of inert waste for the purpose of reclamation, in particular for covering and filling works, should be possible only after the identification of non-hazardous and hazardous inert waste. This, according to its representative, could be achieved by implementing relevant guidelines and that the reclamation plan itself should determine what composition and size of inert waste is allowed.

4.8 What measures need to be taken to close illegal inert waste dumps?

According to the representative of the Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, the solution to the current situation lies in the identification of modern geological formations of technogenic origin on the entire territory of Georgia. In particular, the same representative opined, it is necessary to mark their exact location on relevant maps (contouring), to study landscape-geological (geodynamic) conditions, to determine the degree of pollution and assess the environmental impact, to develop a comprehensive cadastral database for preventive and other remedial-engineering measures and, most importantly, to monitor the abovementioned territories.

Some of those to present opinions claimed that supervisory activities should be performed more readily by the Department of Environmental Supervision and Municipal Supervision Services, and tightening of the corresponding administrative fines was necessary as well.

4.9 Are there enabling/incentive mechanisms in place to promote the recovery of inert waste?

Representatives of the non-governmental sector did not have any information about the existence of supporting/encouraging mechanisms for the recovery of inert waste, however they generally believed that such mechanisms should be introduced so that the private sector becomes more interested in the recovery of inert waste.

According to the representative of Caritas, it was necessary to move from the “GOST standard” presently in force in Georgia (which limits the use of recycled inert waste in concrete production) to adopt modern European standards. Doing so, they claimed, would make it possible to encourage construction companies to use inert waste generated in Georgia as a secondary raw material,

4.10 What positive role can the private sector play in the field of inert waste management?

The majority of those providing opinions believed that the involvement of the private sector in the management of inert waste would facilitate the recycling and reuse of inert waste, as a result of which the total amount of non-hazardous (municipal) waste disposed at landfills would be significantly reduced. According to them, along with the reduction in the total volume of inert waste, the costs of municipal waste management for local governments would be significantly cut.

Some respondents claimed that to strengthen the involvement of the private sector, it would be possible, for example, to grant “green enterprise” status to those who engage in inert waste prevention, reuse, separation, and recycling campaigns.

4.11 Are there good examples of inert waste management in Georgia, the support and sharing of which would contribute to the improvement of the inert waste management system?

The representative of the Green Construction Council cited as a good example the Tbilisi Business House project, which was implemented in order to obtain the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building certificate. In the course of the project, the majority of construction waste was neutralized, recycled, or reused. Moreover, in compliance with the state procurement procedure, the recovered materials were sold for reuse. In addition, even before the start of the works, a waste management plan was prepared in accordance with the certificate requirements.

4.12 Which good international practices can be shared and implemented in Georgia in the field of inert waste management?

Examples cited by respondents of good international practice that could plausibly be spread in Georgia included the following:

- The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) green building assessment and certification systems, recommended by the American Green Building Council and the United Kingdom Building Institute;

- The practice of reusing inert materials of developed countries, according to which waste after processing is reused for construction purposes and for covering municipal waste at non-hazardous waste landfills, as well as in the process of road construction;
- The practice of the Czech Republic whereby, instead of the existing “Ghost standard,” a standard would be introduced to allow the use of secondary raw materials in concrete production, in particular the raw materials obtained as a result of the processing and dismantling of construction waste.
- The best practice of municipal waste management of the Federal Environment Agency of Germany, which involves the arrangement of landfills for the temporary disposal of inert waste, and, for this purpose, the development of technical conditions, requirements, and descriptions; and
- The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia drew attention to the experience of Scandinavian countries, where technologies applied serve to reuse inert waste and ensure its complete return to the economy. He also added that the use of a similar circular model in Georgia would lead to raising the interest of the private sector in inert waste.

4.13 How should awareness/knowledge about inert waste be raised/shared with government agencies and business representatives, as well as local populations, to promote the elimination of existing deficiencies and increase responsible behavior?

Representatives of non-governmental and scientific-educational organizations claimed that in order to promote the sustainable management of inert waste, it was necessary to provide appropriate information and explanation to the population at self-government level, particularly in familiarizing them with principles important to promoting the reuse, prevention, and recycling of inert waste. In this regard, they held that obtaining up-to-date knowledge would increase citizens’ responsible behavior.

Many respondents considered that in order to promote the sustainable management of inert waste, it would be appropriate to initiate and implement various educational projects. The mentioned topic may also be integrated into school and higher educational curricula, as well as in adult educational programs, and in training programs developed for public services and local self-government organizations.

Representatives of state agencies stated that a significant proportion of the population lacked accurate information about inert waste and the principles of the sustainable management of this type of waste. For example, they claimed a lay person would not know how to treat and/or where to place inert waste generated as a result of renovation works in a residential apartment. Therefore, they added, it would be necessary to take certain steps to raise the awareness of the population about such issues.

5. ORAL HEARINGS

After studying the written opinions and positions, oral hearings were held with the authors of such opinions and representatives of state agencies.

The following participated in the oral hearings:

25 November 2021

(Hearing the authors of reasoned opinions)

N	AUTHORS OF REASONED OPINIONS
1	Tamaz Khmelidze – Professor and Head of the Department of Construction Machinery of the Faculty of Construction, Technical University of Georgia
2	Gela Khipiani – Professor at Technical University of Georgia
3	Nikoloz Nebieridze – Professor, Faculty of Construction, Technical University of Georgia,
4	Malkhaz Turdzeladze - Head of the «Nanodugabi» S/C located at Technical University of Georgia
5	Zurab Varazashvili – Doctor of Geological Sciences, Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Technical University of Georgia
6	Vladimir Vardosanidze – Architect/Urban Planner
7	Nino Chkhobadze, Akaki Panchulidze, and Marine Zukhbaya - Greens Movement of Georgia/ Friends of the Earth-Georgia
8	Ilia Babukhadia - Representative of the Association of Builders and LLC «Arsi»
9	Ekaterine Meskhrikadze - Caritas Czech Republic in Georgia
10	Kakha Rukhaya - Independent Expert
11	Shavleg Mishveladze - Business Association of Georgia
12	Elene Gvinianidze - Energy Efficiency Center Georgia

25 November 2021

(Representatives of state agencies at the oral hearings)

N	STATE AGENCIES
1	Solomon Pavliashvili - Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture;
2	Alverd Chankselian - Head of the Waste and Chemical Substances Management Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture;
3	Neli Korkotadze - Deputy Head of the Environmental Supervision Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Chief State Inspector;
4	Mzia Giorgobiani - Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure;
5	Nino Gventsadze - Head of the Spatial Planning Department of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure;
6	Medea Chachkhiani - Head of the Environmental Protection Department of the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia;
7	Zurab Meskhi - Head of the Construction Affairs Division of the Construction Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
8	Nana Zamtaradze - First Deputy Head of the National Mineral Resources Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
9	Shorena Iosebidze - Head of the Legal Service of the National Mineral Resources Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
10	Giga Gigashvili - Head of the City Department of Environmental Protection of the City Hall of Tbilisi Municipality;
11	Geno Mdinaradze - Specialist of the Environmental Protection City Service of Tbilisi Municipality City Hall;
12	Yuza Ugulava - Deputy Mayor of Kutaisi Municipality;
13	Shota Nutsubidze - Acting Head of the Supervision Service of Tskaltubo Municipality;
14	Tamaz Polodashvili - Deputy Mayor of Mtskheta Municipality;
15	Inna Akhalbedashvili - Head of Education and Culture Department of Mtskheta Municipality City Hall;
16	Davit Janashia - Head of the Economic Development and Property Management Service of Gardabani Municipality City Hall;
17	Ioseb Akhalkatsishvili - Head of the Supervision and Fees Department of Gardabani Municipality City Hall;
18	Iamze Makhatadze – Specialist at Gardabani Municipality City Hall; and
19	Giorgi Gigochashvili - Junior Specialist at Gardabani Municipality City Hall.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation 1: Amendments should be made to the Waste Management Code of Georgia, and if necessary, to the spatial planning and construction legislation. In the process, the issues regarding sustainable management of inert waste should be specified, including the rights and duties and responsibilities of central and local government agencies.

Agency responsible for implementation: Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia.

Implementation period: June 2022 – December 2024.

Recommendation 2: After the implementation of Recommendation 1 of this inquiry, technical regulations on inert waste management should be developed, according to which, among other aspects, activities will be carried out to build the capacity of representatives of relevant agencies of the municipalities of Georgia.

Agency responsible for implementation: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Implementation period: June 2023 - December 2024.

Recommendation 3: In the National Waste Management Strategy for 2016-2030 and the National Waste Management Action Plan for 2022-2026, a separate chapter should be devoted to detailing issues related to inert waste management. This will help municipalities and other state agencies to plan and implement inert waste management activities properly.

Agency responsible for implementation: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Implementation period: June 2022 – December 2024.

Recommendation 4: After detailing the issues related to inert waste management in the National Waste Management Action Plan 2022-2026, the tools for promoting the reuse of inert waste by businesses should be worked out in cooperation with the business sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations. The mentioned tools should later be reflected in the state procurement and construction legislation of Georgia. They should be based on green construction principles and, at the initial stage, consider the promotion of companies interested in planning and implementing public projects.

Agencies responsible for implementation: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, and the Ministry of Finance of Georgia.

Implementation period: September 2022 – December 2024.

Recommendation 5: In order to promote the reuse of inert waste, the existing “GOST standard” in concrete production should be reviewed and, in accordance with technical capabilities and requirements, a new standard based on best European experience and practice should be developed, enabling the use of secondary raw materials in concrete production. While working on the mentioned standard, the experience of other countries including the Czech Republic should be studied and appropriate norms should be developed based on best practices.

Agency responsible for implementation: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

Implementation period: September 2023 - December 2025

Recommendation 6: In cooperation with interested business associations and companies, a program promoting the processing and disposal of inert waste should be developed, which could be implemented by the LEPL "Enterprise Georgia". The goals of the program will be to develop inert waste processing entrepreneurship and to promote entrepreneurs involved in such activities.

Agency responsible for implementation: LEPL "Enterprise Georgia" under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

Implementation period: September 2022 - December 2024.

Recommendation 7: Local governments should update municipal waste management plans to reflect fully the issues related to inert waste management determined by the National Waste Management Action Plan 2022-2026.

Agencies responsible for implementation: Municipalities of self-governing cities, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Implementation period: September 2023 – December 2025.

Recommendation 8: Until the legislation related to inert waste management is perfected in self-governing cities, the existing (if any) inert waste collection, transportation, and disposal service should be improved and control over illegal inert waste disposal should be tightened.

Agencies responsible for implementation: Municipalities of self-governing cities (Tbilisi, Rustavi, Kutaisi, Poti, and Batumi) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Implementation period: September 2022 - December 2023.

