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ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AS A UNIVERSAL PROBLEM

Abstract: In this article environmental pollution, disruption of the natural balance is considered as a universal problem.

Key words: nature, ecology, technical development, chemical waste

Аннотация: В статье загрязнение окружающей среды, нарушение природного баланса рассматривается как универсальная проблема.

Ключевые слова: природа, экология, техническое развитие, химические отходы.

Environmental pollution is a global problem of our time, which is regularly discussed in the news and academia. Many international organizations have been created to combat the deterioration of natural conditions. Scientists have long been sounding the alarm about the inevitability of an environmental catastrophe in the very near future.

At the moment, a lot is known about environmental pollution - a large number of scientific works and books have been written, numerous studies have been carried out. But in solving the problem, humanity has made very little progress. Pollution of nature is still an important and urgent issue, the postponement of which can turn out to be tragic.

In connection with the intensive industrialization of society, environmental pollution has become especially aggravated in recent decades. However, despite this fact, natural pollution is one of the most ancient problems in human history. Even in the primitive era, people began to barbarously destroy forests, exterminate animals and change the landscape of the earth to expand the territory of residence and obtain valuable resources.

Even then, this led to climate change and other environmental problems. The growth of the world's population and the progress of civilizations was accompanied by increased mining, drainage of water bodies, and chemical pollution of the biosphere. The Industrial Revolution marked not only a new era in the social order, but also a new wave of pollution.

With the development of science and technology, scientists have received tools that made it possible to accurately and detailed analysis of the ecological state of the planet. Weather reports, control of the chemical composition of air, water and soil, satellite data, and ubiquitous smoky pipes and oil spills on the water indicate that the problem is rapidly aggravating with the expansion of the technosphere. It is not for nothing that the appearance of man is called the main ecological catastrophe.

There are several classifications of environmental pollution based on their source, direction, and other factors.

So, the following types of environmental pollution are distinguished:

1. Biological - the source of pollution is living organisms, it can occur for natural reasons or as a result of anthropogenic activity.
2. Physical - leads to a change in the corresponding characteristics of the environment. Physical pollution includes thermal, radiation, noise and others.
3. Chemical - an increase in the content of substances or their penetration into the environment. Leads to a change in the normal chemical composition of the resource.
4. Mechanical - pollution of the biosphere with garbage.

In fact, one type of pollution can be accompanied by another or several at once.

The gaseous shell of the planet is an integral participant in natural processes, determines the thermal background and climate of the Earth, protects against destructive cosmic radiation, and affects relief formation.

The composition of the atmosphere has changed during the entire historical development of the planet. The current situation is such that part of the volume of the gas envelope is determined by human economic activity. The composition of the air is heterogeneous and differs depending on the geographic location - in industrial regions and large cities there is a high level of harmful impurities.

The main sources of chemical pollution of the atmosphere:

1. chemical plants;
2. enterprises of the fuel and energy complex;
3. transport.

These pollutants cause heavy metals such as lead, mercury, chromium, and copper in the atmosphere. They are permanent air components in industrial areas.

Modern power plants emit hundreds of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every day, as well as soot, dust and ash.

The increase in the number of cars in settlements has led to an increase in the concentration of a number of harmful gases in the air, which are part of the engine exhaust. Large quantities of lead are released due to anti-knock additives added to transport fuels. Cars generate dust and ash that pollute not only the air, but also the soil, settling on the ground.

The atmosphere is also polluted by highly toxic gases emitted by the chemical industry. Waste from chemical plants, for example, nitrogen and sulfur oxides, cause acid rain and can react with components of the biosphere to form other hazardous derivatives.

As a result of human activity, forest fires regularly occur, during which colossal amounts of carbon dioxide are released.

Due to the extraction of natural resources, mining operations, the construction of buildings, roads and airfields, large-scale areas of soil are being destroyed.

Unsustainable human economic activity has caused the degradation of the fertile layer of the earth. Its natural chemical composition changes, mechanical pollution occurs. The intensive development of agriculture leads to significant land losses. Frequent plowing makes them vulnerable to flooding, salinization and winds that cause soil erosion.

The abundant use of fertilizers, insecticides and chemical poisons to destroy pests and remove weeds leads to the ingress of toxic compounds unnatural for it into the soil. As a result of anthropogenic activity, there is chemical pollution of lands with heavy metals and their derivatives. The main harmful element is lead, as well as its compounds. When processing lead ores, about 30 kilograms of metal are emitted from each ton. Car exhaust, which contains a large amount of this metal, settles in the soil, poisoning the organisms that live in it. Liquid waste from mines contaminates the earth with zinc, copper and other metals.

Power plants, radioactive fallout from nuclear explosions, research centers for the study of atomic energy cause radioactive isotopes to enter the soil, which then enter the human body with food.

The reserves of metals concentrated in the bowels of the earth are scattered as a result of human production activity. Then they concentrate in the upper soil layer. In ancient times, man used 18 elements from those found in the earth's crust, and today all are known.

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