

Latest development in Georgia with regard to pollutants in relation with ambient air, waste and water

Ambient Air

Respective national regulation is developing, e.g., the newest one is the law of Georgia on Industrial Emissions, that was adopted in July, 2023. The law is aiming at emissions' prevention, reduction and control into the air and water from industrial activities, also prevention of waste generation. Particular articles of the mentioned law will become mandatory for new enterprises from September 2026.

Number of automatic monitoring stations was raised from 8 to 11 in 4 cities with hourly monitoring.

Number of passive samplings was raised from 25 to 30 cities with quarterly monitoring.

Annual e-reporting for enterprises is in place with stationary sources of air pollution on about 30 substances.

Interactive e-map is developed and publicly accessible, containing air quality data along with other air related information.

According to the legislative changes in 2021, permanent automatic self-monitoring of emissions of air pollutants and submission of this information to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) through the e-system became mandatory for large industrial enterprises, having significant negative impact on the environment; self-monitoring equipment should be certified according to European or international standard. As of today, 28 industrial plants out of 50 are registered in the e-system, while others have purchased relevant equipment and are in the process of its introduction.

Under the EU project proposal for 2024-2027, aimed at improvement of air quality instruments in Georgia, number of important activities will be implemented, such as:

- Update existing portal as more user-friendly;
- Expand capacity of dissemination of data and information in various formats;
- Add primary validation instrument for the real-time air quality data.

Also, there is a need to:

- Create a mobile application for the portal, and
- Introduce Raven 3 data exchange program to transmit data again to the European Air Quality Index Map.

Waste management

Respective national regulations on extended producer responsibility (EPR) and e-registry were adopted in 2020-2021.

EPR e-registry is operating since 2021. Up to 10 000 producers and 3 Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) are registered for 4 waste streams (*such as tires, used oils, batteries and accumulators, and electric and electronic waste*).

Existing waste e-registration/reporting system is under development as requires some technical improvements. Therefore, the relevant public information is provided by MEPA in case of request.

With support of EU technical assistance project, integrated waste management e-database is under development to make it more user-friendly and in compliance with the respective national and international requirements, including e-reporting, the public information, etc. Finalization of work on e-database is expected at the end of 2024.

Water resources

The Law on Water Resources Management was adopted in July 2023 which will be fully entered into force in 2026. MEPA is obliged to develop a mechanism for providing information to the public and publish report on the state of water, intended for human consumption every 3 years.

Under the EU4Environment programme, paper-based annual reporting was replaced with e-reporting on water in 2023, operating through Water Use State Accounting Online System.

Until the new law is not yet into force, the reports aren't publicly accessible, but public information containing in the reports are provided by MEPA in case of request. Also, MEPA submits data from reports to the GEOSTAT and information is publicly available on water discharge, abstraction and use.

Currently water accounting is not mandatory for operators, but will be obligatory since 2026.

Information on pollutants doesn't exist in the submitted annual reports, but monthly bulletins and annual publications on environmental pollution (air, water, land, and radiation) is publicly accessible on the website of the National Environmental Agency (NEA) of MEPA. Along with these documents, NEA provides quantitative and qualitative data on the basis of the public request.

Within the project "Better water quality for citizens' health and Environment" under the EU Green Connectivity Programme for Georgia (2024-2027), information on water accounting, and quantitative and qualitative data of water bodies will be electronically accessible for the public.