



Vilnius

The Ecoguide



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The Project

Youth Participation against Climate Change

RYCA is a 2 year project aims at fostering youth networking, participation and action on the matter of Climate Change. This contributing on one hand, to the general goal of the European Youth Together call to increase youths engagement in the European political debate and on the other, to the broader goals indicated in the European Green Deal to address the imminent danger represented by the global climate crisis.

The rationale of the project sees the two streams of general objectives as complementary and intersected with each other:

- Increasing the youth ability to participate in the social and political life, locally and transnationally, in Europe both as a way to reconcile its often disrupted relations with grassroots, informal political streams of action
- and as a way to bring the European Green New Deal to the more capillary level of local actions and debates, where often the Europeans institutions are felt at their farthest from the EU citizen.

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Check out the online version of the Vilnius Ecoguide [HERE](#)

Intro to Vilnius

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania and its largest city, is the second-largest city in the Baltic region, with a population of 560,000 out of Lithuania's 2.8 million residents. The city, now 700 years old, boasts a rich history and is renowned for its stunning Baroque architecture.

Vilnius spans an area of approximately 401 square kilometers, with buildings occupying only about 30% of this space, as the city encompasses eight natural reserves within its boundaries.

Vilnius serves as the economic hub of Lithuania, contributing around 42% of the country's total GDP. The city continues to grow, attracting skilled workers from abroad.

Vilnius boasts the most significant business district in the Baltic region, as well as a well-developed innovation and industrial park on its outskirts. This park hosts national and international research centers, offices, laboratories, and factories.

Vilnius is becoming the “Green capital” in 2025

Not only is Vilnius one of the greenest cities in Europe, with an impressive 46% of its area dedicated to green spaces such as parks, squares, and forests, but it also has a clear and realistic vision for the future, aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

In recognition of these efforts, Vilnius has been nominated as a candidate for the European Green Capital of 2025 by a commission of experts. This honor evaluates seven key aspects of urban quality of life: air and water quality, waste management, circular economy development, noise levels, biodiversity promotion, and climate change adaptation.

The city has already made significant progress in reducing emissions through various initiatives and is striving for energy independence by increasing the use of renewable energy sources and modernizing its heating infrastructure.



1. Food production and consumption



1. Food production and consumption

Food production and consumption is undoubtedly a part of our everyday lives. But besides being a part of our routine, we must take a look at continuous practices. As the European Green Capital for 2025, Vilnius is committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The city is consistently advancing with innovative methods like vertical farming playing a key role in meeting its environmental goals and having a more sustainable ways to harvest and grow food locally.

Valentinas Civinskas, CEO of **Leafood**, Europe's largest vertical farm, highlights a broader shift in agricultural practices across Europe. Companies are increasingly adopting cutting-edge technologies such as AI-driven crop management, renewable energy systems, and sustainable water usage.

Leafood's vertical farm, located in Vilnius' industrial zone, represents a significant step forward. With an investment exceeding €6 million, it produces greens in spaces unsuitable for traditional agriculture. Situated within the city, the farm dramatically shortens supply chains and reduces CO2 emissions. Additionally, Leafood employs 100% renewable energy and uses up to 95% less water compared to conventional farming, minimizing its environmental footprint.



Leafood Instagram @leafood_farm

Benedikto Turgus Market

Shopping at a market is a great way to experience local culture and bring a habit to prefer a more eco-conscious consumption by choosing local products. Bring your bag and fill it with fresh local vegetables and fruit. Try some local cheese and taste gourmet products from farms from small farmers, organic farms and responsible producers.

Senatorių pasazas

This historical mansion in the heart of Vilnius Old Town is now a place for sustainability and slow-living philosophy. Dine in a farm-to-table restaurant, shop for meat, cheese and vegetables from the local Farmers Circle organic farm, get a freshly baked pastry with your morning coffee and don't rush. If you're interested in a more thorough experience, you can always visit the Farmers Circle, which is less than 100 km away from Vilnius.

Heart Made Farm

Order fresh vegetables directly from this organic farm. Grown by a family using hand tools and lots of love, their vegetables are the best you can get. Plus, they can be delivered all year round to you plastic-free, either weekly or bi-weekly. You'll also join a community of friends that is passionate about good food, nature and simple living.

Miesto Laboratorija Community Centre

Near the city center, in more of a part area you find Miesto Laboratorija (en. City LAB). Drop by this cafe housed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly educational community centre. Freshly prepared breakfast, lunch or coffee breaks will enrich your day. It's an authentic local experience whenever you visit. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, there's fresh bread and pastries, and on Fridays, you'll find a farmers market. See creativity blooming in the hydroponic garden and join the educational programs on sustainability and zero-waste.



Benedikto turgus market
Location: Ukmergės g. 259A,
Vilnius



Senatorių pasažas
Location: Dominikonų g. 11, Vilnius



Heart made farm
Website:
<https://heartmadefarm.wixsite.com/welcome>



Miesto laboratorija
Location: Antakalnio g. 17-13,
Vilnius

2. Sustainable fashion



2. Sustainable fashion

Fashion is a way to express themselves, share your taste, knowledge and creativity. However, as trends change quickly, it's easy to get lost and fall under overconsumption. Have you ever considered that nearly everything you've ever purchased still exists somewhere on this planet? It's fascinating to think that the socks or T-shirts you bought a decade ago might still be out there, floating around and continuing their own separate journey.

Sustainable Fashion Week Vilnius

For the past five years, Vilnius has hosted a festival dedicated to young designers, providing a platform to express their creativity while championing sustainability. This year, the event once again served as a milestone gathering for young fashion talents committed to creating environmentally friendly designs.

The program began with the international Sustainable Fashion Week Summit, featuring 13 speakers from various countries. They shared insights on making the fashion industry more sustainable and eco-conscious. After the summit, the next day, festival itself started. Vilnius Town Hall was transformed into an elegant runway, showcasing models wearing innovative designs.

This year, 16 designers from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Italy presented their collections during the festival. The primary goal of Sustainable Fashion Week is to spark meaningful dialogue within the fashion industry and among consumers about how to shift away from overconsumption trends toward more sustainable practices.



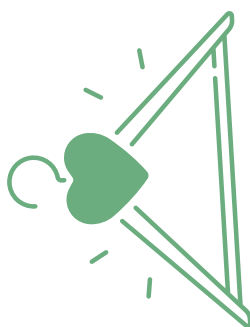
Vinted

Vinted is a leading online marketplace for buying, selling, and exchanging second-hand fashion and lifestyle items. Founded in Lithuania, it connects millions of users worldwide, promoting sustainable fashion by encouraging the reuse and recycling of clothing and accessories. Vinted provides an easy-to-use platform where individuals can declutter their wardrobes, find unique pieces, and contribute to reducing waste in the fashion industry.

Vinted's history started in 2008, when Justas Janauskas and Milda Mitkutė created a platform called "Mano drabužiai" (en. "My clothes") with the same idea - to sell used clothing. The app quickly became popular among their friends, including international friends from Czech Republic and Germany. As of June 2024, Vinted operates in 21 countries and has more than 65 million registered users. In November 2024, the platform was valued at 5 billion euros.

Places for vintage gems in Vilnius

- **Humana.** In 1998, the first Humana second-hand shop and sorting centre was opened in Vilnius. The idea was to create a fundraising model based on re-using second-hand clothes, allowing people to buy good quality clothes at a reasonable price, and using the surplus to support development projects. From a single shop and sorting centre, the Humana shop network has now grown and expanded to many other cities across Lithuania. The popularity and success of the second-hand shops in Lithuania, as well as being a sustainable fundraising model, has motivated us to expand our activities to other countries, for now operating in 13 countries, including Belgium, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Oman, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, and Ukraine. There are many humanas around Vilnius, however, for true vintage finds, try the vintage one's - Tiltos g. 10/8, Vilnius, 01101 Vilnius and Trakų g. 16, Vilnius, 01132 Vilnius.
- **Dagilis vintage** is an online shop for selected vintage clothing from Lithuania.
- **Savva boutique.** If you're seeking something truly unique and authentic, Savva Vintage Boutique is a must-visit. Each piece is carefully handpicked and sourced from around the globe, ensuring that every item has its own special charm. From stunning vintage clothing, hats, and bags to accessories, frames, jewelry boxes, signs, and even working vintage cameras, the selection is as diverse as it is delightful.
- **De'Žavu - Vintage Boutique** . Similar to the Savva boutique - it offers hand picked vintage finds for the low second hand price.



3. Waste, Recycling and Upcycling

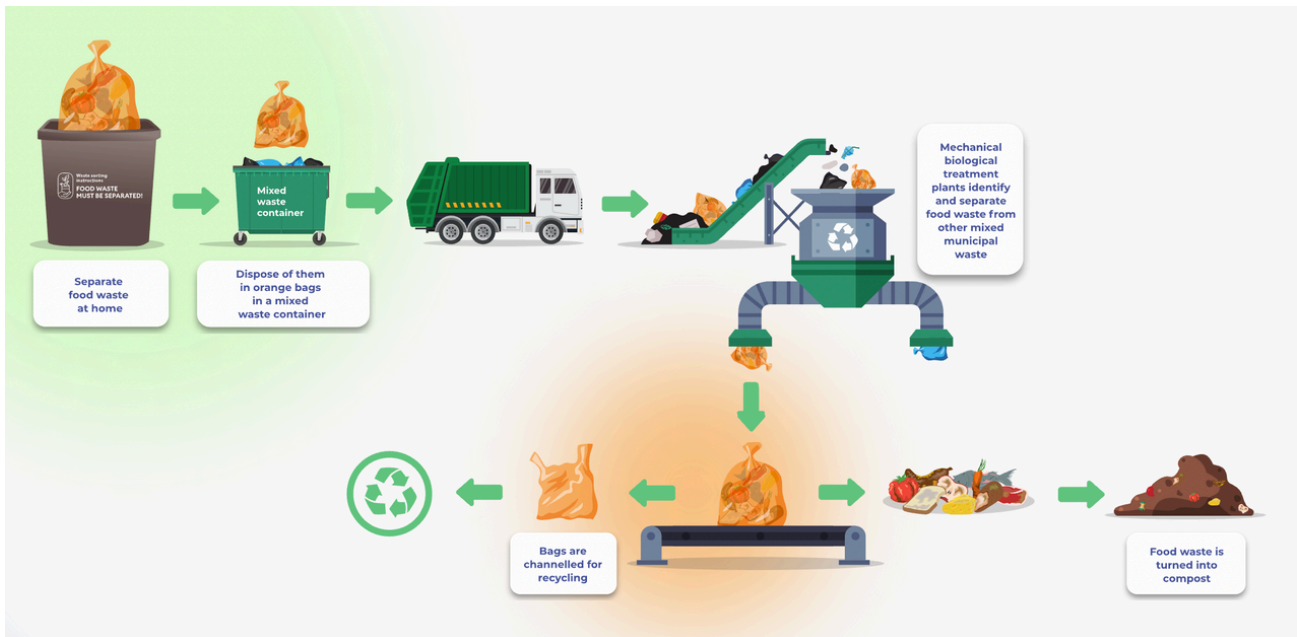


3. Waste Management

Until 2024, Vilnius lacked a structured system for sorting food waste. Reforms are still new and are being implemented gradually to help residents adapt to these changes. Instead of dedicated food waste containers, residents are provided with orange disposable bags. Food waste should be placed in these bags and then disposed of in a regular mixed waste container.

The orange bags are made from recycled materials and are separated from other waste by a dedicated machine. The contents are processed into compost, while the bags themselves are recycled. Separate containers for food waste are expected to be introduced in the next phase, once the majority of residents have adapted to the orange bag system.

Vilnius residents can collect orange bags and buckets from various distribution points located in highly frequented areas. The locations of these points are listed on www.wasteoil.lt.



Food Bank Initiative



Maisto Bankas (www.maistobankas.lt) is the Lithuanian Food Bank, established in 2001 and operating as an independent association since 2007.

Vilnius was among the first cities where Maisto Bankas began its operations. Today, it has significantly expanded, providing food aid in over 70 cities and districts and distributing food in 203 areas across Lithuania. A detailed map of the locations where Maisto Bankas operates is available [here](#).

According to their website: “In 2021 alone, we distributed 9,000 tons of food, of which 6,045 tons of good food were saved from being thrown away.” Maisto Bankas collaborates with supermarkets and warehouses to collect unsellable food stock due to reasons such as incorrect labeling, appearance defects, overproduction, or transportation issues, preventing this food from being wasted.

All collected food is still safe and suitable for human consumption. This includes ready-made food products, partially prepared items, and food ingredients.

In Vilnius, Food Bank has opened a food drop-off point, providing a place where people in need can select products, much like in a supermarket, but free of charge. Since August 28, the donation center has been operating at Kalvarijų Street 129.

Maisto Bankas also runs an Academy in Vilnius, which offers training and programs designed to promote social inclusion for the most disadvantaged individuals. The Academy organizes courses on cooking healthy and delicious meals and provides support for job-seeking. It is worth noting that this method of collecting and distributing food not only helps people but also contributes to reducing food waste, lowering CO2 emissions, conserving water, and protecting the environment by minimizing resource usage.



On this map, <https://www.maistobankas.lt/maisto-banko-akcijos-zemelapis-atnaujinta/>, you can see in which cities Maisto Bankas is operating. As stated on their website: “In 2021 alone, we distributed 9,000 tons of food, of which 6,045 tons of good food were saved from being thrown away.”

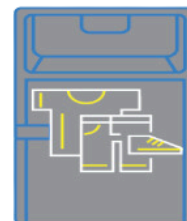
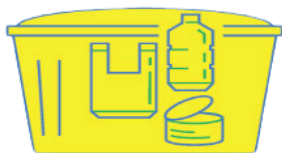
Maisto Bankas contacts supermarkets and warehouses with unsellable stock due to inappropriate labeling, appearance defects, overproduction, transportation defects, etc., and prevents all this food from being thrown away. All collected food is still suitable and safe for human consumption, including ready-made food products, partially prepared food products, and food ingredients.

The locations of collection points for all those containers can be seen using this map: <https://maps.vilnius.lt/miesto-tvarkymas>, and the correct filters can be applied. Throwing waste in public places is considered a violation, with a fine of up to 600 euros for waste left near containers.

General Waste Recycling

In Vilnius, the company in charge of coordinating waste management is called “VASA.” ECOSERVICE and EKONOVUS are the two companies that work in Vilnius to collect waste, and they operate in different parts of the city.

Waste collection trucks pick up different containers on different days and times. To find the exact schedule and collection time for your neighborhood, you need to check. Vilnius was one of the first cities where Maisto Bankas started to operate, and it has now expanded, collecting food aid in more than 70 cities and districts, distributing it in 203 areas of Lithuania. On this map, <https://www.maistobankas.lt/maisto-banko-akcijos-zemelapis-atnaujinta/>, you can see which cities Maisto Bankas is operating in. You can also check which company is operating in your area and find all the details on their website.



Currently, Vilnius provides recycling containers for the following materials:

- Glass - Sorted in GREEN containers: Glass bottles, jars, other glass packaging without lids, glass containers, other glass products, and fragments of these products.
- Paper and Cardboard - Sorted in BLUE containers: Magazines, newspapers, books, pamphlets, envelopes, flyers, writing paper, paper bags, and other paper and cardboard products.
- Plastic and Metal - Sorted in YELLOW containers: Plastic bottles, jars, boxes, metal caps, polyethylene bags and film, aluminum plates and baking tins, and other plastic and metal products and packaging.
- Mixed Waste - Sorted in BLACK containers: Personal hygiene items, packaging contaminated with food residues, diapers, toilet paper, napkins, orange food bags, and other waste left after primary waste sorting.

It is forbidden to throw the following sorted waste into the mixed waste containers: packaging, bulky waste, textiles, hazardous and mercury-containing waste, medicines, small electronic waste, and green waste.

- Clothes - Sorted free of charge in special containers marked with information signs. It is important that textiles are not contaminated by dangerous substances like paints, oils, etc. Textile products will be checked and either resold or recycled based on their condition.

Deposit System

Since 2016, a Deposit Refund Scheme has been operating in Lithuania.

Metallic cans and bottles, made of both PET and glass, are marked with a special "D" symbol.

When a beverage product with this symbol is purchased, a 10-cent deposit fee is applied. When the empty packaging is brought to the appropriate recycling machines, known as "Reverse Vending Machines" (installed in multiple supermarkets), a receipt for 10 cents per recycled item will be issued. This receipt can be used as a discount to purchase products in the store or to collect a refund at the cash desk.



This system is extremely efficient, with positive feedback and 600 million units of packaging recycled every year, which corresponds to 90% of the total. Packaging collected in this way is sent directly to the appropriate recycling centers, allowing for simpler transport and sorting.



For the deposit to be refunded, it is important to follow certain guidelines:

- Packaging must have its original shape: Do not fold or crush it! Keeping the original cap will help maintain its shape and contribute to a cleaner environment.
- The label must be undamaged: If the label is damaged, especially the “D” symbol, the reverse vending machine may not be able to recognize the packaging and may not refund the deposit.
- The barcode needs to be clearly visible: If the barcode is unreadable, the reverse vending machine may not be able to recognize the packaging and may not refund the deposit.
- Clean and empty: While not a strict rule, it is good civic sense to empty and wash the beverage packaging. This reduces unpleasant smells during transport and makes the recycling process easier and more efficient.

Locations of reverse vending machines can be found at www.grazintiverta.it/

Individual Waste Collection

Once a year, residents can request a free service to have up to 8 items, not exceeding 200 kg, collected from in front of their house. Bulky waste, household hazardous waste, electronics, and large quantities of normally recyclable waste are all accepted in this collection system.

If the free service has already been used, a new paid request can still be made at any time, or residents can deliver various waste to the waste management sites.

More detailed information about this service can be found at www.vasa.it.

Never dispose of medications in mixed waste or any other recycling container. Pharmacies will accept all unusable medications free of charge; food supplements are not accepted and can be discarded in mixed waste. Medications can also be disposed of in appropriate containers at the waste management sites.

Waste Management Sites

Collection sites offer free collection of almost every type of domestic waste, up to a per capita annual weight limit.

Residents who wish to use these sites need to provide a valid ID document for waste from personal entities. If the waste is from a legal entity, the site operator must be informed about the details, and a fee must be paid. Similarly, only personal vehicles with a load capacity that does not exceed 3.5 tons are allowed.

All details about accepted waste and quantity limits can be found at www.vaatc.lt, and the locations of the sites are available at www.atliekukultura.lt.

When delivering waste to the sites, the following rules apply:

- All furniture must be dismantled.
- All waste must be sorted into the designated containers.
- All hazardous and liquid waste must be sealed and in quantities of less than 10 liters.
- All daylight lamps must be securely packed.
- The vehicle must be unloaded by the waste holder themselves.



Station DĒK'ui

The program aims to create a circular reuse system. Items that are no longer needed but still usable can be brought to collection sites during working hours and designated for “Stotelė DĒK'UI.” They will then be checked, sorted, and listed on a website where people can reserve up to 3 items.

Collection is available every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

To see the list of available items, reserve them, and get more information, visit: <https://www.stoteledekui.lt/>

LANDFILL: A non-hazardous waste landfill also exists in the Vilnius region (Vidugiriu Village, 3, Vievios Sen., Elektrėnai District) for waste that is impossible to recycle or burn for energy, such as soil, sand, and insulation materials.

Delivering waste to the landfill requires payment of a fee. Details about prices and accepted waste can be found at www.vaatc.lt.

Curiously, a free excursion to the landfill can be booked every Thursday to learn more about this specific waste management site. Bookings can be made at www.vaatc.lt.



4. Transportation & Travel



Cycling Friendly City

While the city center is easily walkable, bikes are an excellent alternative for traveling short-to-medium distances outside the center or for exploring green areas around Vilnius. Bike sharing has become a well-established service in Vilnius, thanks to its orange bikes and the app “Cyclocity Vilnius,” available for download on both Android and iPhone.

A single 30-minute journey costs 50 cents, or you can choose a 3-day ticket for €2.90, which grants unlimited 30-minute journeys during that period. The long-term service costs €19.90 and provides unlimited 30-minute journeys for a year. For youth aged 14-26, a €5 discount is also available. It’s worth mentioning that 30 minutes are usually enough to travel to all major points of interest in the city or to get closer to the center if you are residing on the outskirts. The “Cyclocity Vilnius” pickup spots and available bicycles can be viewed in real-time at www.cyclocity.lt.



While not perfectly consistent, a good network of cycle paths exists in the city, making cycling a generally positive experience, better than in most other European capitals. Vilnius is making constant efforts to improve its cycling infrastructure, and new paths are currently under construction.

A detailed map of all the paths can be found [here](#); it also shows the locations of the multiple water refilling stations around the city.



Bike Rental

People interested in renting a bike for a full day or multiple days can find affordable rentals for all types of bicycles, starting at €13 per day for city bikes, €29 for mountain bikes, and €39 for electric bikes. Velotakas offers this service and is also accredited to conduct bike tours in the city and nature.

Various bike routes are available in Vilnius and the surrounding areas, including easy round routes, MTB routes, and routes to and around Trakai.

The tourist office has prepared a map of five round routes to explore Vilnius by bike. The routes range from easy to moderate difficulty and are color-coded for easy understanding. A physical copy of the map can be picked up at the tourist office or consulted online at www.velovilnius.lt.



MTB Routes

Multiple MTB routes, especially those of medium difficulty, can be found around Vilnius and its parks. While physical maps are not available, routes can be viewed at www.velotakas.lt.

It is recommended to download the Komoot app to avoid getting lost and see suggestions from other users.

Public Transport

Public transport in Vilnius is managed by “JUDU” and is well-developed, offering four different options for travel based on your needs:

- Express Bus: Recognizable by its green color and the letter "G." It has six routes, ideal for covering long distances in a short amount of time.
- Bus: Recognizable by its blue color and no letter. There are around 90 different bus routes to help you move comfortably around all of Vilnius' districts.
- Night Bus: Recognizable by its black color and the letter "N." From 11 p.m., three routes operate to connect vital parts of the city.
- Trolleybus: Recognizable by its red color. There are 17 routes for one of the few trolleybus systems in Lithuania, operating since 1956. Both new and old trolleys are in operation, with safety ensured in all of them.

Starting in September 2024, physical tickets will no longer be sold in Vilnius. Instead, you can purchase a single-use ticket by tapping the validator screen with a bank card or NFC device. Tickets purchased this way will be valid for 60 minutes and cost €0.90.

E-ticket Apps

The “M.ticket” and “Traffi” apps can be used to purchase e-tickets. Both apps support fast payment via credit cards and charge the same price.

JUDU/Resident Card

For €1.50, you can get a travel card that doesn't require downloading any app. It can be purchased and topped up at various locations around the city.



Car Sharing

Spark

A completely electric car-sharing service, offering both pay-by-minute and daily rental options, starting from €0.09 per minute and €20 for a daily rental, plus around €0.25 per kilometer. On their app, you can see collection points and charging spots around the city. They also allow you to finish your trip at both Kaunas and Vilnius airports for a €2 supplement.

CityBee

Not all of their cars are electric, but they are improving their efforts in this field, and a limited selection is now available, including electric vans. Their prices start from €0.12 per minute to €24.99 per day, plus €0.31 per kilometer; no additional charge is applied for electric vehicles. CityBee electric cars can be charged at IgnitisON, ElintaCharge, and Eleport fast charging stations, providing a good range of options.

Bolt-Drive

They provide a low-cost solution for car-sharing, but unfortunately, it doesn't include electric vehicles at the moment. However, their taxi service includes some EV cars. Probably Bolt's most important service in the city is their electric scooter-sharing service. They offer different options: pay-by-minute (starting at €0.22 per minute), daily passes (€7.90 for a total of 60 minutes), and weekly passes (€9 for 70 minutes, usable within 7 days). Pick-up and parking spots are the same, and there are many of them around Vilnius, making Bolt electric scooters a good alternative to car-sharing for short-distance trips.



5. Water



5. Water



Water is an essential element to humans. To drink, to bathe, prepare food and water houseplants lithuanians are usually using tap water, is it's safe to consume.

Drinking water quality is monitored by the Drinking Water Laboratory on a regular basis. The Laboratory, which was established in 1955 and reconstructed in 2003, is certified to perform microbiological, physical and chemical examinations of drinking water. The Laboratory monitors drinking water of Vilnius City as well as Šalčininkai, Švenčionys and Vilnius Districts by performing over 20 thousand of water examinations per year. Chemical (indicator and toxic), physical and microbiological indicators of drinking water quality are examined in accordance with the Hygiene Norm of Lithuania. At present 50 indicators are examined.

Fresh water is the true pride of Lithuania! In fact, Vilnius water supply system is the oldest in Lithuania. Despite the age of water system, it's important to note, that uniquely in Vilnius one of the few capital cities in the world that uses only groundwater (from 40-250 metre depth water wells) for drinking, meaning that even the deeper levels of the soil are safe to be a water resource for city's residents and guests. The quality map of Vilniaus vandenys shows that all water points in the region provide safe and drinkable tap water. This is a good opportunity to remember to always have portable container for drinking water with you. You can find the map [here](#).

Due to increasing demand and convenience, also an available resource, Vilnius now has 40 stations in the city where residents and visitors can refresh themselves for free. You can find these stations in parks, squares, sports areas, schools, and they are also suitable for our pet. The water fountains are set not only to enjoy and use it purposely, but also, the remain conscious. While they are free and readily available, it's important to save water and avoid wasting it.

Our Tips for water conservation

Fix leaks quickly: even minor leaks in faucets, pipes, or toilets can lead to significant water wastage over time. A dripping tap can waste up to 15 liters of water per day - or similar amount of drinking water a family of 5 - 6 people would consume daily.

Install water-efficient fixtures: consider upgrading to water-efficient fixtures such as low-flow showerheads, faucets, and dual-flush toilets. These fixtures are designed to use less water while maintaining effective performance. For example, a low-flow showerhead can reduce water usage by 50-70%, saving both water and energy.

Shorten your showers: reducing your shower time by just a few minutes can save liters of water each day. Aim for showers that are 5 minutes or less, when possible. Or simply turn off the shower when you are not using water - to lather shampoo, soap or shave.

Turn off the tap: simple habits like turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands can save hundreds of liters of water each month.

Similarly, when washing dishes by hand, fill the sink or a basin instead of letting the water run continuously.

Water plants responsibly: water your garden in the early morning or late evening when temperatures are cooler, and evaporation is minimized. This helps ensure that more water reaches the roots of your plants.

Collect rainwater: installing a rainwater harvesting system is an effective way to collect and store rainwater for use in your garden. Rain barrels can be a simple system to help water your garden, plants or even use water for washing clothes.

Educate your household: encourage family members to be mindful of their water usage, show everyone an example and teach about the importance of water conservation. It can lead to more significant savings, despite being a ecocontous choice. Simple practices like turning off the tap and using water-efficient appliances can make a difference.



6. Energy





Lithuania as many other European countries is actively promoting energy efficiency and the adoption of renewable energy technologies, offering various opportunities for individuals and businesses interested in sustainable solutions.

Solar Panel Installation Companies

Lithuania hosts a number of companies specializing in the installation of solar power systems for both residential and industrial clients. Here are some notable providers:

- **Ignitis.** Ignitis specializes in large-scale and remote solar power systems. They operate the largest solar power plant in the Baltic States and provide remote solar parks with up to 34% state aid, enabling significant electricity cost reductions.
- **Enefit** offers solar solutions with flexible financing options like leasing and PPAs. They have developed one of the region's largest solar plants and provide financial aid for installations, supporting SMEs, farmers, and energy communities.

Government Incentives and Subsidies

The Lithuanian government, along with local authorities, offers various incentives to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy installations:

- **Financial Instruments for Energy Efficiency:** Investment subsidies and partial compensation of interest for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are provided through EU Structural Funds. These grants are used in combination with financial instruments to fund technical support, interest rate subsidies, and capital rebates.
- **Support for Energy Independence and Efficiency:** The Ministry of Finance has announced a record amount of support, almost EUR 800 million, for increasing energy independence and efficiency for residents, businesses, and the public sector.
- **Support for Energy Communities:** The Lithuanian Recovery and Resilience Fund provides subsidies for energy communities that address energy poverty, with 60 million euros allocated in subsidized loans for municipalities to promote energy communities.

Energy Auditing Services. It's important to keep track of the energy efficiency and improve it as needed. Here in Lithuania such services are provided by Saules Galia, with the rise of popularity in solar energy.

Saules Galia

Companies like Saules Galia offer consulting services on the energy efficiency of buildings and other structures. With this information, you can make your property more efficient, consuming less energy and saving money.

Educational Workshops and Seminars

Institutions such as the Kaunas University of Technology and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University frequently host seminars and workshops on sustainable energy, renewable technologies, and environmental engineering. Participating in these events can provide valuable knowledge and networking opportunities. Thus it's also important to note that there are lots of other opportunities sharing key knowledge in different sections about energy and importance of its conservation, such as sustainability museum, Vilnius Energy and Technology Museum, different exhibitions, installations and forms of improving one's knowledge.

Public Transportation and Mobility

As per the past section, the same remains, promoting the use of Lithuania's efficient public transportation systems reduces individual energy consumption related to transportation. Additionally, cities have invested in cycling paths and bike-sharing programs, offering sustainable mobility options. Moreover, Vilnius is slowly introducing more expensive parking in the old town and city center, to monitor the traffic, amount of vehicles on small old town streets and overall people's consciousness to switch to public transport.

Waste-to-Energy Programs

Supporting and participating in local waste management programs that focus on recycling and composting can contribute to energy production through biogas facilities, reducing landfill use and promoting sustainable energy.

Green Building Certifications

For those involved in construction or renovation, aiming for green building certifications ensures that buildings meet high energy efficiency and environmental standards. Organizations like the Green Building Council Lithuania provide resources and certification programs to guide sustainable building practices. Besides living in more energy efficient home, it overall increases the value of property itself, it's noted that the renovated buildings are more popular amongst those who are looking for investments, housing, rent, business and etc.

7. Biodiversity



Biodiversity and Nature in Vilnius:

More than 100,000 trees, 10 million shrubs and 300,000 winders – this is ambitious goal of Vilnius to create a green wave. The initiative is aimed at creating a more welcoming, sustainable and healthy environment for the capital's residents, guests, visitors and the biodiversity around us. To achieve this goal, the capital is donating thousands of shrub seedlings for residents to plant in their yards and organising voluntary community planting events. A different meadow maintenance, has been launched in Vilnius since 2022. Instead of continuous regular mowing works, the concept of unmown meadows has been chosen to be implemented in a part of the capital. Imagine a meadow where the grass grows freely and naturally and nature takes care of its own beauty. A seemingly simple solution has become a significant tool in the fight against climate change and environmental pollution. Meadows maintained in this way reduce air pollution, are extremely beneficial for the urban ecosystem and provide a haven for a wide range of plant and animal species. Unmown meadows in Vilnius act as natural air filters, reducing soil erosion and retaining excess water when it rains and keeping the green grounds more cool during high temperatures.

Bees on rooftops

Bees, which probably are the most important urban insects, pollinate plants. They keep vegetation alive and provide food for people. Due to climate change, these little creatures are rapidly disappearing. One of the most effective ways to grow their population is to set up hives where bees can safely bring their honey. Vilnius City Administration has built two hives on the roof of the building, which can produce up to 30 kilograms of honey per year. The heights and rooftops are a natural habitat for bees, so they feel comfortable here, and in return they give flowers and sweet honey to the city.

Community gardens

In Vilnius and its surrounding areas, residents are actively encouraged to establish gardens in shared spaces, such as the courtyards of multi-apartment buildings and schools. These gardens not only beautify urban spaces but also create habitats for diverse plant and animal species. Urban gardening has flourished in neighborhoods like Antakalnis and Pilaitė, where residents have successfully gardening for their own benefits. Additionally, newly built schools are incorporating kitchen gardens, helping children learn about the benefits of gardening and sustainability from an early age. For those interested in starting a similar project, Vilnius City has developed a manual guide to support community gardening in the city. You can find it [here](#).

8. Education



8. Education

To become more sustainable aware and conscious about our consumption, first we have to learn to do so, notice our habits and implement better choices on daily basis.

- Vilnius City Municipality is running the "More Sustainable" initiative, a year-long competition designed for general and pre-school education institutions. This program encourages schools to adopt sustainable and innovative ideas, aiming to make their environments greener while integrating eco-friendly practices into daily school life and the educational process while municipality can fund the idea up to 5000 euros/ a project.
- Recognising that sometimes all you need is more knowledge to choose a greener life, Vilnius is organising a long-term training course "Sustainable Development Attitudes at School" for education professionals working in Vilnius schools. The project helps educators to learn how to incorporate sustainability principles into the classroom practices and how to educate students about the importance of sustainability and climate change.
- Schools in the capital can also take part in the programme "Eat Smart", run in partnership with the Public Institution Humana People to People Baltic (HPPB). HPPB provides EUR 2,500 to participating schools every year to help them prepare healthy meals using locally sourced and produced products in classes and provide them with the necessary equipment for this activity. The programme not only develops healthy eating habits, but also teaches food conservation and other sustainable practices.
- Not educational institutions, but also various organisations can contribute to environmental education in Vilnius city. They have the opportunity to take part in an annual competition to support public environmental and ecological education projects in the capital. Winners can receive up to 10 000 euros in funding to implement ideas that promote public environmental awareness and contribute to a sustainable mindset. This is a great way to inspire action.

9. Participation



9. Participation

“Darom - Let’s Do It LT” is the Lithuanian branch of “Let’s Do It World,” a civic organization founded in Estonia with the aim of cleaning the environment of garbage. Every year, they organize multiple “Clean-Up Days,” inviting volunteers from all around the country to clean specific parts of their cities together. In a single day, incredible quantities of waste are collected thanks to everyone's active participation in making their environment cleaner.

On June 1st, 700 volunteers gathered and removed 3.4 tons of garbage in the span of 3 hours. All that garbage would have polluted both the soil and water, and could have posed a threat to wildlife.

Over time, Mes Darom has evolved, and now their programs cover different topics and activities throughout the year. Their mission is to educate society, especially young people, increase environmental awareness, and build community, creating positive change that helps restore damaged nature and preserve it for the future.

“Let’s do it with SDG”

An interactive online map on the Darom website allows anyone to request assistance in cleaning a specific spot. Descriptions and photos can be posted at www.zemelapis.mesdarom.lt to connect with others.

In addition, anyone can register their environmental initiative and receive support to implement it. Previously completed projects are also featured on the website, aiming to inspire others to create their own.

Darom organizes festivals that combine environmental protection, culture, and entertainment. This year, “We Do It by the Lake” was held at Zarasas Lake, and “We Do It by the Sea” took place in Klaipėda. Both events were free to attend and attracted large crowds.



Plogging in Lithuania



Plogging in Lithuania is an event held in Vilnius and Kaunas, where participants run while collecting garbage found along the route.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/Plogginginlithuania/>

Miesto Laboratorija

An educational community space in Vilnius focused on creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly community, promoting ideas and initiatives for a greener future. They emphasize small and balcony gardens, vegetable growing, and sustainable kitchens.

Considered one of the most important social business examples in Vilnius, their fundraising is primarily supported by their café. The project also features an eco-innovation space, a hydroponic garden, an educational garden, a gallery, and an outdoor DIY playground for children.

They organize various green workshops and educational projects in collaboration with Vilnius schools. For more information about their initiative, visit: www.miestolaboratorija.lt



I Love Forest

Public Institution Myliu mišką is a non-profit organization with the primary goal of expanding Lithuania's forest area and reducing CO₂ levels in the atmosphere. For just €3, you can contribute to planting a tree! Visit: www.myliumiska.lt



10. Laws and regulations



10. Laws and regulations

Vilnius has implemented several regulations and initiatives to promote sustainability and environmental protection, aligning with national and European Union directives. Here are some key measures:

Local Regulations and Initiatives

Vilnius City General Plan: This comprehensive urban development strategy emphasizes sustainable growth, the preservation of green spaces, effective water resource management, and minimizing the environmental impact of new constructions.

Urban Green Regulation: Vilnius has introduced a landscaping standard that encompasses the entire process from site selection to plant care, promoting the planting of new trees and the maintenance of existing green areas.

Green City Accord: Vilnius is a signatory of the Green City Accord, committing to improving air quality, water management, nature and biodiversity, waste and circular economy, and noise pollution.

National and Regional Regulations

National Energy and Climate Action Plan (NECP) 2021–2030: Lithuania's NECP outlines the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and expanding the use of renewable energy sources.

Law on Green Spaces: This national law establishes the framework for the protection, management, and enhancement of green spaces outside forestry land, ensuring the development of urban green areas.

Incentives for Renewable Energy: The Lithuanian government offers various incentives for the installation of renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, including tax deductions and grants.

Standards for Building Energy Efficiency: Lithuania has set criteria for the design and renovation of buildings to improve their energy efficiency, including the obligation to use insulating materials and high-efficiency systems.

These measures reflect Vilnius's and Lithuania's dedication to fostering a sustainable and environmentally friendly urban environment.



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