

The Company's Actions Caused by Climate Change

Climate change affects many aspects of our lives, from the development of tourist industry, to the local environment forcing different companies to change their actions. As part of the Erasmus + project, we interviewed the head of the Municipal Services Department, Dariusz Papka, on the impact of climate change on the actions of his company. Mr Papka is responsible for "Winter Action", which lasts from the beginning of November till the end of March.

Our town - Koszalin - is located in the maritime climate zone, where winters are mostly mild and not as frosty as they used to be. With each year the snowfall decreases and the winters are getting warmer. However, there are unexpected attacks of frost and the sudden inflow of cold air on damp ground which causes the formation of dangerous glaze. At night the temperatures may fall below zero, the moisture in the air causes fog and for this reason the workers of the Department of Municipal Services dump salt to prevent sliding on the roads or sidewalks. They also constantly monitor the weather, check meteorological data, personally control the condition of the roads in town and surrounding area. Every night, they drive through the streets of the town and check the braking conditions. Such actions allow to avoid many dangerous situations on our roads.

Climate change is easy to notice when analyzing the weather conditions of winter seasons in years 2010/2011 and 2016/2017. It can be stated that from 25.11.2010 to mid-January 2011 (51 days) there were daily snowfalls, with daily temperatures below -10 degrees. Especially in December there was an intense and round the clock snowfall. On the other hand, the winter season in 2016/2017, in statistical terms was very mild and warm, with a small amount of snowfall.

Such changes in weather condition have a direct impact on the amount of funds spent by Municipal Services Department. Taking look at the statistics, it is visible that over the years, the amount of chemical agents which were used has decreased significantly, e.g. in 2010/2011, salt consumption in various chemical form amounted in total to 1,622.25 tons. In contrast, last year (2016/2017) salt consumption was 1,177.12 tons. It is similar when it comes to non-chemical sand consumption. In 2010/2011, its consumption amounted up to 4 524.00 tons, while last year it dropped to 1 228.96 tons, or about 73%.



When the winter season comes to the end, the cleaning machines enter the streets and collect the sand previously scattered by them. Such cleaning takes quite a long time, even several weeks. First, the main streets are cleaned, then the secondary ones along with the pavements.



Due to the fact that winters are no longer as severe as they used to be and the standards regarding the clearing of the snow and keeping the roads and pavements clean have also increased significantly, the changes in the functioning of the company are not so visible any more.

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