

of financing



Priority programmes

The basis of accepting and considering applications for co-financing in the National Funds are priority programmes which encompass detailed, specific for a particular programme, principles of granting co-financing and criteria of selecting undertakings to be financed. Every priority programme has relevant blank forms of applications which are necessary when applying for co-financing. In most programmes, the competition formula for evaluation of complex projects applies. The National Fund also organizes training courses and workshops that facilitate good project preparation and proper filling of application forms.



National Fund: centre of excellence

Within the system of management and financing of environmental protection in Poland, the National Fund is a specific centre of excellence in implementation of EU directives and environmental investments. By taking part in consultations and legislative work, and subsidizing research, analysis and expertise, we initiate important socio-economic processes, e.g. in waste management, in the field of energy conservation and optimum utilization of its resources. The National Fund participates in environmental education of the society and shaping public opinion in respect of ecology. In 2009-2011 the National Fund's budget for educational projects was doubled. Introducing system and organisational changes, the professional staff uses modern standards of management in the current operation of the National Fund.



Cooperation in good atmosphere

In recent years, the National Fund has expanded cooperation with voivodeship funds for environmental protection and water management, the banking sector and the industry. It has become possible to provide the voivodeship funds with financial sources from the National Fund aimed at granting loans or subsidies for the indicated programmes and undertakings. The National Fund launches new initiatives of co-financing activities through e.g. introducing a system of payments to bank credits and investment loans and new priority programmes. Their objective is for example to reduce greenhouse gasses from the economy, limit energy losses in enterprises and public utility buildings as well as financing energy-saving investments.



Offer for an individual investor

In 2010 the National Fund initiated the nation-wide programme of subsidies to loans for purchase and installation of solar collectors by individual investors, natural persons and housing associations. In 2011, the offer for individual investors (through local government units) has been expanded to include grants and loans for home sewage treatment plants and connecting buildings to the cumulative drainage system.



Absorbing foreign funds

The National Fund is the largest Polish partner for international financial institutions concerning service of foreign funds allocated for environmental protection in Poland. The experience in administering European Union funds resulted in commissioning the National Fund the role of the Implementing Authority for five priorities, i.e. thematic areas of the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment (OP I&E) which include the following: water and wastewater management, waste management and protection of land, resource management and counteracting environmental risks, adjusting Polish entrepreneurs to environmental requirements, highly effective generation and efficient distribution of energy as well as thermal insulation of public buildings. The amount of EUR 5.035 billion from the European Union funds will be allocated for these activities in 2007-2013. The National Fund provides also co-financing for OP I&E projects concerning nature protection and environmental education. The tasks of the Fund also include financial support for projects submitted for implementation under the LIFE+ Financial Instrument. The National Fund also coordinates implementation of projects co-financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms and the EEA Financial Mechanism.

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Renewable source of financing

Renewable source

Renewable source of financing

The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM) which was established in 1989 as a result of the regime transformation in Poland, in cooperation with voivodeship funds for environmental protection and water management is the pillar of the Polish system of financing environmental protection. The basis of the National Fund's operation as a State legal person is the Act on Environmental Protection Law.



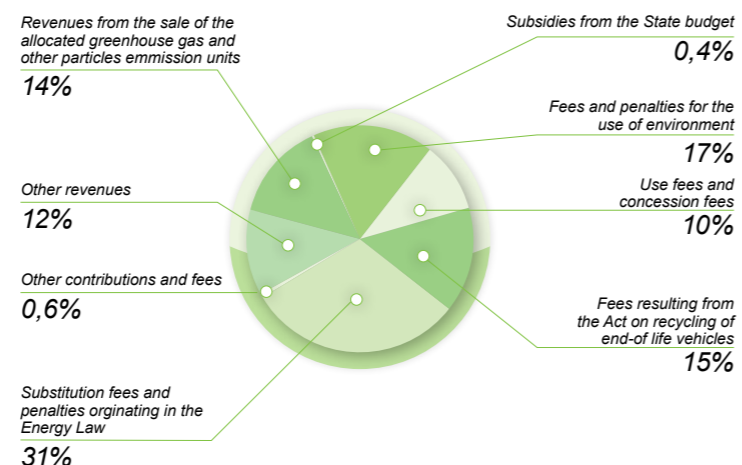
The fund that is friendly to the environment and beneficiaries

The mission of the National Fund, according to the NFEP&WM Strategy for 2009-2012, is to financially support undertakings intended for environmental protection and respecting its value, on the basis of the principle of sustainable development included in the constitution. We participate in implementation of the environmental policy of Poland as a source of financing and cooperate, along with the Ministry of the Environment, with commissions of environmental protection at the Sejm and Senate. The National Fund and voivodeship funds provide financial support for projects which contribute to enforcement of Polish obligations resulting from the Accession Treaty and other EU directives. The National Fund also supports activities undertaken by the Minister of the Environment in the scope of meeting Polish obligations resulting from the Climate Convention, Biodiversity Convention, implementing the LIFE+ Financial Instrument, NATURA 2000 and environmental education. Implementing the motto "Fund friendly to beneficiaries", we organise a series of trainings and "open days" for entities applying for financial support from both, the domestic and foreign financial sources.



Modern economic instruments

The source of the National Fund's revenues are fees and penalties for economic use of the environment which are provided for in the Law on Environmental Protection, exploitation and concession fees collected by virtue of Geological and Mining Law, charges determined in the Water Law, Substitution fees and penalties originating in the Energy Law as well as fees stipulated in the Act on recycling of end-of life vehicles. The National Fund has also revenues to the "climate account" from selling the surplus of the Polish greenhouse gasses emission within the Green Investment Scheme (GIS). The National Fund has also a function of the National Operator of the Green Investment Scheme under the international emission trading. Since the main form of supporting activities are loans, the National Funds is a "renewable source of financing" for environmental protection. The effect of the "financial leverage" obtained through the inclusion in the cooperation with the National Fund of other financial entities (e.g. banks, voivodeship funds), means more available capital on the market of environmental protection and larger environmental and economic effects.



Structure of revenues of the National Fund in 2010



Structure of revenues of the National Fund in 2010

Financing projects concerning environmental protection and water management, the National Fund offers many economic instruments adjusted to a project and beneficiary's possibilities, inter alia loans, subsidies, payments to interest of bank credits, payments to dismantling end of life vehicles, partial repayment of bank credit capital and payments to interest or purchase price of bonds.



Financing environmental protection

Economic instruments used by the National Fund are intended for co-financing mainly large investments with the nationwide and supra-regional significance. Their objective and environmental effect is to eliminate pollution of water, air and soil. Moreover, activities concerning water management, geology and mining, monitoring of the environment, prevention of environmental risks, protection of the environment and forestry, promoting environmental knowledge, children's health prevention as well as scientific and research works and expertises are financed. Investments connected with improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources are treated as special priorities.



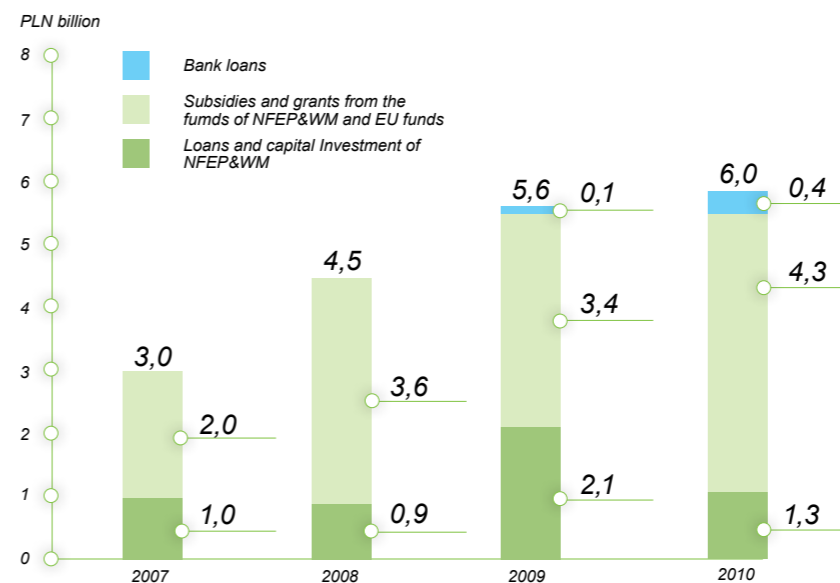
Our achievements

The National Fund plays an important role in improving the condition of Polish environment. In 1989-2010 the National Fund concluded more than 16 thousand contracts allocating more than PLN 30 billion for financing environmental undertakings. The largest funds were earmarked for water conservation and water management and for protection of air, resulting in improvement of living conditions in Poland.



Record-breaking period of 2009-2011

The year 2010 was record-breaking in terms of the amount of funds spent on environmental protection in Poland. In 2009 undertakings concerning environmental protection and water management were supported with amount of more than PLN 6 billion, including the transfer of foreign funds operated by the National Fund and bank loans. A measurable environmental effect of these activities is the improvement of the state of environment in Poland, e.g. limiting emission of air pollutions, lower power consumption, reduced amount of wastewater, better waste management and increasing environmental awareness. In the past two decades the number of cities supported by sewage treatment plants has doubled. The amount of untreated sewage discharged to water or land has decreased by 90%, emissions of particulates decreased by 95% and emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere decreased by 63%.



Financing of environmental protection by the National Fund in 2007-2010