FRIENDS OF THE BALTIC
Autonomous non-profit environmental organization

The organization was established in 1997. The first members of the organization are members of expeditions along the rivers and the coast of the Gulf of Finland, united to preserve the rivers and the coast of the Baltic Sea.

The goal of the Friends of the Baltic is to unite the intellectual potential and organize joint actions to preserve the nature and health of the living creatures that inhabit it, for a sustainable and balanced development of the territories.

Today, more than 300 members and supporters participate in Friends of the Baltic. The organization operates in the field of environmental education, conservation of rivers and the Baltic coast, promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change and sustainable energy. Our directions:

Observation and protection of rivers and coasts: public environmental monitoring of rivers, other water bodies and the coast of the Gulf of Finland, public protection of natural values, interaction with the authorities and the public in the Gulf of Finland region to find ways to balanced development of coastal areas. Friends of the Baltic are involved in transboundary projects for the study and conservation of water resources - rivers and the Gulf of Finland - in cooperation with partners from South-East Finland, St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region.

Involvement of young people in environmental activities: youth actions, seminars, festivals. Under the “Baltic Sea Ambassadors” and “Climate Ambassadors” programs, “Friends of the Baltic” prepared over 70 volunteers who teach Baltic Sea lessons and climate lessons for schoolchildren.

Environmentally friendly consumption: the dissemination of knowledge and information about environmentally friendly products and services that cause the least damage to nature and human health during production, consumption and recycling. In St. Petersburg, Friends of the Baltic together with the Municipality of Sennaya Okrug support the public information center and the Ecocentrum exhibition, where information is provided on environmental issues to various groups of the population. Within the framework of the cross-border project “Step to Eco-Support”, in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Committee for Nature Management and partners from Finland, they created a system of eco-advisers in 35 schools of St. Petersburg, and contributed to the preparation of eco-advisers in dozens of other organizations.

The school project on rational use of resources and energy includes the distribution of materials to help teachers and schoolchildren and methodological assistance to integrate climate, energy, resources and nature conservation into school and extracurricular educational programs, support the introduction of energy conservation in schools, the dissemination of knowledge on energy saving and energy efficiency in school families and in local communities. Friends of the Baltic together with partners hold an annual regional All-Russian competition of energy efficiency projects “Energy and Habitat” for schoolchildren and teachers, and provide information support to schools for holding the International Energy Saving Day on November 11.

Friends of the Baltic organization cooperates with scientific and educational institutions, with the Neva-Ladoga basin water management, the Committee on Environmental Management, Environmental Protection and Ensuring Environmental Safety of St. Petersburg and the State Unitary Enterprise Mineral Federation, the Center for Energy Conservation of the Committee on Energy and Engineering of St. Petersburg and the Center for Energy Conservation of the Leningrad Region, the Committee for State Environmental Supervision of the Leningrad Region, municipalities, business representatives and public organizations.

Friends of the Baltic - a member of the International Coalition Clean Baltic. The Clean Baltic Coalition is a network of non-profit organizations from 9 countries of the Baltic region, united to solve the environmental problems of the Baltic Sea region. The coalition unites 22 organizations from Belarus, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Ukraine and Sweden. Coalition brings together 800,000 members in all countries around the Baltic Sea.

Friends of the Baltic

FRIENDS OF THE BALTIC

Act together

for the Baltic Sea Health

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Friends of the Baltic

22 yars work for public River Watch in Leningrad oblast and St.Petersburg:

-Support for schoolkinds and local activists' water investigations;

-Dissemination of information on the challenges and solutions for the rivers and Baltic Sea conservation;

- Promotion of the ecosystem approach to river basin management.

We belong to Coalition Clean Baltic, uniting more than 20 NGOs from all Baltic region countries.

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Manual for Public River Wath

Simple methods:

- visual observations,
- organoleptic,
- chemical,
- biological...

Citizen science:

- raising public awareness on nature water importances,
- Understanding of pollution sources and ways to improve water quality.

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Pubic Watch of Nutrient Pollutions

Learn local causes of euthrophication:

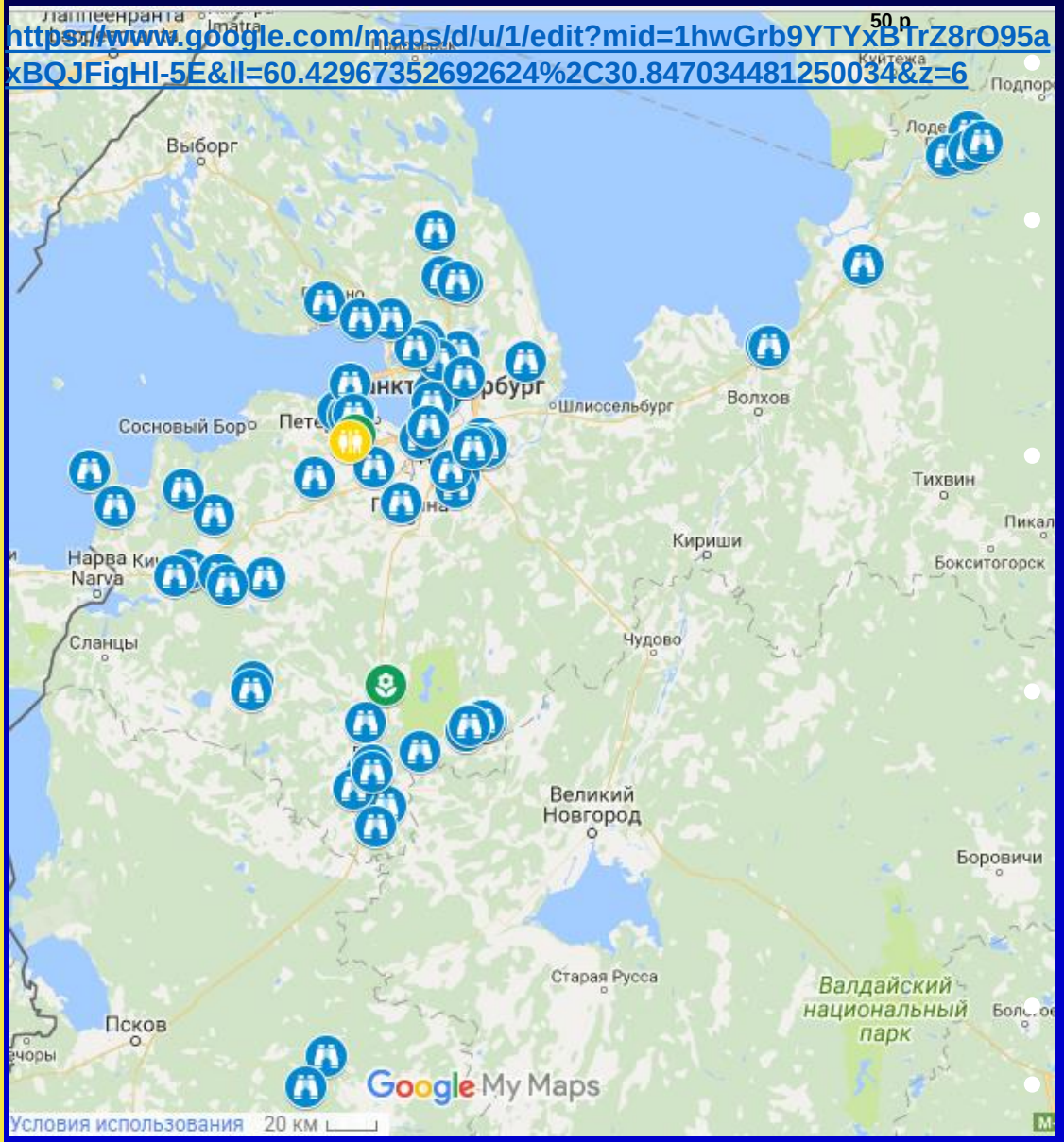
- **Wastewater**
- **Farm waste**

Express text on Nitrates and Phosphates:

- **Investigations**
- **Informing authorities**
- **Searching for source of pollutions**
- **Inform public on how to avoid pollutions**

PUBLIC RIVER WATCH MAP

Friends of the Baltic



Information:

- Location of RW groups (58)
- N content in the waters
- Potential source of pollutions
- Good practices

Promotion of best practices to reduce nutrient pollutions

Friends of the Baltic

Demonstration dry toilets in four rural districts

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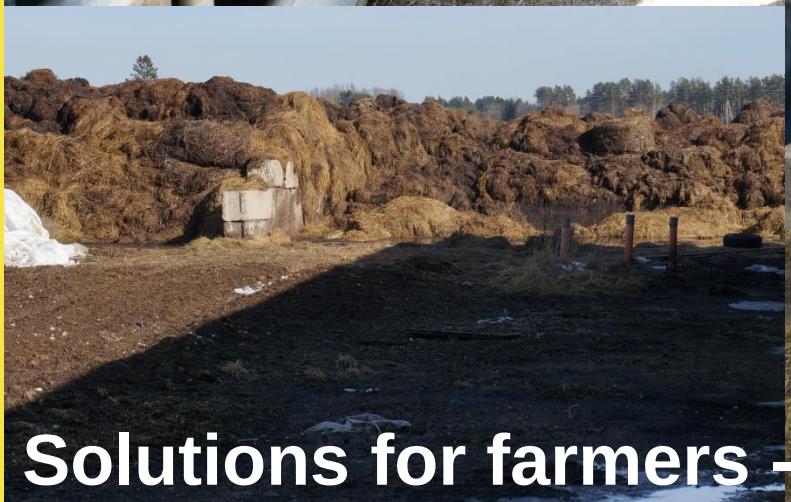
Promotion of best practices to reduce nutrient pollutions

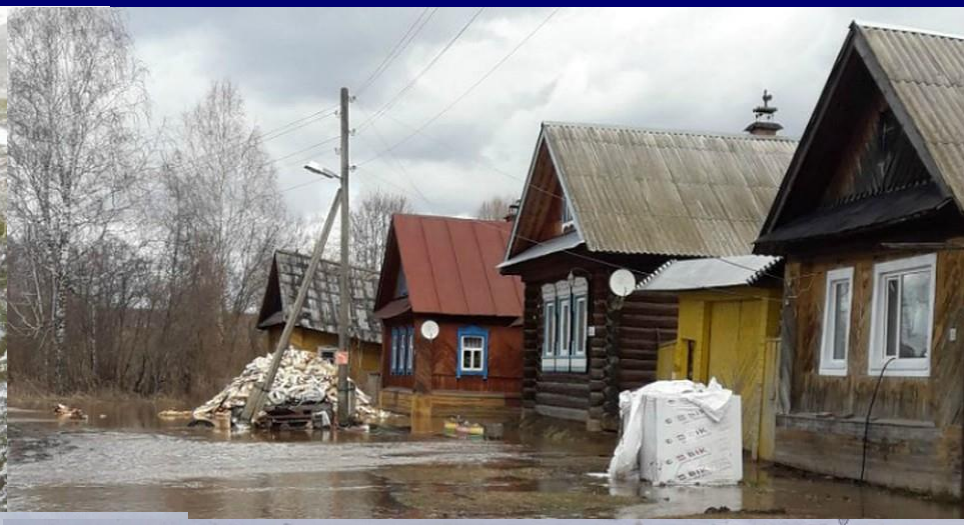


Solutions for farmers - experience exchange

Friends of the Baltic

Climate change – flooding – nutrient pollutions - adaptation

Questioning locals on flooded areas, education on preventing flush of N-P



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Green Trips for Citizens

Lectures, excursions to green areas and water bodies in the city

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Act together for the common future!