

# Plastics Country Situation Report - Tajikistan

## Summary report

- Analysis of data on imports/exports of plastics and plastic products to/from Tajikistan for 2017-2021 shows that Tajikistan imports polymers of ethylene, propylene, vinyl chloride, acrylic polymers, vinyl acetate, cellulose and its chemical derivatives, polyesters, polycarbonates in primary forms (codes 3901-3907, 3912, 3913), synthetic rubber in primary forms or the form of plates (code 4002). Imports of plastics and plastic products to Tajikistan increased 1-2 times from 2017 to 2020. Most imports of plastics and plastic products for 2017-2020 are mainly from CIS countries, mainly from Uzbekistan. There is also a slight increase in imports of plastics and plastic products from Kyrgyzstan, Iran, China, Turkey, Korea. Exports from Tajikistan are made only to Uzbekistan, consisting of plastic waste and plastic scraps.

Tajikistan is at the beginning of activities to reduce the use of plastic products in the country. There is limited national control of chemicals in plastics, preventing the toxic-free recycling of plastics into secondary raw materials or products with specific consumer properties.

There is no legal regulation, formal prohibition or restrictions related to plastic as a type of commodity or waste in the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan. Tajik Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of Tajikistan does not address these issues, and there are no bans on using chemicals in plastics.

Tajikistan has no plastic waste segregation system in place. Thus, the implementation of the National Action Plan of Tajikistan, aimed at reducing the use of single-use plastics by 2024, faces implementation problems. As a result, plastic waste, and household waste end up in rubbish dumps and landfills.

In Tajikistan, 19 small private plastic recycling enterprises exist in several large cities, but more is needed to deal with the large volume of uncontrolled plastic waste. It is necessary to establish large-scale recycling facilities in the country to manage plastic and other types of waste.

Tajikistan implements mechanical recycling of plastic waste, producing plastic pellets sold to local enterprises involved in plastic product manufacturing from secondary raw materials (plastic pipes, cords, paving tiles, kitchen utensils, etc.). The production of polyethylene bags exists in the republic in small volumes.

At present, CEP prepared and agreed with interested ministries and agencies a draft Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on banning the import and use of ethylene polymer bags up to 15 microns. It is the first step to restrict plastic waste in the country; the Resolution will come into force in 2025. It will incentivize enterprises that refuse to produce and use plastic bags up to 15 microns. In the future, the country is planning to limit the use of plastic products in favour of environmentally friendly items.

Fortunately, there has been an increase in public campaigns to reduce plastic waste pollution in Tajikistan. For example, the following initiatives have been realized:

- Reducing the use of plastic bags by the population in large shopping centres

- Information campaigns with paper and cloth bag distribution, brochures, and leaflets
- Organisation of youth start-ups for recycling plastic bottles.

<https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20220713/tadzhiskii-startap-po-pererabotke-plastika-vistupil-na-startup-kpis-day>

- Public actions to clean up rivers and territories from plastic and rubbish.