



## ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS ANNUAL DATA FOR 2023

### 1. WATER STATISTICS

In 2023, 99.4% of the population in the country were connected to public water supply.

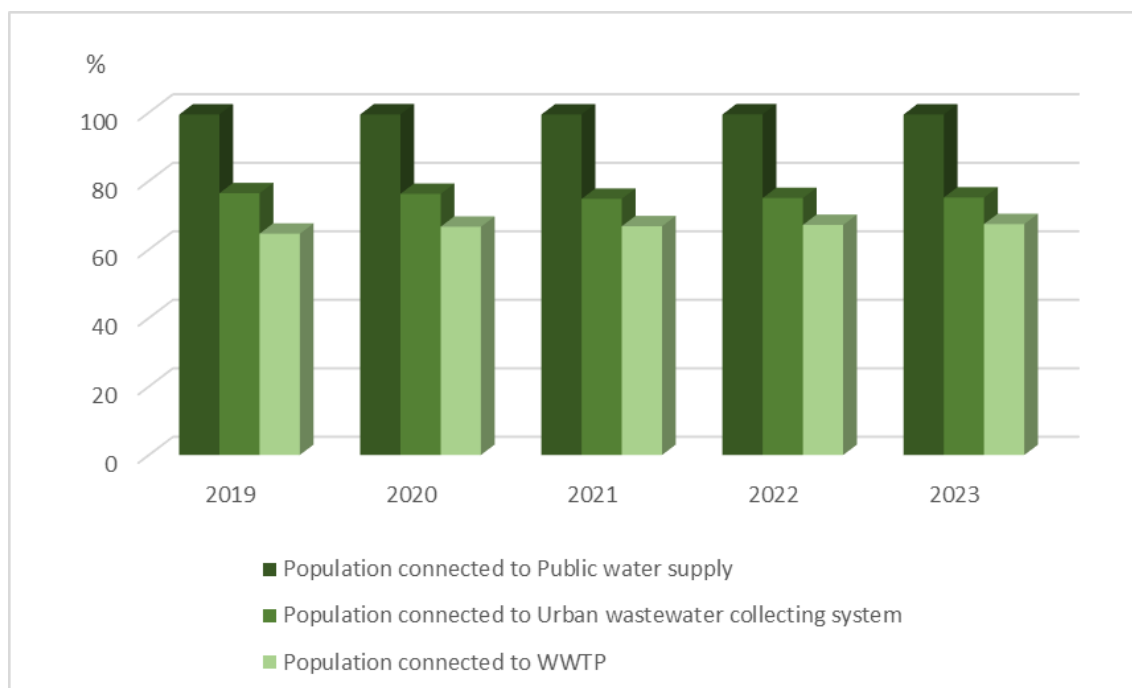
The water delivered to the households was 250.08 mill. m<sup>3</sup>, reporting a slight decrease compared to 2022 - by 0.4%.

In 2023, 4.6% of the population in the country were on water supply regime (due to drought), 3.8% of them on seasonal (below 180 days) and 0.8% all year (over 180 days). The most affected by the water supply regime (due to drought) were the districts of Pleven - 51.9%, Lovech - 45.6%, Targovishte - 21.4%, and Pernik - 14.0%.

In 2023, 75.2% of the population in Bulgaria were connected to urban wastewater collecting systems, 67.4% of them were connected to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP).

182 active urban wastewater treatment plants were reported in 2023, 76 870 km public water supply network and 13 193 km public sewage network.

**Figure 1. Population with water services**



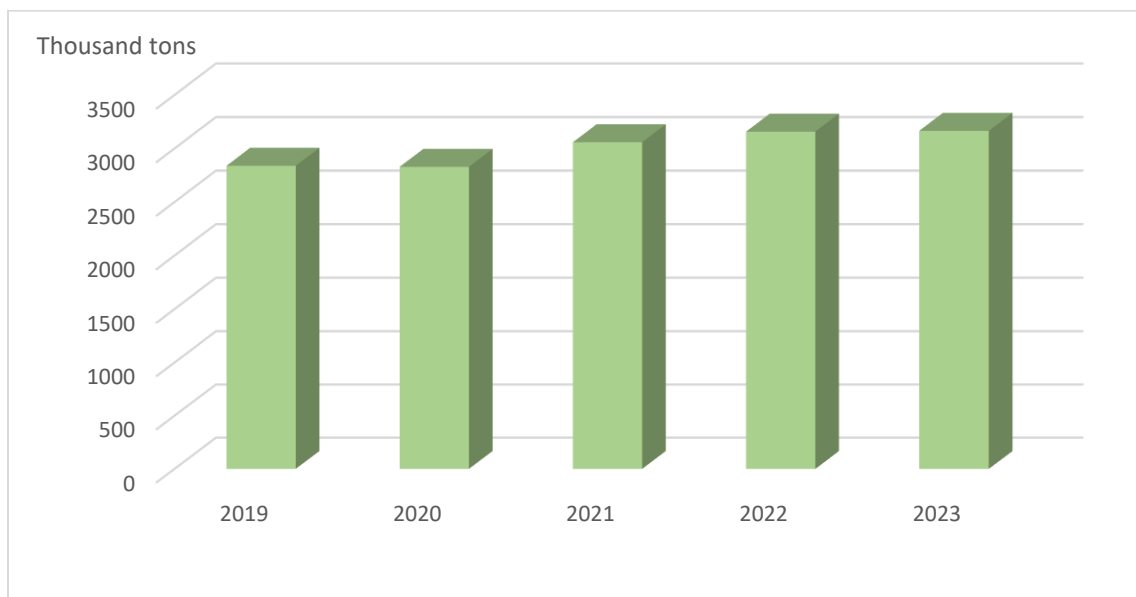
## **2. MUNICIPAL WASTE**

The generated municipal waste in 2023 was 3 165 thousand tons. Compared to 2022, there was an increase of 0.24%.

The generated waste per capita for 2023 was 491 kg - 16 kg more than the amount per capita for 2022.

The share of the population served by municipal waste collection systems was 99.94%. Compared to 2022 there was an increased by 0.01 percentage points.

**Figure 2. Total generated municipal waste**



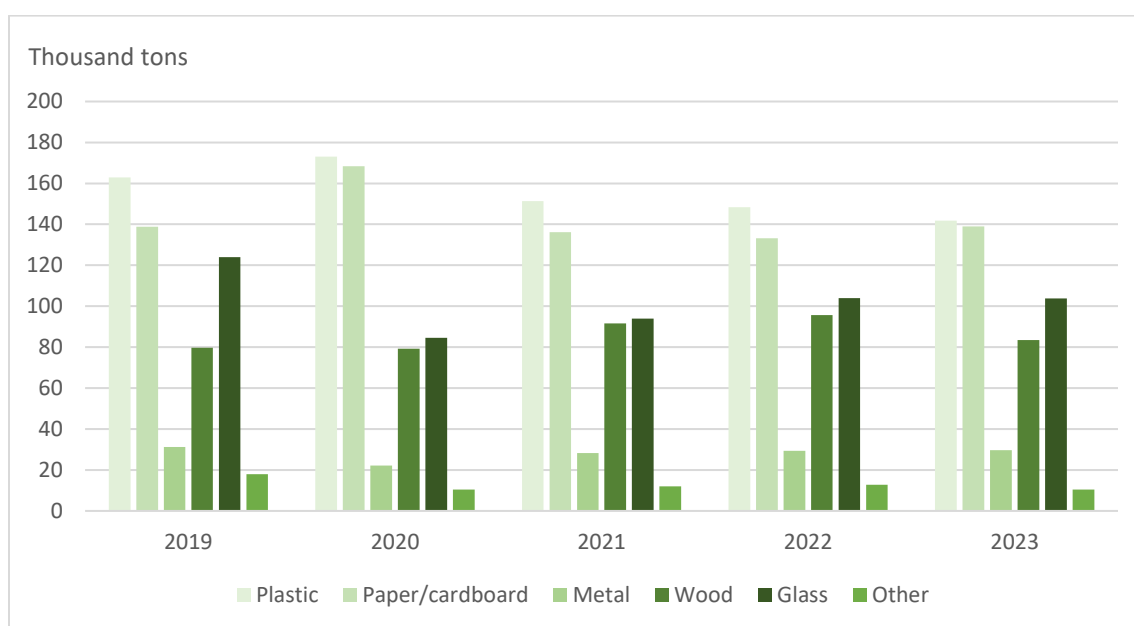
## **3. PACKAGES PLACED ON THE MARKET**

In 2023, 508 thousand tons of packages were placed on the market, and their decrease, compared to 2022, was 2.86%. Plastic packaging was 142 thousand tons and a decrease of 4.41%, compared to 2022, was recorded. Paper packaging registered an increase of 4.34% compared to the previous year, with a total amount of 139 thousand tons in 2022.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

## ANNUAL DATA FOR 2023

**Figure 3. Packages placed on the market**

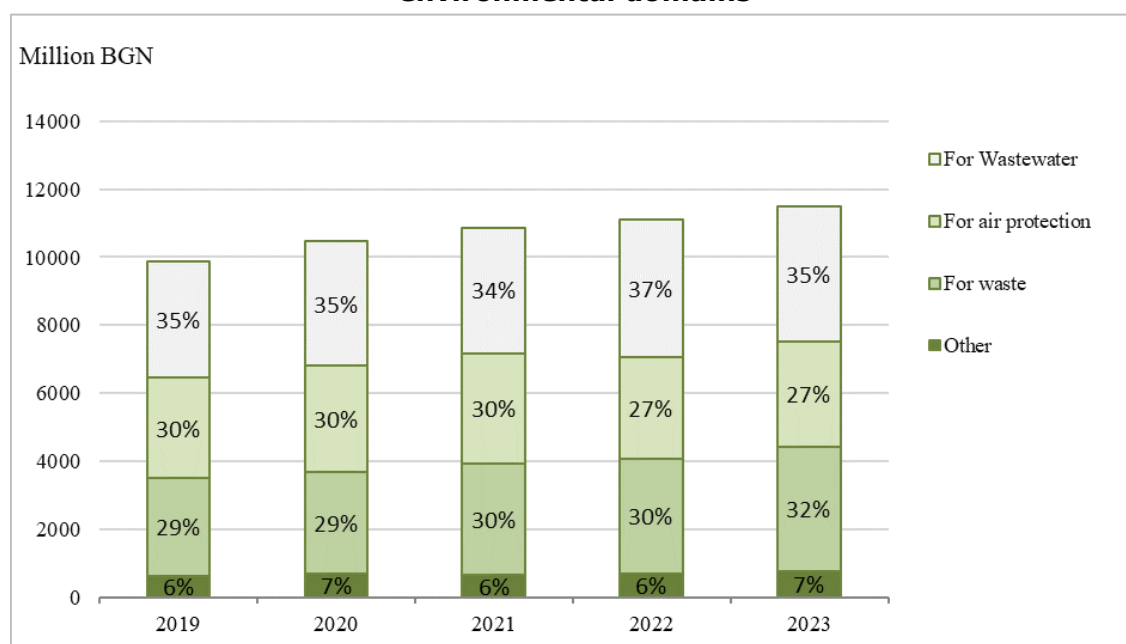


### 4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS WITH ECOLOGICAL USE

The availability of the tangible fixed assets with ecological use by accounting value at the end of the 2023 was 11 483 million BGN. Compared to 2022, there was an increase of 1.0% (11 092 million BGN).

At the end of the accounting year, the largest share of assets for wastewater treatment and discharge was 35%, followed by non-hazardous and hazardous waste treatment facilities - 32%, and ambient air protection - 27%. For 2022, the share in these directions was 37%, 30% and 27%, respectively.

**Figure 4. Availability of tangible fixed assets with ecological use by main environmental domains**

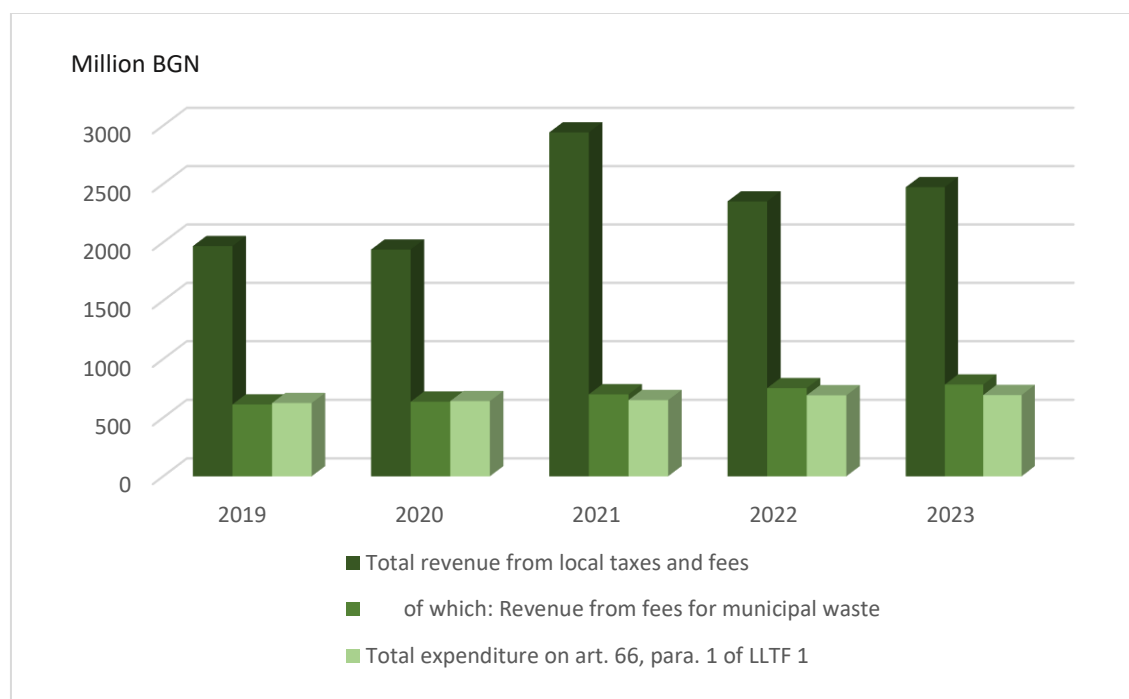


## **5. REVENUE FROM TAXES AND FEES AND EXPENDITURE FOR MUNICIPAL WASTE TOTAL FOR THE COUNTRY**

The value of the revenues of the municipal administrations in 2023 was 2 472 million BGN. Compared to 2022, they increased by 5.18%. Part of these revenues were the taxes and fees for municipal waste, the value of which was 782 million BGN in 2023 and their level compared to 2022 increased by 4.0%.

The value of the expenditures for municipal waste of the municipal administrations in 2023 was 693 million BGN and compared to the previous year the trend remained almost at the same level (increased by 0.3%).

**Figure 5. Revenue from taxes and fees and expenditure for municipal waste**



## **6. RECORDED NOISE LEVELS**

744 points of noise level measurement were surveyed in 2023, located in 36 settlements, and levels above the permissible norms were measured in 518 points, which represented 69.6% of the total number of controlled areas.

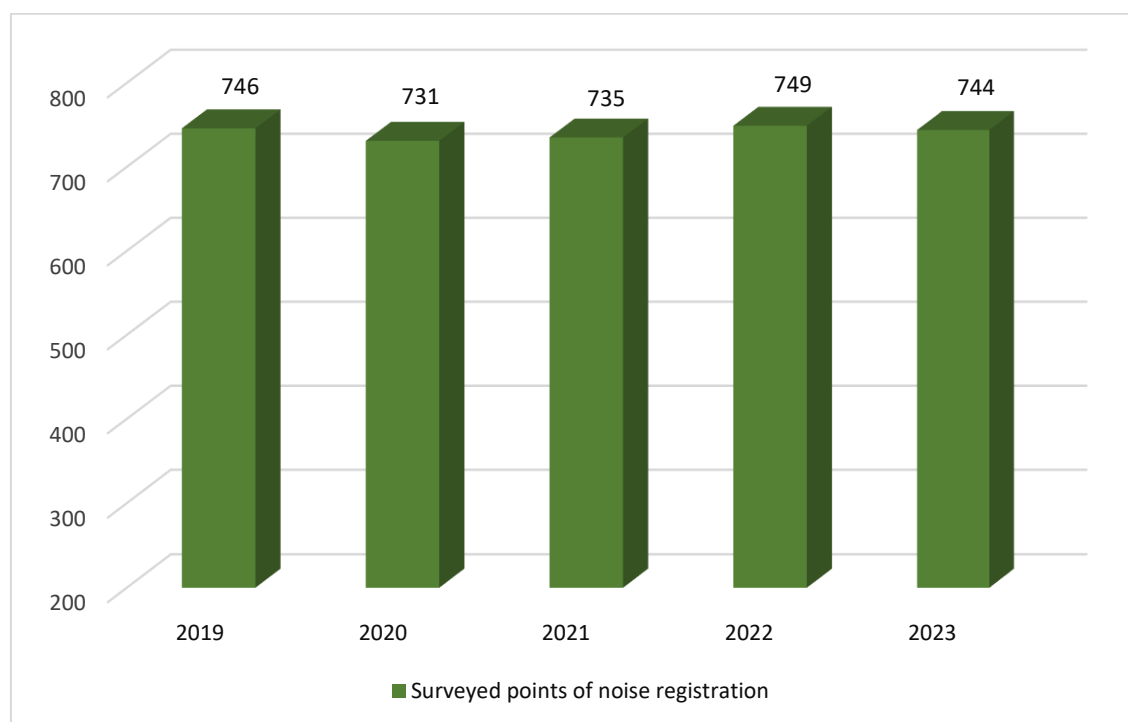
The cities with the largest percentage of points exceeding the permissible noise norms, out of all monitored in the respective cities in 2023, were: Vidin, Dupnitsa, Kyustendil, Montana, Pleven, Razgrad and Silistra.

The cities with the largest number of established exceedances of the permissible norms in the higher frequencies, more dangerous for the human health, were: Sofia (stolitsa), Plovdiv, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo, Kyustendil, Stara Zagora, Pleven and others.

In 2023, 47% of the points with measured levels above the limit value were located in areas under the impact of intensive car traffic.

In recent years, an increase in the number of measured points with noise levels in the lowest range, below 58 dB (A), has been observed. A quarter of the controlled areas fall here.

**Figure 6. Surveyed points of noise registration**



## **7. PROTECTED NATURAL SCENERY**

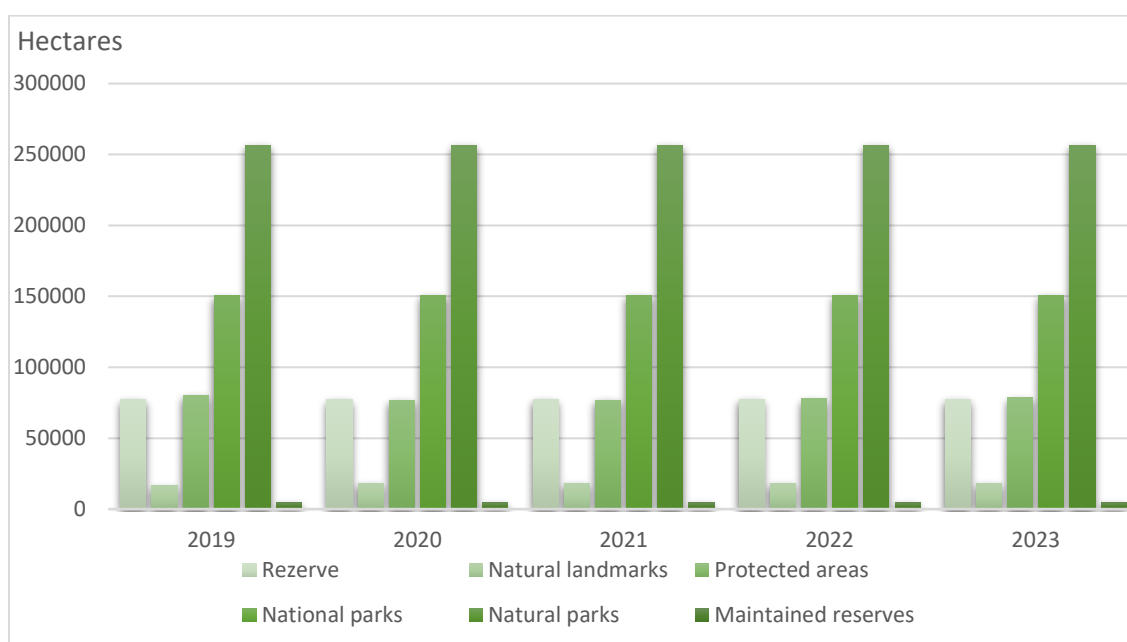
In 2023, the area of protected natural scenery in Bulgaria amounted to 585 500 ha or 5.3% of the country's territory and compared to 2022 an increase of 664 ha was registered. At the end of 2023, there were 1 047 protected natural areas in Bulgaria. The biggest relative share was the natural parks - 43.8% (11), followed by the national parks - 25.8% (3), reserves - 13.2% (55), protected areas - 13.3% (583), and the natural landmarks - 3.1% (352). The smallest share was the maintained reserves - 0.8% (35).

The protected plant species of the Bulgarian flora in 2023 were 574, and the protected animal species - 483. The number of protected venerable trees in 2022 amounted to 1 415, by 25 more in comparison with the previous year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

### ANNUAL DATA FOR 2023

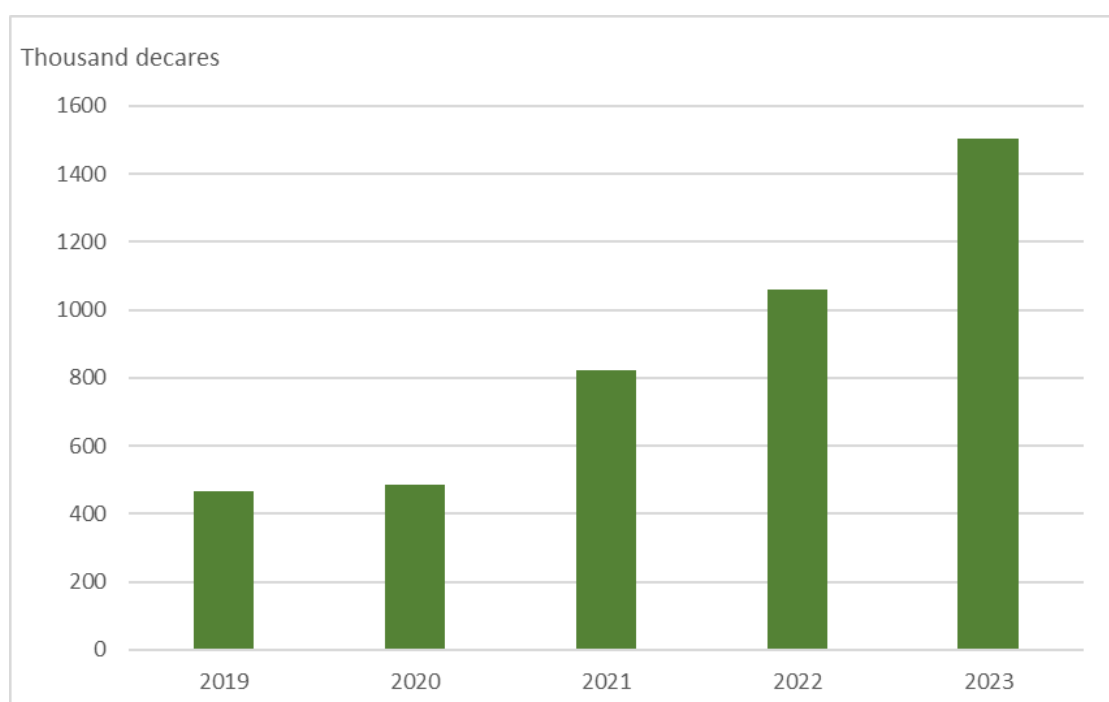
**Figure 7. Protected natural scenery by category**



## 8. UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS

In 2023, the area of deposits for underground reserves increased by 42% and was 1 505 thousand decares in total. The proven reserves of brown coal increased by 2% - 9 437 thousand tons compared to 2022. The probable reserves of lead-zinc ores registered a decrease of 1.67% compared to the previous year - 5 768 thousand tons. The production of copper ores decreased by 3.21%, amounting to 33 555 thousand tons.

**Figure 8. Area of deposits of ores and minerals**



## **METHODOLOGICAL NOTES**

### **1. WATER STATISTICS**

The data for the water statistics are result of the conduction of the following annual surveys:

- 'Water services, sewage and wastewater treatment' - the survey is exhaustive. Data are collected from public water supply companies (PWS partnerships), providers of water through irrigation systems and operators of urban wastewater treatment plants;
- 'Water use' - it is a partial statistical survey focused on the larger water users. Criterion for coverage is the usage by enterprises of more than 36 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of water annually for their activity. Enterprises below this criterion submit data on a voluntary basis. The survey of enterprises for hydroelectricity generation is exhaustive.

Water statistics focuses on the quantitative aspects of water use, water supply, the use of water resources by the economy and households, treatment and discharge of wastewater back into water bodies.

### **2. MUNICIPAL WASTE**

The municipal waste information is provided by a specialized statistical survey, covering exhaustively the municipal administrations in combination with administrative data (ExEA). Data on the waste generated by households not covered by organized waste collection systems is a result of statistical assessment.

'Municipal waste' is waste mainly produced by households as well as similar waste from administrative buildings, commercial sites, schools and other public places.

The data for the indicators and the definitions of municipal waste comply with the Waste Management Act.

### **3. PACKAGES PLACED ON THE MARKET**

Data on packages placed on the market is provided through a combination of comprehensive statistical survey and statistical evaluation. The scope of the monitoring includes all members of packaging waste recovery organizations and other enterprises whose main activity is in certain industries producing packaged goods, but are not members of packaging waste recovery organizations.

Business entities that produce and import packaged goods are investigated; carry out packaging of goods for a fee; package goods for own sale; produce disposable packaging and utensils.

'Packaging' means all products made of material of any nature that are used to contain, store, transport, deliver and present goods - from raw materials to processed goods - from the producer to the user or consumer. Items that are 'non-returnable' and are used for the same purposes are also considered packaging.

The abbreviation and code identifying the material from which a given package is made are in accordance with Annex 2 of the Ordinance on packaging and packaging waste.

#### **4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS WITH ECOLOGICAL USE**

The tangible fixed assets with ecological use are part of the total tangible fixed assets within the country.

The tangible fixed assets with ecological use include (1) facilities, installations and equipment necessary for environmental protection allocated by environmental domains (wastewater, air protection, soil, surface and groundwater, transportation and disposal of waste, noise abatement) and (2) monitoring and control equipment.

Tangible fixed assets (TFA) with ecological use do not include equipment for preserving air purity, and noise and vibration reduction in the working premises, i.e. labour protection.

#### **5. REVENUE FROM TAXES AND FEES AND EXPENDITURE FOR MUNICIPAL WASTE TOTAL FOR THE COUNTRY**

The data on the total revenues from taxes and fees and incurred expenses for municipal waste in general for the country are provided through an exhaustively specialized statistical survey covering the municipal administrations.

The total revenues from taxes and fees and expenses incurred for municipal waste are according to the Law on Accounting, the National Chart of Accounts and the Law on Local Taxes and Fees.

#### **6. RECORDED NOISE LEVELS**

The recorded noise level information is provided by a comprehensive research with an administrative data source - the National Center for Public Health and Analysis.

The noise levels are observed in different territories and development zones in and outside urban areas.

#### **7. PROTECTED NATURAL SCENERY**

Information on protected natural scenery is provided through a comprehensive statistical study with the administrative source of the data - the Ministry of Environment and Water. Protected areas in Bulgaria is a generalized concept covering all parks, reserves, landmarks and protected areas. Many such territories have been declared in Bulgaria over the years.



Due to difficulties related to formation of the administrative-territorial borders within the country data are presented at national level only.

## **8. UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS**

The source of the data is the comprehensive statistical survey covering the economic entities that have been awarded concessions for the extraction of underground resources and those that have reported income from the extractive industry for the previous reporting year.

Data are provided on the reserves and resources of underground natural resources, which are mineral accumulations in the earth's bowels or on the earth's surface with a certain geological study and economic interest.