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# PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF LEGAL REGULATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

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#### Abstract

Waste management and legal regulation of this process is one of the most pressing problems of the modern world, having a direct impact on the state of the environment, human health and the economy. Increasing consumption, urbanization and industrial development lead to an increasing amount of waste, and their improper management can cause significant ecological and social consequences. The purpose of the article. To analyze the aspects of legal regulation of waste management, identifying the main problems and challenges. Research objectives. To achieve the goal of this paper, the following objectives are set: to define the theoretical aspects of waste management; to analyze the legal acts regulating the waste management institute; to identify the problems of legal regulation of waste management. Methodology of investigation. In order to fully disclose the topic of the work, the most important Lithuanian and international legal acts regulating the aspects of legal regulation of waste management were analyzed. The rulings of Lithuanian and foreign courts were also analyzed, which helped to highlight the essential problems of legal regulation of waste management. Therefore, waste management is becoming an extremely important topic both internationally and nationally. Waste management legislation covers many areas - sorting, recycling, hazardous waste management, landfill operations, etc. The compatibility and interpretation of these legislation often becomes a challenge for both institutions and waste managers. The goal of waste management research is to find solutions to improve waste management processes, promote recycling, reduce environmental pollution and effectively manage resources. This topic is important in shaping new public policy priorities. in developing sustainable solutions for urban and regional waste management systems, in raising public awareness about the impact of waste on the environment and the economy. This article aims to analyze the aspects of legal regulation of waste management, identifying the main problems and challenges. The implementation of sustainability ideas aims to reduce waste generation as much as possible, encouraging consumers and businesses to reduce excess consumption and prevent waste generation.

Key words: waste, environment protection, waste management, legal regulation, ecological and social consequences.

### Introduction

**Relevance of the topic.** The relevance of legal regulation of waste management arises from the following reasons: environmental aspects, since the waste management system is a key factor in reducing environmental pollution. Improperly managed waste can cause groundwater contamination (e.g., leakage of hazardous waste into the soil); air pollution due to illegal waste incineration; loss of biodiversity due to waste accumulation in nature, since efficient waste management helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ensures safe management of hazardous materials and reduces the depletion of natural resources. The waste management sector also has great economic potential. Properly organized waste sorting, recycling and reuse can contribute to creating new

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ORCID ID: https://orcid 0009-0008-2957-0388. <sup>2</sup> Lithuanian Engineering University of Applied Sciences (Kaunas District, Lithuania) E-mail: perkum@gmail.com jobs, saving raw materials through recycling, saving energy resources through waste-to-energy production. However, challenges in legal regulation of waste management, such as high waste disposal costs or limited recycling options, encourage research to use available resources more efficiently. Lithuania, as a member state of the European Union, is obliged to implement strict EU requirements in the field of waste management: to increase waste recycling rates (e.g., to achieve a 55% recycling rate by 2025); to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills; to implement the principles of the circular economy. Despite the legal regulation of waste management, Lithuania still faces challenges, such as improper waste sorting, illegal landfill activities, or lack of public awareness.

**Problem Statement.** When analyzing the institute of legal regulation of waste management, the following main problems are distinguished: first, illegal waste disposal and/or management: legal norms regulating the use of natural resources are fragmented and presented in different legal acts, which can cause confusion and miscommunication between interested parties. Many legal acts do not clearly estab-

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lish the principles of sustainable development, which leads to inefficient use of natural resources and possible ecological losses in the future. Second, hazardous waste management can have a negative impact on ecosystems. Hazardous waste management is one of the most complex areas of waste management, which poses serious challenges due to the specifics of such waste, its impact on the environment and human health, and strict requirements for its management. The problem arises from irresponsible disposal of hazardous waste, inadequate infrastructure, control gaps, and lack of awareness among society and companies. In the area of hazardous waste management, violations of rules due to inadequate control are still encountered, which can pose a threat to the environment and human health. Third, problems related to waste sorting, recycling or failure to reuse. EU legislation clearly emphasizes that waste must be recycled or reused first, but in Lithuania a large proportion of waste is still disposed of in landfills.

The purpose of the article. To analyze the aspects of legal regulation of waste management, identifying the main problems and challenges.

**Research objectives.** To achieve the goal of this paper, the following objectives are set: to define the theoretical aspects of waste management; to analyze the legal acts regulating the waste management institute; to identify the problems of legal regulation of waste management.

Methodology of investigation. In order to fully disclose the topic of the work, the most important Lithuanian and international legal acts regulating the aspects of legal regulation of waste management were analyzed. The rulings of Lithuanian and foreign courts were also analyzed, which helped to highlight the essential problems of legal regulation of waste management. The work analyzed the Law on Waste Management, Waste Management Rules, the Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal documents related to the legal regulation of waste management. Problems related to international legal regulation of waste management were also analyzed. The following research methods were used in the work: systematic analysis, logical-analytical, comparative, document analysis, meta-analysis.

The systematic analysis method was used to study the aspects of legal regulation of waste management. Applying this method, the logical relationships between legal acts and their interaction with other legal norms were highlighted. The logical-analytical method was applied in order to critically evaluate the area of legal regulation of waste management, analyzing the insights and opinions of various authors. The comparative analysis method was applied in order to thoroughly examine and compare the features of the legal regulation of waste management in various foreign countries. The document analysis method provided an opportunity to thoroughly examine the legal acts regulating the legal relations of waste management. The meta-analysis method was applied in analyzing the publications of Lithuanian and foreign scientists, allowing for a thorough examination of the views of various authors and a systematic assessment of the theoretical and practical aspects of the legal regulation of waste management.

### 2. The concept and types of waste

The concept and types of waste are regulated both in Lithuanian legislation and in international documents. Waste is defined as any material or object that is disposed of, is planned to be disposed of or requires disposal in accordance with legal acts. According to the Law on Waste Management of the Republic of Lithuania, waste is any material or object that is or becomes no longer used by its holder and that needs to be managed or disposed of in accordance with the requirements of legal acts.

In the concept of waste, it is important to pay attention to:

1. The will of the waste holder: whether he intends to abandon the material/object.

2. Environmental or health hazard: whether the material may cause negative effects.

Hazardous waste includes such substances as chemical compounds, medical waste, asbestos, petroleum products, electronic waste, pesticides and other toxic substances. Their amount is increasing due to modern industrial, agricultural and medical activities. This waste is extremely dangerous because: it can be toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive or infectious; if not properly managed, hazardous waste causes longterm impacts on nature and society.

Proper waste classification and management helps reduce environmental pollution and use resources more efficiently. Waste is classified according to various criteria, such as origin, composition, hazard or method of management. Waste can be divided into household waste, which includes, for example, car parts, tires, oil residues. This type of waste is generated in households (e.g. food waste, plastic, glass, textiles).

Another type of waste is industrial waste, which is generated in manufacturing and industrial enter-

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prises. This waste covers a very wide range of materials, ranging from metals, chemicals, construction material residues, and ending with hazardous chemicals used in production processes. Industrial waste can also be divided into several categories according to its hazard and composition: it can be both inert (environmentally friendly) waste and hazardous materials that can have a significant impact on the environment and human health if not properly managed. Industrial waste originates from various sectors, such as oil refining, textiles, chemical industry or construction, and specific measures are required for its management. For example, waste generated in the construction sector usually includes residues of concrete, bricks, wood, while the chemical industry generates waste that may contain hazardous compounds, such as acids, bases, solvents or substances containing heavy metals. Improper management of such waste can cause soil, water and air pollution, which in turn has a negative impact on biodiversity and human health. Therefore, not only strict legal supervision of industrial waste management is necessary, but also the application of advanced technologies for their recycling or safe disposal. The responsibility of industrial companies for reducing waste during the production process, by applying sustainable and less waste-generating solutions, also plays an important role (Adegbeye, et al, 2020).

Agricultural waste is related to farming activities (e.g. animal manure, pesticide residues). Agricultural waste is closely related to farming activities and includes various biological and chemical materials generated during agricultural operations. The main types of this waste group are animal manure, food residues, plant waste (e.g. straw, crop residues), as well as chemical waste such as pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer residues and their packaging (Almusaed, et al, 2020). Animal manure is mainly used as a natural fertilizer, which can improve soil structure and fertility. However, its excessive use or improper management can cause serious environmental problems, such as the contamination of surface and groundwater with nitrates and phosphates, which promote eutrophication processes in water bodies. In addition, large livestock farm complexes often face challenges in managing large amounts of manure, making it necessary to ensure advanced manure processing technologies, such as biomethane production or composting (Klimavičiūtė, et al, 2023).

Construction and demolition waste is generated during the construction or demolition of buildings (e.g. concrete blocks, bricks, plaster). Construction and demolition waste is one of the largest categories of waste generated during construction, renovation or demolition work. This waste includes a wide range of different materials, such as concrete blocks, bricks, plaster, roofing materials, insulation materials, metals, wood, glass, tiles, plasterboard and paint residues. Due to their composition, this waste can be both inert and environmentally hazardous, so its management requires special attention. One of the main problems associated with construction and demolition waste is its large volume. Such waste takes up a lot of space in landfills, and improper management can cause soil, air or water pollution. For example, plaster or paint waste may contain hazardous chemicals, such as lead or asbestos, which pose a risk to human health and the environment (Almusaed, et al, 2020). Therefore, it is important to properly segregate and identify hazardous waste so that it can be safely disposed of or recycled. However, construction waste can also be a valuable resource if properly managed. Concrete and bricks can be recycled into aggregates that are used in new construction projects (Adegbeye, et al, 2020).

Medical waste is generated in healthcare facilities (e.g. syringes, bandages, medication residues). Medical waste is a specific category of waste that is generated in healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, clinics, dental offices, veterinary clinics and laboratories. This waste includes a variety of materials, including syringes, bandages, medication residues, surgical instruments, disposable protective equipment (masks, gloves, gowns), laboratory test tubes, medical implants and hazardous residues of biological origin, such as samples of blood or other body fluids (Atalay, et al, 2024). Medical waste is divided into several categories according to their level of hazard and impact on the environment and human health. It can be: biological waste - contaminated with blood or other body fluids that pose a risk of infections; hazardous chemical waste - various solutions, reagents, disinfectants and outdated or unused medicines, radioactive waste - materials used for diagnostic or treatment procedures, e.g. radiotherapy waste, sharp objects - syringes, needles, scalpels, which pose a risk of injuries and infections (Müller, et al, 2022). The management of this waste is particularly important, as its improper disposal can have serious consequences. According to the composition, waste can be divided into organic waste, which is easily biodegradable material (e.g. food scraps, green grass); often used for composting. Inorganic waste, which does not decompose naturally (e.g. metal, plastic, glass).

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According to the method of handling, waste suitable for recycling is distinguished, which can be recycled and reused (e.g. paper, metal, glass). Disposal waste, which cannot be recycled, and which is disposed of in special landfills or incinerated (Atalay, et al, 2024).

# 2. The importance of legal regulation of waste management and the principles of implementing sustainability ideas

Waste management regulation is a key element in ensuring sustainable development, environmental protection and public health. Legislation sets out clear rules, duties and responsibilities that help manage waste effectively, reduce pollution and promote a circular economy. Waste management regulation is a key way to protect the environment from pollution and long-term damage. Waste management regulation limits the illegal disposal of waste into nature, sets requirements for the management of hazardous waste and prevents contamination of groundwater, soil and air. Clearly regulated waste disposal helps to preserve natural habitats, reduces the risk of biodiversity loss and protects natural resources. Laws promote recycling and the use of waste as secondary raw materials, reducing pressure on natural resources (Adegbeye, et al, 2020).

Waste management regulation ensures the protection of human health. Legislation sets strict requirements for the management of hazardous waste (e.g. medical or chemical waste), thereby reducing the risk they pose to public health. Improperly managed waste (e.g. illegal landfills) become hotbeds for the spread of infectious diseases. Appropriate legal regulation prevents this risk. By regulating waste incineration, the risk of harmful substances being released into the atmosphere is reduced, protecting the respiratory health of the population (Almusaed, et al, 2020).

Waste management regulation has an important impact on the economy. Waste prevention objectives set in legislation help companies optimize production and reduce waste, saving resources. Legal regulation encourages investment in waste recycling technologies, creating new jobs and stimulating the economy (Želvys, et al, 2024). Regulation establishes responsibility for illegal waste management, and the resulting fines can be directed towards improving waste management. Legal requirements and publicity campaigns encourage residents to sort waste responsibly, reduce its volume and contribute to environmental protection. Clear waste management regulation reduces the negative impact on the environment of residential areas, improving the quality of life (Atalay, et al, 2024).

Legal regulation of waste management helps to fulfill international obligations. Lithuania is committed to complying with EU directives such as the Waste Directive (2008/98/EC), the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) or the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC). Compliance with these requirements allows Lithuania to avoid sanctions (Perkumienė, et al, 2023).

The principles of sustainability in waste management are focused on the efficient use of resources, waste reduction, recycling and reduction of negative impacts on the environment and human health. These principles are based on the ideas of the circular economy, which aims to create a system in which waste becomes new resources, rather than pollutants (Qian, et al, 2021). Implementing the principles of sustainability in waste management aims to reduce the amount of waste so that waste is generated as little as possible (Patil, et al, 2020). To this end, it is necessary to encourage consumers and companies to reduce unnecessary consumption and avoid waste generation at the production or service provision stages. It is also necessary to ensure that objects or their components are reused, thus avoiding their becoming a waste (Shi, et al, 2021). Another important aspect in achieving sustainability is waste recycling, turning waste into new products or materials, reducing the need for primary raw materials. This can be implemented by improving the sorting system to ensure high-quality raw materials for recycling and by encouraging investments in advanced recycling technologies that would allow for the efficient use of secondary raw materials. Proper waste sorting is essential for this process (Pal, et al, 2024). The better the waste is separated from the source, the easier it is to recycle it into high-quality secondary raw materials, such as plastic, glass, metals or paper. It is therefore necessary to encourage residents and businesses to sort waste responsibly, using clearly marked containers and through educational campaigns that help understand the importance of sorting and the correct waste separation process (Želvys, et al, 2024). Investments in advanced technologies also increase the efficiency of recycling. Modern recycling equipment, such as optical sorters or plastic recycling machines, can separate different types of waste according to their chemical composition or physical properties, thus ensuring that secondary raw materials are used to the maximum extent. For example, technologies used in the field of plastic recycling allow plastics to be broken down to the molecular level, which makes it possible to

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recycle them into high-quality products, such as textiles or packaging materials. Waste recycling is also related to social and economic aspects. Developing recycling infrastructure can create new jobs, stimulate local economic growth, and reduce social inequality, as the recycling sector often employs less qualified workers. Recycling also contributes to raising public awareness, emphasizing the importance of responsible consumption (Adegbeye, et al, 2020).

**3.** Legal regulation of the order of priorities for waste prevention and management

According to Article 3 of the Law on Waste Management of the Republic of Lithuania, the order of priorities for waste prevention and management is as follows:

1. Prevention, in order to avoid the generation of waste;

2. Preparation for reuse, prior to removing products or parts thereof that are not suitable for reuse;

3. Recycling, separating waste that cannot be recycled;

4. Other use, for example, energy production, when waste that is not suitable for recycling or other use is first separated;

5. Disposal, ensuring that waste suitable for recycling or other use is first separated (Juškevičiūtė-Vilienė, 2023).

These priorities are implemented considering the environmental principles - precaution, sustainability, technical feasibility, economic feasibility, resource protection, as well as the overall impact on the environment, human health, economy and society. Waste managers and producers must take all feasible and economically reasonable actions to reduce the amount of waste and its negative impact on public health and the environment. They must implement low-waste technologies, adhere to the principles of eco-design and save natural resources. These enterprises must follow the order of waste prevention and management priorities established in legal acts (Shi, et al, 2021).

Product manufacturers must ensure that the products and the parts they produce and are placed on the market are made of recycled material, if possible and meet safety requirements. Products must be durable, easy to repair, long-term use or reuse, and after becoming waste - suitable for recycling or other use, thus reducing the amount of waste, especially waste that is not suitable for recycling or reuse, and the risk it poses to the environment and society (Želvys, et al, 2024). Producers, importers, waste holders and managers, when implementing waste prevention and management priorities, must rely on the measures set out in the State Waste Prevention and Management Plan. All entities involved in waste management activities are responsible for ensuring that their activities and the information provided to the public are in line with the priorities for waste prevention and management (Perkumiene, et al, 2023).

The order of priorities for waste prevention and management is established in both international and national legislation to ensure sustainable waste management, reduce its impact on the environment and use resources efficiently. These priorities are based on the waste management hierarchy principle, which is regulated in European Union legislation, such as the Waste Directive (2008/98/EC) and has been transposed into national law, mainly in the Waste Management Law of the Republic of Lithuania (Perkumienė, et al, 2023).

In Finland, the legal regulation of waste prevention and management priorities is based on the European Union waste directives and national legislation implementing these directives. The main principles of waste management in Finland, including the order of priorities for prevention and management, are regulated in the Waste Act (Jätelaki, 646/2011) and related legislation. The aim of this law is to ensure sustainable waste prevention, efficient use of resources and reduction of negative impacts on the environment and public health. The priority in Finland is to prevent waste generation by promoting less polluting production processes, consumption and the development of longer-lasting products (Faishal, 2022).

Article 41 of the Law on Waste Management (1998) of the Republic of Lithuania provides that waste must be managed:

1. In compliance with the norms established by legal acts, ensuring that the permissible limits of water, air or soil pollution are not exceeded, and that no harmful effects are caused to public health, fauna or flora;

2. Without violating the established noise and odor norms;

3. While preserving the landscape and territories of environmental, natural or cultural value.

Ensuring public health and environmental protection through waste management is one of the most important goals in achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life. Waste management must be organized in such a way as to minimize the negative impact on human health, the environment and natural resources. Waste reduction

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and prevention aim to promote the use of products with a longer life cycle; to use less environmentally harmful substances in production and household; to educate the public about responsible consumption and waste sorting (Juškevičiūtė-Vilienė, 2023).

Waste sorting and recycling aims to ensure waste sorting opportunities in residential areas and workplaces; develop recycling infrastructure, reduce landfill and promote a circular economy model. Hazardous waste management includes the proper identification and sorting of hazardous waste (batteries, chemicals, medical waste, etc.) and their safe transportation and recycling or disposal in specialized facilities, in order to protect people and the environment from harmful effects.

Article 42 of the Law on Waste Management of the Republic of Lithuania states that companies engaged in the collection, transportation or treatment of hazardous and (or) tire waste (hereinafter referred to as the operator) must insure their civil liability for possible damage that may be caused to the life, health, property and (or) environment of third parties due to their negligence or intentional actions when carrying out such activities. If damage to life or health arises due to the intentional actions of the operator, the insurer, having paid the insurance benefit, has the right to demand from the operator the return of the paid amount.

The operator must have civil liability insurance that meets the conditions established by law. The object of insurance is the property interests of the operator related to its liability for damage caused to the life, health, property or environment of third parties when carrying out waste collection, transportation or treatment activities. In addition, insurance covering environmental damage also ensures compensation for damage caused by the operator's unlawful actions, which is calculated according to the methodology established by the Minister of the Environment, provided that the conditions set out in the insurance contract are met (Mierauskas, 2021).

In Sweden, the legal regulation of civil liability insurance for waste management companies is also strictly regulated by both national legislation and European Union legislation, which applies to environmental protection, liability for environmental pollution and waste management. In Sweden, waste management companies are often required to have civil liability insurance, which covers damage arising from environmental pollution or other negative consequences related to waste management (Zorpas, 2020). Liability insurance is an important tool that helps companies protect themselves from financial losses related to environmental pollution, if a waste management company causes a harmful impact on the environment (for example, spillage of wastewater into water bodies or air pollution), its civil liability can be implemented in accordance with the legislation.

Hazardous waste management is a very important area of environmental protection, as unsafe management of hazardous waste can cause serious negative consequences for the environment and human health. Therefore, strict legislation and regulation have been established for this process both in Lithuania and in other countries, including Finland and Sweden. The legal regulation of hazardous waste management covers several main aspects, such as waste collection, transportation, storage, recycling and disposal. Hazardous waste is waste that, due to its properties (e.g. flammability, toxicity, corrosiveness, ecotoxicity, etc.), may pose a risk to human health, the environment or animals. It must be separately managed and stored in accordance with special requirements (Laureti, et. al, 2024).

According to the provisions of Article 12 of the Law on Waste Management of the Republic of Lithuania (1998), companies intending to collect and transport hazardous waste must obtain a hazardous waste management license, which must specify the types of hazardous waste that the licensee may manage and the methods of managing this waste. The Minister of the Environment shall approve the licensing rules for hazardous waste management. Hazardous waste management licenses shall be issued, refused to be issued, the data of licenses shall be revised, the validity of licenses shall be suspended, the suspension of validity shall be lifted, and the validity shall be revoked by an institution authorized by the Minister of the Environment.

In Lithuania, hazardous waste shall be stored separately from non-hazardous waste; hazardous waste management companies shall obtain permits and licenses from environmental protection authorities; their transportation shall be carried out only by authorized and certified companies; waste management sites of this type shall meet strict technical requirements to protect the environment from pollution (Zorpas, 2020).

In Finland, hazardous waste shall be classified according to the level of hazard. Hazardous waste shall be transported only in accordance with strictly established requirements, using licensed carriers; hazardous waste shall be treated using technologies that ensure minimal environmental impact; companies working with hazardous waste shall obtain

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appropriate permits and carry out regular inspections (Kolawole, et. al, 2023).

In Sweden, hazardous waste must be managed according to the level of hazard and stored separately from non-hazardous waste, the transportation of hazardous waste must only be carried out according to strict requirements and using certified carriers, and the treatment of such waste must only be carried out in certified and licensed companies, ensuring that environmental standards are met (Zorpas, 2020).

**Conclusion.** Waste is defined as any substance or object that is disposed of, is planned to be disposed of or requires disposal in accordance with legal acts. Waste is classified according to various criteria, such as origin, composition, hazard or method of disposal. Legal regulation of waste management is an essential component of sustainable development. It not only contributes to environmental protection and pollution

reduction, but also guarantees public health protection, economic growth and social well-being. The importance of regulation is further emphasized due to Lithuania's commitments to the European Union and global environmental challenges. Effective legal regulation is essential for the implementation of sustainable development goals and responsible waste management. The principles of sustainable waste management are aimed at the efficient use of resources, waste reduction, recycling and the reduction of damage to the environment and human health. These principles are based on the concept of a circular economy, in which waste becomes new resources, not pollutants. The implementation of sustainability ideas aims to reduce waste generation as much as possible, encouraging consumers and businesses to reduce excess consumption and prevent waste generation.

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### ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА ВИКЛИКИ ПРАВОВОГО РЕГУЛЮВАННЯ ПОВОДЖЕННЯ З ВІДХОДАМИ

### Анотація

Актуальність правового регулювання поводження з відходами зумовлена наступними причинами: екологічні аспекти, оскільки система поводження з відходами є ключовим фактором зменшення забруднення навколишнього середовища. Неналежне поводження з відходами може спричинити забруднення ґрунтових вод; забруднення повітря внаслідок незаконного спалювання сміття; втрата біорізноманіття через накопичення відходів у природі, оскільки ефективне управління відходами допомагає зменшити викиди парникових газів, забезпечує безпечне управління небезпечними матеріалами та зменшує виснаження природних ресурсів. Однак проблеми в правовому регулюванні поводження з відходами, такі як високі витрати на утилізацію відходів або обмежені можливості переробки, спонукають до дослідження більш ефективного використання наявних ресурсів. Литва, як державачлен Європейського Союзу, зобов'язана виконувати суворі вимоги ЄС у сфері поводження з відходами: збільшити рівень переробки відходів (наприклад, досягти рівня переробки 55% до 2025 року); зменшити кількість відходів, що вивозяться на полігони; реалізувати принципи циркулярної економіки. Постановка задачі. При аналізі інституту правового регулювання поводження з відходами виділяють такі основні проблеми: по-перше, незаконне розміщення та/або поводження з відходами: правові норми, що регулюють використання природних ресурсів, розрізнені та представлені в різних правових актах, що може спричинити плутанину та непорозуміння між зацікавленими сторонами. У сфері поводження з небезпечними відходами все ще трапляються порушення правил через неналежний контроль, що може становити загрозу для довкілля та здоров'я людей. Проблеми, пов'язані з сортуванням відходів, переробкою або неможливістю повторного використання. Законодавство ЄС чітко наголошує на тому, що сміття спочатку має бути перероблено або повторно використано, але в Литві значна частка відходів все ще вивозиться на звалища. Задачі дослідження. Для досягнення мети даної роботи поставлені наступні завдання: визначити теоретичні аспекти управління відходами; проаналізувати нормативно-правові акти, що регулюють інститут поводження з відходами; виявити проблеми правового регулювання поводження з відходами. Методологія. Для повного розкриття теми роботи були проаналізовані найважливіші литовські та міжнародні правові акти, що регулюють аспекти правового регулювання поводження з відходами. Також було проаналізовано рішення литовських та іноземних судів, що допомогло висвітлити суттєві проблеми правового регулювання поводження з відходами. У роботі проаналізовано Закон про управління відходами,

Ключові слова: відходи, охорона навколишнього середовища, поводження з відходами, правове регулювання, екологічні та соціальні наслідки.

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