

Our mission:

We support environmental action effectively and efficiently

Our advantages:

- ability to create a variety of financial instruments that meet the needs of beneficiaries,
- high competence of the NFEP&WM staff and years of experience in supporting projects financed both from foreign and domestic funds,
- active participation in solving environmental problems on legal, financial and organizational grounds,
- long-term planning of revenues and expenses, which ensures funds for beneficiaries for the full balance of projects;
- institutional capacity to implement projects funded by the EU, obtained as a result of the experience gained in the implementation of the financial perspective for 2000-2006 and perspective for 2007-2013, as well as projects funded by the "Norwegian Funds",
- openness to innovative solutions.

Extract of the SWOT analysis in the "NFEPWM Action Strategy for 2013-2016 in the perspective to 2020"

Fund friendly for the environment and beneficiaries

The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (hereinafter NFEPWM or National Fund) which was founded in 1989 in the transformation period in Poland, is the main link in the chain of Polish system of financing of environmental protection and water management with the largest financial potential. The financing system was extended in 1993 with voivodship funds for environmental protection and water management. The system of environmental funds, operating on the basis of the *Common Action Strategy of the National Fund and Voivodship Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management for the period 2013-2016 with a perspective to 2020*, is an important tool for the implementation of State Environmental Policy. This is to be achieved by stable revenue, experienced staff and tried and tested forms of cooperation with beneficiaries.

The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management runs independent finances pursuant to the Act: Environmental Protection Law. By putting the principle of "polluter pays" into practice, the National Fund collects funds mostly from: fees and fines for exploitation of the environment, mining fees and concession fees, payments resulting from Energy Law and the Act on recycling of end-of-life vehicles, revenue from sales of CO₂ units and other sources. The National Fund ensures the use of foreign funds for environmental protection from, *inter alia*, the Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the LIFE+ financial instrument, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the European Economic

Financing by forms:

- Investment and non-investment grants
- Interest-based loans
- Loans granted by banks from NFEPWM
- Payments for dismantling of end-of-life vehicles
- Payments for loan interest
- Extinction
- Capital investment
- Payments for interest or price of bond purchase
- Partial repayment of loan capital

Financing by sectors:

- Protection of water and water management
- Air and climate protection
- Land protection
- Nature and landscape protection
- Forestry
- State Environmental Monitoring
- Prevention of natural disasters
- Mining
- Geology
- Environmental education
- Expert report and research work
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Waste management, including recycling

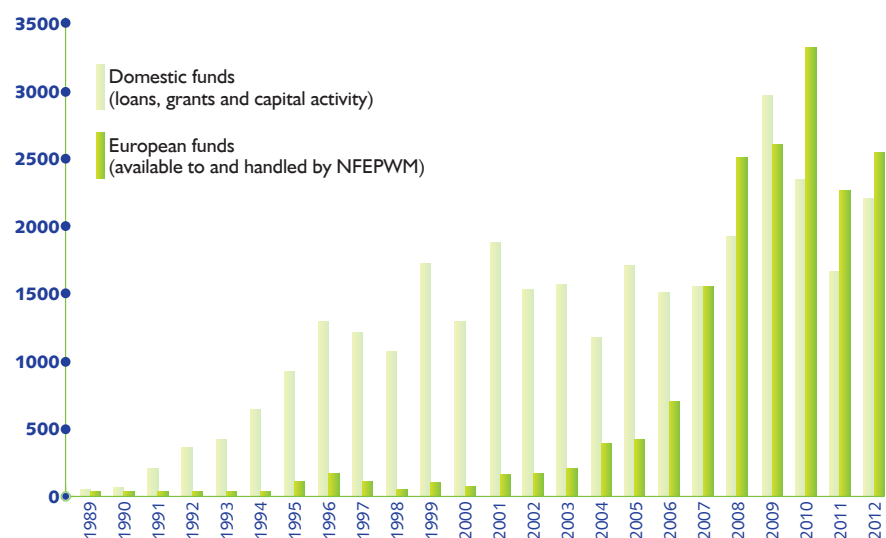
Area Financial Mechanism. Owing to the Green Investment Scheme (GIS) and funds obtained by Poland in international sales transactions of CO₂ emission allowances granted under the Kyoto Protocol, the National Fund co-finances investments from the field of climate protection and reduction of CO₂ emissions.

The National Fund offers assistance to beneficiaries in an efficient and timely implementation of projects having *inter alia* programmes for co-financing implementation of projects using national funds. The National Fund provides financial support mostly for projects which implement environmental obligations of Poland transpiring from the membership in the European Union. It also supports the Minister of Environment in meeting Polish obligations under *inter alia*: the Climate Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity, the NATURA 2000 programme.

Results of our activity

In the years 1989-2012 the National Fund co-funded environmental projects with the amount of approx. PLN 48 billion (including foreign grants available to the NFEPWM). Most funds were allocated for water protection and water management as well as for protection of air. These activities have contributed to a clear improvement of the environment in Poland.

Financing environmental protection and water management by NFEPWM in 1989-2012 (PLN million)

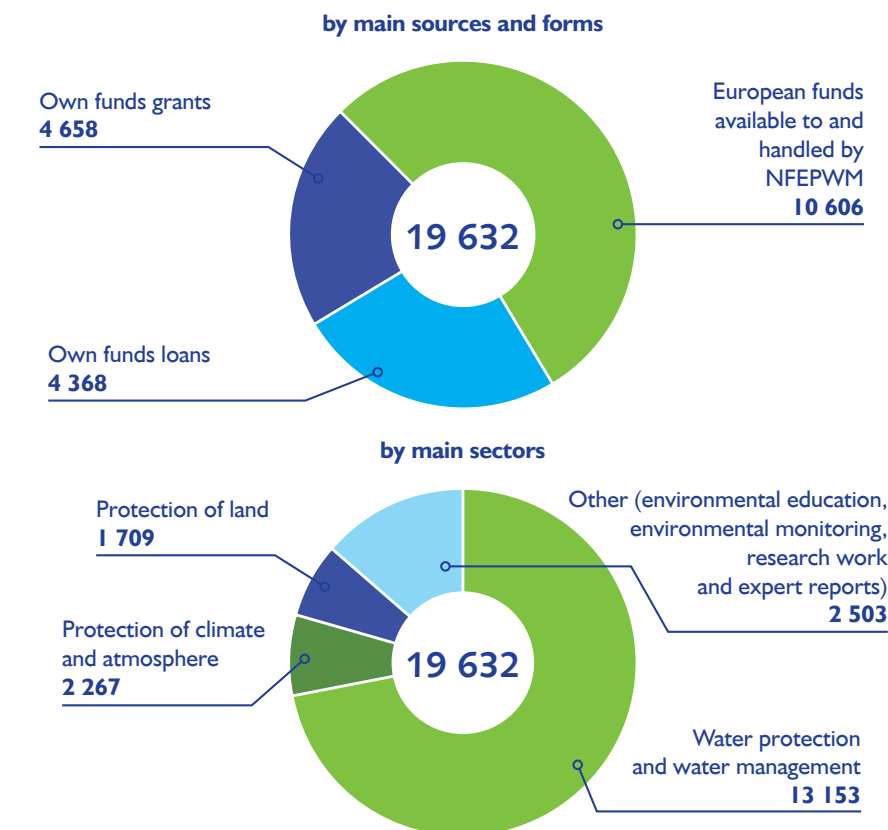


Selected environmental effects from contracts concluded in 2009-2012

Increase in the number of residents covered by wastewater collection system	↑	increase of 1 404 000. PE (population equivalents)
Population covered by anti-flood protection	↑	increase of 2 424 000. persons
Reduction of waste stream going to landfill	↓	decrease by 5.5 million tonnes
Rehabilitated land area	↑	increase of 24000 ha
Limited or avoided emission of CO ₂ , SO ₂ , NO and ashes	↓	decrease by 1 740k tonnes
Surface of areas where protection of the right state of ecosystems was restored or ensured	↑	increase of 443000 ha

In the years 2009-2012, the NFEPWM paid (from its own funds and those entrusted by the European Union) approx. PLN 19.6 billion for funding of environmental protection and water management in Poland.

Financing of environmental protection and water management by the NFEPWM in 2009-2012 (PLN million)



National Fund's strategy

"The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management – the leader of the system of financing for environmental protection and water management in Poland focused on the EFFECT" is a written record of the vision in the currently implemented NFEPWM Action Strategy for the years 2013-2016 with a perspective to 2020. This means that NFEPWM will aim to be an institution which is:

- E – environmental (respecting and promoting the principles of sustainable development)
- F – financing (providing effective financial support for environmental and water management action)
- E – "elastic"(flexible) (responding to recipients' needs)
- C – competent (competent and accurate in its mission as a public institution)
- T – transparent (implementing tasks in an ethical, transparent and visible manner).

The general objective of the NFEPWM Action Strategy "Improvement of the environment and sustainable management of its resources by means of stable, efficient and effective support for projects and initiatives for the environment" will be implemented under four priorities:

- Protection and sustainable management of water resources
- Rational waste management and protection of soil surface
- Protection of the air
- Protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services

As a part of the priorities above, horizontal activities are also implemented and these relate to environmental education, expert reports, innovation, low-emission and resource-efficient economy and monitoring of environment and counteracting risks, supporting environmental management systems, mainly Eco-management and Audit System (EMAS).

NFEPWM Action Strategy sets ambitious goals for the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management as a dynamic and creative institution, organisation capable of efficient and flexible operation, which achieves results in response to the needs of entrepreneurs and citizens, relative to constitutive principle of sustainable development.

Financial management by priority programmes

The basis of accepting and considering applications for co-financing in the National Fund are priority programmes which determine the principles of granting support and criteria of selecting projects to be financed. In the majority of programmes, the competition formula of evaluation of complex projects is used. Management of the NFEPWM's finance by priority programmes guarantees a transparent, objective and impartial process of granting co-funding.

Absorbing foreign funds

The National Fund is the largest Polish partner for international financial institutions concerning handling of foreign funds allocated for environmental protection in Poland. The experience in administering European Union funds resulted in entrusting the National Fund with the role of the Implementing Authority for five priorities, i.e. thematic areas of the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2007-2013 (OE I&E) which include the following: water and wastewater management, waste management and protection of land, resource management and counteracting environmental risks, adapting Polish business to environmental requirements, highly effective generation and efficient distribution of energy as well as thermal modernisation of public buildings. Under the OP I&E 442 agreements for co-financing were concluded by the end of May 2013 for the amount of over PLN 15 billion. The National Fund also provides co-financing for OP I&E projects concerning nature protection and environmental education.

Offer for households

The offer of the National Fund directed to individual households enjoys great popularity. In the RES (renewable energy sources) sector the programme of co-financing of loans for solar collectors brings very good results. Approx. 42 thousand households joined the programme. In 2011, NFEPWM as the only Polish institution, received a prestigious award – Best Practice Certificate EPSA 2011 for the programme of aid to solar panels. In 2011, the offer for households (through local government units) was extended to include grants and loans for home wastewater treatment plants and connecting buildings to collective sewerage systems. In cooperation with banks, the NFEPWM launched in 2013 a programme of co-financing loans for construction or purchase of energy-efficient buildings. Also in 2013 the “Prosumer” programme will be available – a co-financing facility for purchase and installation of renewable energy microinstallations.

National Fund: competence centre

In the management and financing system of environmental protection in Poland, the Fund is a “competence centre” in financing and implementing projects for environmental protection meeting the standards of EU directives. Experienced staff uses modern management techniques in ongoing Fund's activities. By taking part in consultations and legislation work and by co-financing research, analyses and expert reports, we initiate important social and economic processes in, *inter alia*, waste management, energy savings and optimal resource use. Wide consultations conducted by the National Fund e.g. as part of the Forum “Energy – Environment – Effect”, “Good Practices in Waste Management” Forum and the Forum “Ecology-Education-Eco-innovation” launched in 2012 give an impetus to initiate a new programme offer, and also provide a platform for the exchange of experiences and information on modern technologies used on the market. In a competition held by the Ministry of Regional Development in 2012, the National Fund was awarded a prize for “Good Practices in Strategic Management of Development in Poland”. Both in statutory activities (financing environmental protection and water management) and in supporting activities and work organisation, as a holder of the “Green Office”, the National Fund uses the CSR principles, with a particular focus on social dialogue and reducing the negative influence on the environment.

The Polish system of financing environmental protection, with good recommendations of many international institutions (OECD, World Bank, European Commission) has become a source of inspiration and example to build similar economic mechanisms in other countries.

We invite you to visit our website: www.nfosigw.gov.pl, as well as our office in Warsaw. Please feel free to contact us.



National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management
02-673 Warszawa, ul. Konstruktorska 3a
tel. (+48 22) 45 90 100, 370
e-mail: fundusz@nfosigw.gov.pl

Printed on environmentally friendly paper



National Fund
for Environmental Protection and Water Management

Renewable source of eco-development

Action strategy for 2013-2016

Warsaw 2013

