The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Plans to 'Adapt' to Climate Change

The government's plan of action signals its acknowledgement of climate change as a problem.

January 06, 2020



Economists have predicted that Russia stands to reap benefits from hotter temperatures, primarily through expanded navigation and exploration in the Arctic. **Tpsdave / Pixabay**

Russia's government has published a plan of action that outlines 29 broad measures to both mitigate damage and take advantage of opportunities created by climate change.

Climate change is warming Russia at a faster rate than the rest of the world, the country's environment ministry said last summer. Economists have predicted that Russia stands to reap benefits from hotter temperatures, primarily through expanded navigation and exploration in the Arctic.

Related article: Russia's Climate Policy Among World's Worst, Study Says

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's approval of a "first-stage" plan of action for 2020-2022 indicates the government's official recognition of climate change as a problem, according to AFP.

The plan published Saturday acknowledges that warmer temperatures pose risks to public health, endanger permafrost areas and increase the likelihood of natural disasters.

The wide-ranging document includes "preventive" (dam construction, drought-resistant crop use) and "post-crisis" (temporary resettlement, evacuations, vaccinations) climate adaptation plans.

Government agencies are instructed to devise sector-specific adaptation plans by Sept. 30, 2021, including plans for transport, energy and housing.

"At the same time, the ongoing changes in Russia's climate create new opportunities for the national economy," the plan of action states.

The outlined "positive" side effects stemming from climate change include reduced energy consumption, expanded agricultural areas and easier navigation in the Arctic.

A 2023-2025 plan of action is expected to replace the latest document by late 2022, according to its tentative schedule.

The plan's publication comes as 2019 was declared the hottest year on record in Russia and Moscow experienced its warmest December in more than a century. Russia formally adopted the 2015 Paris climate agreement in September.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/01/06/russia-plans-to-adapt-to-climate-change-a68814