

Russia's Krasnodar Region Declares High Alert as Landfills Reach Capacity

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Vladislav Lonshakov / Kommersant

Authorities in Russia's southern Krasnodar region have declared a high alert over nearly full landfills, years after a Kremlin-backed waste management overhaul was supposed to deliver new processing facilities.

Governor Veniamin Kondratyev introduced the measures on Oct. 22 in 10 districts, including the Black Sea resort city of Sochi and the port of Novorossiysk, the regional emergency task force [said](#). It cited the "exhaustion of capacity at waste management facilities."

The governor's decree warned of a potential regional emergency, with disruptions to garbage collection threatening to leave waste piling up in towns and villages. It also warned of illegal dumping and the spread of infectious diseases carried by rodents and insects, the local news outlet Gorod Krasnodar [reported](#).

The decree was published five days after Kondratyev signed it.

The regional task force said some landfills had begun operating as temporary waste storage sites, while others were undergoing reconstruction expected to take a “lengthy period of time.”

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Authorities said the high alert would remain in place until landfill reconstruction is completed, the necessary permits are secured and new municipal waste processing facilities are built. Ten such facilities are currently under construction, according to the task force.

Officials pledged that garbage would continue to be collected regularly along existing routes.

Kondratyev put his deputy, Yevgeny Pergun, in charge of addressing the threat. Pergun is also overseeing efforts to resolve the region’s fuel crisis and contain gasoline prices.

He was instructed to draw up a plan for building and upgrading waste treatment and disposal facilities and using existing sites. Kondratyev also urged regional waste operators to keep their landfills running until the threat of an emergency has passed.

The Krasnodar region, which consistently ranks among Russia’s 10 largest regional economies, was supposed to receive at least eight municipal waste processing complexes under the nationwide waste management reform launched by President Vladimir Putin in 2019.

Regional prosecutors had already flagged serious problems in 2024, Gorod Krasnodar reported. Nine of the region’s 15 municipal waste disposal facilities were full, while coastal districts were left without legally operating landfills, prosecutors said.

They also found that violations in the selection of construction sites made some planned facilities unusable.

None of the nine facilities envisaged under the reform, including eight waste processing complexes, had opened by 2026. Authorities have since pushed back construction deadlines to 2027–2028.

The region has [allocated](#) 36.8 billion rubles (\$456.3 million) to its waste management program through 2030, according to the Kommersant newspaper.

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