

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

At the *Latvian Railway Company* environment protection is of special priority, because it is an essential target of the company and an important managerial task.

The overriding principle of the company's environment protection policy, adopted by the decision of the *Latvian Railway Board* on 26 March, 1998, is systematised, purpose driven and future-focused approach to environment problems, as well as responsibility of all railway employees for their personal working and the surrounding environment.

To implement the objectives of the environment policy in 2001 *Latvian Railway* has carried out variety of activities, focusing the main attention on both the measures that have given economy of materials and resources, diminish or prevent pollution on the accident sites, ensure traffic and fire safety, and also such measures as auditing, monitoring and rehabilitation of *Latvian Railway's* territory pollution. The total amount of financial resources invested in implementing these measures was 749307 LVL, and they were used for the following:

- protection of atmosphere (change from heavy oil heating to gas heating or to heating with diesel fuel, eliminating of steam heating locomotives, replacement of old diesel engines with new ones, construction of gas heating boiler houses, introduction of electric boilers in boiler houses) – 322572 LVL;
- water protection and its rational use, preservation of hydrologic regime in railway sections (replacement of the old water-line pipes with new ones, clearing the wastewater treatment equipment from waste and its technical service, setting up drainage, cleaning and reconstruction of water drainage systems) – 169908 LVL;
- protection of soil and ground waters, auditing and monitoring of pollution in railway territories, as well as rehabilitation of the polluted territories – 19261 LVL;
- purchase of new garbage bins, centralised collection of blown-out quicksilver lamps and their further utilisation, as well as collecting the soil polluted with oil products and its transfer to further utilisation – 5623 LVL;
- ensuring fire and train traffic safety (ploughing the fire safety zones located by forests, clearing away the waste in the railway easement zone, working out the sanitary tending wood felling sites, cutting



out the old and dangerous trees, hewing out the bushes, cutting and collecting the grass in the railway easement territory) – 182932 LVL;

- regeneration of railway protecting green areas – 11702 LVL;
- economy of energy resources or reduction of the consumption (replacement of the old steam and heating pipelines, insulation of workshops and other production buildings as well as repair of roofing) – 31231 LVL;
- other environment protection measures – 6078 LVL.

Apart from the measures already mentioned, in 2001 a new training course on environment protection was prepared and 18 coordinators from *Latvian Railway* were trained in environment protection according to the new programme.

