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**THE PROBLEM OF TIRE RECYCLING IN THE REPUBLIC OF KARELIA**

**Introduction**

There is no doubt that nowadays we have an enormous problem with ecosystem in the republic of Karelia. We use a huge number of motor vehicles. What is more, widespread use in industry and everyday life of rubber-containing materials leads us to the following problem: a great deal of polymer waste and, in particular, worn tires. I will not deny that most of people have not ever thought that there is no reasonable way to solve this problem.

First of all, we are not able to burn that wastes as it would cause more pollution but at the same time, our world is small and we cannot just store wore tires for such a long time. Also, we should think about future generations. In my opinion, we are doing a lot of actions which have bad impacts on our future lives and that actually make the situation even more disappointing and hopeless.

**Theoretical part**

Tire recycling, also known as rubber recycling, refers to the process of recycling used vehicle tires that can no longer be used on the vehicles. Used tires are the most problematic and challenging sources of solid waste. They also become the home ground for mosquitoes which are responsible for carrying many diseases.

**Process of Tire Recycling**

**Collection of Used or Worn Out Tires**

In every recycling process, collection is usually the first step. Here, tires are collected by individuals and some business individuals who have decided to take part in the tire recycling business. People are paid for collecting tires and sending them to collection points. Once the tires reach the required number, they are packed in huge tracks and sent to the recycling companies. Although it is considered a profitable action, some people prefer reusing these used tires for other purposes at home. A good example is using the tires in jungle gyms for strength and speed agility.

**Whole Tire Processing**

At the processing plant, processing basically starts with cutting the tires into tiny pieces. This is an important step that aims to reduce the volume of the tires and create a material that can be handled easily. The tire shredders (the machines specially designed to shred tires) basically cut tires using two counter rotating shafts. The end product of this stage can be used as a raw material for the fuel.

Although most worn out tires are burnt for fuel, some of the tires still have other significant uses. For example:

* **Construction Materials** (An entire home can be built using whole tires by simply ramming them together filed with earth and later covering them with something solid)
* **Clothing** (The process of recycling rubber through cutting gives large pieces which can be used for making sandals)
* **Carbon Source** (Instead of using coal in steel mills, rubber can be used as a source of fuel. It would be better for steel mills to use burning of rubber as fuel instead of coal, since soon we could be run out of it)

Besides that, there are some ways which could be used by ordinary people:

* Flower vases
* Decorations
* Things for animals

**Conclusion**

Yet no matter how many ways people find to make use of tires, old tire dumps still spring up around the world. As you have understood, a tire recycling problem is just a one of the million. There is a huge number of different pollution which could be more destructive. For example, “the greenhouse effect” is caused by air pollution, therefore, we have an issue with temperatures and it leads us to the global warming which has put us into a trouble.

Despite all of the above, the main idea is not to just tell you how many issues we currently have. What I am trying to say is that, in my point of view, we are not able to solve any of these problems, as nowadays, most of the people are oblivious. They just do not pay attention; they keep denying that such issues are significant.

Moreover, society refuses to take into attention the fact that mostly nature is suffering from our actions. A simple example is deforestation: in Karelia there are a lot of forests, where we cut down trees, understanding that in the nearest future it will lead us to the lack of oxygen.

All in all, I would like to say that tire recycling problem was another example of the things which are destroying our environment. As far as we concern, there are a considerable number of ways to cope with these destructions; but in my opinion, we will not solve any of them unless people change their attitudes to the current condition of our ecosystem.