

Saint Petersburg companies sign “The Green Code”

Saint Petersburg, March 23, 2017 – City’s plants and factories signed “The Green Code,” environmental safety commitments, at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg.

The St. Petersburg International Business Association (SPIBA) presented a “Green Code” concept today at a meeting of the Legislative Assembly’s Commission for Ecology and Natural Resource Management. The idea to have such a code was put forward by a relevant committee of SPIBA. JTI, the owner of the Petro factory based in St. Petersburg, contributed to formulating the code. Two leading Russian companies in their sectors – Baltika Breweries, part of the Carlsberg Group, and the Petro factory – were the first to join the initiative.

About 700 large and medium-sized enterprises operate in St. Petersburg today. Some of them rank among Russia’s leading companies. “Being aware of its social responsibility, the business eagerly addresses environmental protection issues. We hope that many St. Petersburg’s plants and factories will join the ‘Green Code’ initiative,” said SPIBA Executive Director Karina Khabacheva.

The code’s core principles are to comply with environmental laws, be willing to adopt the best available technologies, ensure sustainable use of resources and minimize environmental impact. Initiative participants make a commitment to follow a good neighbor policy and undertake green volunteer initiatives.

“It is particularly important that St. Petersburg enterprises sign the code on their own initiative to demonstrate that they are willing to make their production processes environmentally friendly and care for the environment. I am certain that with more and more companies joining the initiative, the quality of living in St. Petersburg will increase,” Maria Shcherbakova, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly’s Commission for Ecology and Natural Resource Management, said at the signing ceremony.

The companies agree that the initiative will contribute to a better city ecology. “We have long been committed to observing environmental safety rules and we go beyond legislative requirements in our efforts. For example, we have invested over 2 million US dollars in an industrial odor control system at Petro, while there are no applicable regulations in this area. ‘The Green Code’ is an exceptionally timely and useful initiative which will help promote such an approach among as many enterprises as possible,” said Julia Andreeva, JTI’s EHS Director in the CIS region.

Minimizing environmental impact is part of Baltika’s sustainable development strategy. For example, the company has launched the Make the Difference for Your City initiative aimed at promoting separate waste collection in Russia. It currently covers 12 cities, including St. Petersburg where over 100 separate waste collection containers have been installed. At the signing ceremony, Aleksey Kedrin, Vice President for Corporate Affairs in Eastern Europe at Baltika Breweries, part of the Carlsberg Group, said: “‘The Green Code’ provisions are in tune with our internal corporate environmental policy. By signing the code, we want to reaffirm our commitment to reduce the environmental impact and our intention to carry on our work in this field. Furthermore, we see advantages in building a community of socially responsible companies around this document to share practices and promote principles of sustainable development.”