



**ECOSOUM**

## **ACTIVITY REPORT**



**2020**

# INTRODUCTION

Ecosoum is a Mongolian association for transition and local resilience based on ecological and solidarity values. Founded in Khishig-Undur, Mongolia, the organization aims to empower its inhabitants so they can make their soum a model of autonomous and sustainable community that can inspire the whole country.

This report summarizes the main activities conducted by Ecosoum to pursue this objective over the course of the year 2020.

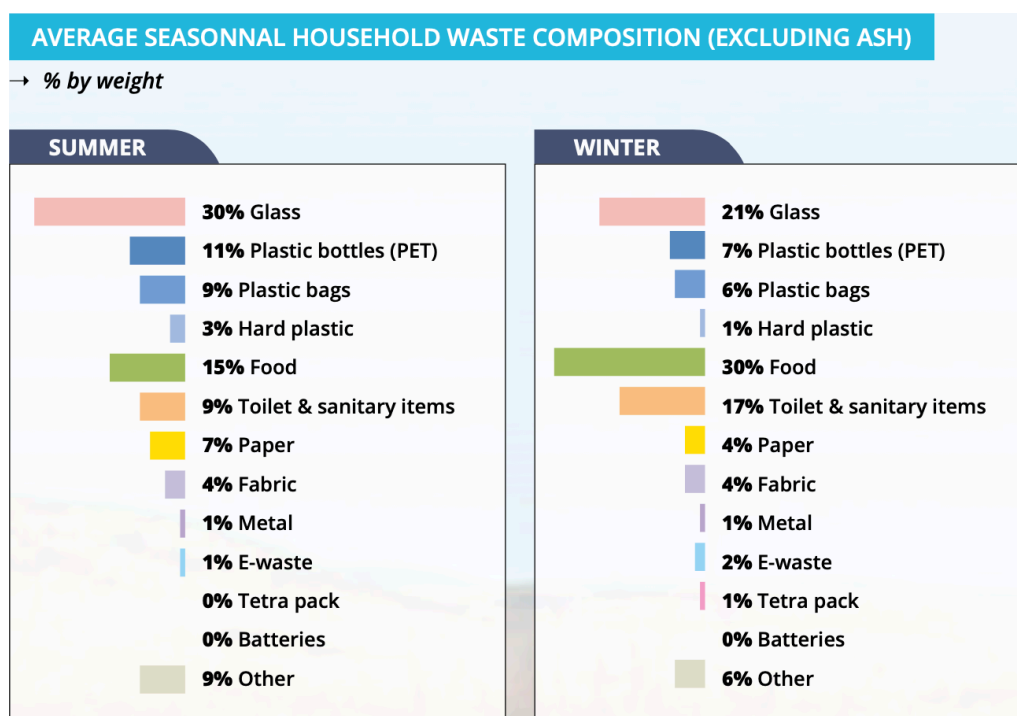
Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, many activities had to be cancelled or postponed. In the end, only our waste management project could show some progress, while other projects were put on hold until 2021.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

**ECOSOUM'S OBJECTIVE IS TO SET UP AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, BY PROMOTING WASTE SORTING AND RECYCLING, AIMING AT ZERO ULTIMATE WASTE ON THE SCALE OF THE SOUM.**

### WASTE MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Following a first household waste composition study carried out in summer 2019, we undertook a second one in winter to analyze seasonal variations and confirm our initial results. We also produced a complementary transportation analysis to determine whether or not transporting recyclable waste from Khishig-Undur to urban recyclers in Ulaanbaatar could be a viable solution.



Over the last quarter of 2020, a broader study was carried out to regroup all necessary information and data related to the waste issue in Khishig-Undur in a single document. This study includes waste analysis not only for villagers, but also for nomadic herder households, public institutions and private shops. At the end of December 2020, some data was still missing and the report will be finalized in January 2021. The document will include recommendations to finally set up a proper waste management system in the soum.

Similar study was also started at aimag (province) level and shall be finalized in 2021.

All reports produced by Ecosoum since 2018 are available on the association's website ([www.ecosoum.org](http://www.ecosoum.org)).

## **ACQUISITION OF RECYCLING MACHINES**

In 2019, we manufactured two small plastic recycling machines: one shredder and one melting/molding device. But these machines are mainly awareness-raising tools as they are not productive enough to manage waste at soum level. We therefore also purchased in 2020 two industrial shredding machines so we can start shredding plastic at a larger scale when local inhabitants start sorting properly. Complementary machines to melt and recycle plastic into new items will be purchased and/or manufactured in 2021.



## **MANUFACTURE OF HOUSEHOLD SORTING BINS**

In order for people to be able to properly sort their waste at home, we recommended to provide them with adequate equipment. Local administration thus ordered us a first set of 30 household waste sorting bins. These bins were manufactured by our team at the end of the year and will be



distributed early 2021 to the most motivated households. More raw material will be purchased so more bins can be manufactured as soon as possible.



## **AWARENESS-RAISING ABOUT WASTE**

Covid-19 restrictions forbade us to organize large meetings and continue our awareness-raising activities in Khishig-Undur. But we talked about waste sorting and shared advice and recommendations during an online training organized by our partners Caritas Czech Republic and Mongolian Sustainable Development Bridge. Additional online trainings will be organized in 2021.

We also started designing informative leaflets and posters as well as complementary videos about waste sorting, which will be finalized and released early 2021.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR DUMPSITE REDUCTION

As Khishig-Undur's dumpsite is extremely wide, we recommended to reduce its size by regrouping and piling all waste on a much smaller area. Aimag authorities provided funding to the soum for such an operation and we supported the local administration in designing the public call and set the terms of reference. We also went on the field to oversee the actual work but it stopped due to Covid-19 restrictions. Reduction work will resume in 2021.

