Green District Conference

The Green District conference, the fifth in The Warsaw Voice's Innovative Poland series, was held March 4, focusing on new environmental protection responsibilities imposed on Polish districts under EU directives and the new law on cleanliness and order in districts.

■ The first part of the conference dealt with sustainable construction. Prof. Krzysztof Żmijewski, an expert on strategic management and infrastructure, told local government officials that low-energy and passive buildings were a good way to curb carbon dioxide emissions. Poland has adopted an EU directive under which after 2018, all public administration buildings will have to have "almost zero" energy consumption.

The most heated topic of debate at the conference was the new law on cleanliness and order in districts. Under this law, district authorities are responsible for waste management, segregation and recycling. Problems resulting from the regulations stirred a lively debate during a panel discussion with officials from the largest waste management companies in Poland. Michał Dąbrowski, the chairman of the board at Remondis Sanitech Poznań, said that each district in Poland should be approached individually. "Each district is different," Dąbrowski said. "Each has a different population and is in a different situation and so it is the job of companies like ours, with the appropriate experience and know-how, to team up with the authorities of every district



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and work out individual systems to manage, segregate and recycle

The conference closed with a session on finances aiming to

advise districts on how they can obtain funds for green projects.

Małgorzata Skucha, head of the National Fund for Environmental

Protection and Water Management, presented a wide range of pro-

grams designed to support environmentally friendly projects under-

taken by districts. Apart from using subsidies from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Polish

districts have been seeking funds for new projects by issuing

municipal bonds. Some have also started public-private partner-

ships projects. Władysław Dariusz Łokietek, mayor of the town of

Karczew, told the conference about a contract between Karczew

and the Siemens company for the thermal modernization of 10

buildings, including schools, preschools and a health center. This is

the first contract of its kind in Mazovia province. Public-private

partnerships as a funding option are gaining supporters, but local

government officials at the conference emphasized that such pro-

The Green District conference was attended by 250 local gov-

ernment officials from large cities and small rural districts alike. I

would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their

presence and contribution to the debate. If you are interested in sus-

tainable development and new green technology in commercial real

estate projects, we strongly encourage you to take part in our next

Innovative Poland conference May 16, entitled Sustainable Office

waste and reduce the amount of it."

jects require quality legal assistance.

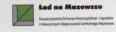


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