



BETTERCOAL RUSSIA WORKING GROUP

Work Plan 2021

Introduction

Bettercoal is working towards a global responsible coal supply chain. We were established by a group of major coal buyers to promote the continuous improvement of sustainability performance in their coal supply chain. We do this by independently assessing the performance of coal mining operations against the ten principles of the Bettercoal Code through the Supplier Assessment Process. The independent assessments results in a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) on any possible findings. Bettercoal and Bettercoal Members expect the suppliers to improve their performance through addressing the findings going forward.

Bettercoal Members purchase coal from across the globe and therefore connect with mine operators in many different countries. While the long-term goal of Bettercoal is to engage with all its Members' coal suppliers and more, the organization developed a Country Prioritisation Strategy and established the country working groups in 2018. The objectives were to facilitate a more coordinated approach to the monitoring of Continuous Improvement Plans for Suppliers as well as build knowledge and measure impact. The first two groups to be set up were Colombia and Russia.

Russia is the third largest exporter of coal in the world. Since 2016, Bettercoal's presence in Russia has grown significantly with most of the country's largest coal suppliers going through the Bettercoal Assessment Process. The Russia Working Group is formed of Bettercoal Members Enel, ESB, Fortum, RWE, Uniper and Vattenfall.

The Russia Working Group has detailed its purpose in the [Terms of Reference](#), including addressing the following: develop a coordinated approach to the monitoring of Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs), grow country and context expertise, communication and other related activities.



Progress in 2020

The Bettercoal RWG had ambitious plans for 2020 including more sustained interaction with our key stakeholder counterparts in-country and getting more involved in specific activities in Russia. The Covid-19 pandemic meant we were unable to go to Russia and had to take all of our activities into the virtual realm. This initially proved challenging, but we still made significant progress against our 2020 objectives. This progress is presented in the [Bettercoal Russia Working Group Progress Report 2020](#) and is summarised below:

- Publish the “Environmental and Social Issues and the Coal Industry in Kuzbass” Executive Summary Report.
- Publish all public reports for Russia Suppliers.
- Grow the number of Bettercoal Russia Suppliers.
- Continue CIP monitoring of Bettercoal Suppliers in Russia.
- Enhance engagement through topical webinars to develop relationships with relevant stakeholders and contextual understanding for the working group. The webinars in 2020 were:
 - Webinar 1: Best Practice on Health and Safety.
 - Webinar 2: Environmental Monitoring and Methane Utilisation and Abatement in Coal Mining in Russia.

Key Objectives for 2021

The Russia Working Group met on 14th January 2021 to reflect on the progress made in 2020 and discuss new priorities for 2021. The Work Plan discussed in that meeting and finalised in a follow-up meeting on 11th March 2021 is as follows broken down by objective (numbered list) and deliverable (arrow list):

1. Engage in Member and Supplier knowledge and expertise sharing around the challenges and best practice ESG work in coal mining in Russia with:
 - ⇒ ***Delivery of at least two webinars with Bettercoal Members and Suppliers on topics such as: biodiversity; local community engagement; and mine closure (Secretariat, RWG, Members, Suppliers, Lead Assessors).***
2. Drive more engagement and Supplier CIP progress via:
 - ⇒ ***Fixing CIP update calendar for each Russian Supplier at the start of the year (Secretariat, Suppliers, Lead Assessors).***
 - ⇒ ***Receiving two concrete CIP evidence updates from Russian suppliers in 2021 (Secretariat, Suppliers, Lead Assessors).***
 - ⇒ ***Lead Assessor CIP update call to interested Members (Members/RWG, Secretariat, Lead Assessors¹).***
 - ⇒ ***Member follow-up with Suppliers to drive further CIP engagement and progress (Members/RWG).***
3. Further support Russian Suppliers to understand, interpret and implement the provisions of the Bettercoal Code 2.0 via:
 - ⇒ ***Translation and disclosure of Bettercoal Code 2.0 Guidance in Russian (Secretariat).***
4. In-country engagement, capacity-building and awareness-raising around Russia ESG issues and Bettercoal via:
 - ⇒ ***RWG or selection of RWG attending/shadowing parts of a Russian Site-Assessment² (RWG, Supplier/s, Secretariat).***
 - ⇒ ***Relevant channels to engage with Russian stakeholders/audience virtually (RWG, Secretariat).***

¹ Bettercoal Supplier also invited to listen in if interested.

² Subject to travel/site restrictions easing and the approval of a Russian Supplier to host this.