

GOSPLAN 2.0 · OPEN PLANNING

What is digitised, and what is not

A register of the state of territorial planning data: what is machine-readable, what is published for human eyes only, and what does not exist — with legal basis and verification status.

Print version of a site section

Source: <https://gosplan2.ru/en/data-gaps>

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A register of the state of the data Digital transformation is usually discussed in the future tense. This section uses the present: here is the list of data without which territorial planning cannot be calculated, and here is the state each of them is in today. Not an opinion — a list with grounds.

Why this deserves its own section

The gap between "the data is disclosed" and "the data is usable" stays invisible until it is written out. A duty to disclose is discharged by publishing a table on a website — formally, everything is in order. But no one, human or machine, can assemble a national picture from forty such tables. That gap is where everything we propose lives: until an indicator can be calculated, it cannot be regulated.

Key

Free capacity at substations

Disclosure is mandatory. In practice it is tables and pictures on the sites of dozens of companies, each in its own shape. Nobody can assemble a national picture from them today — the state included. On our map this field is empty, and stays empty until a source appears.

Location of substations of 35 kV and above

No single open register exists. Our 29,861 objects come from OpenStreetMap — volunteered data: completeness is not guaranteed and can only be spot-checked. A further 86,490 substations were found without a stated voltage and so are not counted among the 35 kV+.

Gas distribution infrastructure

The same: there is no open layer with object coordinates. The 22,046 objects on our map come from OpenStreetMap, with the same caveats about completeness.

Gasification of settlements

Aggregate figures by region are published. Settlement by settlement, in machine-readable form — they are not. That is why our map says "gas nearby" rather than "gasified": these are different claims, and we will not substitute one for the other.

The green framework of a territory

Neither a register nor a mandatory counting method. The standard in force regulates the procedure — how to write improvement rules — not the result. There is nothing to count, not because data is missing but because what to count has never been defined.

Municipal improvement rules

We got this wrong in the first edition and correct it here: a single federal register of municipal acts does exist, access is free and round-the-clock, and the official legal portal has an open data section and a read-only JSON API. But it is the carrier that is machine-readable, not the content: greenery requirements are written in prose, and comparing them across municipalities still means reading every document. Nothing can be calculated from them.

Settlement boundaries

The national spatial data system does collect the information, including municipal and settlement boundaries, and serves it in vector formats through an interface. Full access requires signing in through the state authentication system. For an open country-wide calculation that is not enough: an outsider cannot re-check the result without creating an account.

Urban planning information systems

The information is formally open, but is issued on written application in which the applicant states the section, the form and the medium. No bulk machine export is provided, and content and access terms differ from region to region. There are many systems and no comparable national picture.

The federal open data portal

The portal was closed in 2023 for migration and reopened on 15 July 2025. Per an open-data specialist's review: 5,826 datasets from 739 bodies, about 100 MB compressed; 80.5% of the datasets hold fewer than a hundred rows, and only 1% hold ten thousand or more. For comparison, our single infrastructure map weighs 64 MB. The point is not that we are large — it is that the portal is small.

Housing and utilities data

The system does have an open data section — that we confirmed. What we did not check: the composition of the datasets, their depth, and whether they support a calculation over the housing stock of a single block. The line stays here precisely because without it the cost of maintaining the built fabric cannot be computed, and that is half of any conversation about money.

Budget spending on public realm improvement

Federal expenditure from 2016 onwards is available for download and analysis. But the cut we need is a different one — how much a given municipality spends on improving a given territory — and we did not confirm that it exists in machine-readable form. Without it neither the cost of inaction nor the payback of a standard can be calculated.

How the register is kept

A record marked as verified means we confirmed the claim in the month shown. A record without the mark is preliminary — based on general understanding and awaiting a check. We show that difference rather than hiding it: a register that lies about its own completeness is worth nothing.

If you know better

Every line here is an invitation to object. If the state of affairs in your field is different, or a source exists and we do not know of it — write. A substantive objection is more useful than agreement.

This file is built automatically from the section text and repeats it verbatim. Interactive elements, maps and photographs are not included. The current edition is always at the address above.