

Decentralized Waste Management System for Apartment Complexes- A Public Private initiative in Cochin

Cochin Municipal Corporation (CoC), Kerala Builders Forum now called Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) are the main players. To manage the solid waste the following approach was adopted in high rise apartments to implement an eco-friendly solid waste management system:

- A suitable technology was identified and approved by Clean Kerala Mission, Government of Kerala and the implementation of this decentralized system of waste management in few apartment complexes on a trial basis was started in 2007.
- Planning and formulation of strategy and a dedicated team for implementation of the decentralized system for the high rise apartments.
- Setting up of source segregated door to door collection system of waste in each of the apartment complexes.
- Establishment of the Bio-Bin system to process the bio-degradable waste to produce and utilize the compost on site within the apartment complex.
- Establishment of a recycling and plastic shredding unit by Corporation of Cochin and managed by CREDAI
- Collection of dry/ recyclable material is sold to generate revenue for the CREDAI workers
- Regular skill development and awareness programs through the print and mass media for the workers and citizens

Outcome:

- Currently 350 apartment complexes in Kochi are covered under this initiative
- Decentralized system in apartment complexes led to employment opportunities for economically weaker section especially women for operationalizing and monitoring of the unit
- Effective monitoring and timely complaint redressal at the time of any failure of the unit

Overall Sustainability:

Onsite operation and maintenance of the composting system as well as other expenditures are being met by the collection of user charges at the rate of Rs. 100-150/- as well as sale from the recyclables. In order to further strengthen and ensure sustainability of the system, Local Self Government Department (Govt. of Kerala) issued an order in 2012 for making it mandatory for the apartments through the building associations/ firms to manage the waste within the apartment complexes through different technologies for composting and sale of recyclable material.

For more details contact:

Shri Patil Ajit Bhagwatrao, IAS, Corporation Secretary, Cochin Municipal Corporation, Mob: 9446483404, e-mail: kochicorpsecretary@gmail.com