

A Journey Towards a Successful Waste Management System Leading to a Landfill-less City, Panaji

Corporation of Panaji (CoP), Schools and College Staff & Students, RWAs, local leaders/celebrities are the main players. The 'Bin Free in 2003' campaign was part of an initiative called "Together for Panjim" which was launched to improve sanitary conditions in the city. Under this initiative the following strategies were adopted for bringing about significant improvements in the solid waste management system.

Technical Strategy:

- Community bins were substituted by trolley bins as an intermediate stage of transfer.
- Modifications were made in the hydraulic arm of the garbage trucks to enable transfer of waste from the trolley bin into the truck without manual intervention.
- Segregation at source was initially introduced as wet and dry segregation, into in 2 bins.
- Household bins with screw on lids were designed. Currently, segregation at source is undertaken in 8 clear streams of waste with designated colour coding.
- Material Recycling Stations were established within colonies for further segregation of dry waste.
- Decentralized Composting units were constructed.
- Tie-ups with various recycling units for selling bulk segregated waste.
- Extended Producer Responsibility(EPR) initiatives
- Co-processing plastics and other dry fraction rejects in the cement industry
- Hazardous waste like batteries and tube lights were segregated and once sufficient quantities obtained, are transported to the Hazardous waste - Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) site in Karnataka.
- E-waste and thermocol are collected separately.

Institutional Strategy:

- A Solid Waste Management Cell was formed in the CoP.
- The field services are headed by a Sanitary Inspector who is in-charge of 15 supervisors.
- Intensive monitoring by the Corporation staff.
- Centralized complaint redressal system established with a 24 hour helpline number.
- Adequate health and safety measures provided to the sanitary workers.

Public Communication Strategy:

- Green and black bins were initially provided to the residents at subsidized rates.

- The Municipal Commissioner and the Waste Management Officer organized community meetings.
- As part of the campaign, cultural programs were held with a theme and message.
- Involvement of schools and colleges in the campaigns.
- Waste management was introduced to children from primary school onwards.

Outcome:

- 100% collection of segregated waste from the households as well as further sorting at the recycling stations in 8 streams of waste.
- Active involvement of ragpickers, women volunteers/ SHGs.
- Improved recycling efficiency through market creation and tie-ups.
- Minimized waste to landfill through effective management.

Overall Sustainability:

The expenditure on the solid waste program has been managed entirely from the corporations own sources. Collection of user charges and the various recycling initiatives have resulted in the financial sustainability of the project. The cash incentive scheme for the workers has ensured the program is running on the ground. Surplus fund is deposited with the Corporation for later utilization/ innovation.

For more details contact:

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