

Waste Sensitive Programme

Nothing is Waste. Zero Waste Solutions

Lead Organisation: Saahas-Zero Waste Initiative
(www.saahas.org)

Geographic Spread: Bangalore, India



Key Message:

- Waste segregation at source needs to be advocated for perpetually.
- Frequent awareness campaigns and interactions are necessary to keep sustained interest of the locals.

Need

Bangalore generates 3,000 tonnes of waste everyday from households and commercial establishments. Around 70% of this waste is organic. The balance is accounted for by inorganic and hazardous waste.

The collection and disposal systems in the city can best be described as dismal.

The issues involved are:

- Poor implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Management and Handling Rules 2000
- Local composting of organic waste is restricted to a handful of private initiatives
- Practically no attempts are being made to introduce waste segregation at source
- Since there is no waste segregation taking place at source, retrieval of recyclable material is very difficult
- Burning of waste takes place routinely all over the city even in crowded residential areas only to cause further pollution
- There is practically no recycling possibility for low quality plastic products including cups, thin carry bags, packaging material and mineral water bottles
- Existing recycling units are very polluting and are in urgent need of up-gradation

Response

The Waste Sensitive Programme run by Saahas, works with all waste generators namely apartments, households, schools and communities to manage the wet, dry and e-waste fractions of waste.

Saahas programmes focus on conversion of waste to resources. They believe nothing is waste. They work with communities, schools and the public at large to change mindsets and elicit commitments to managing waste at source. They also work towards building capacities and competencies of various stakeholders in the waste sector to facilitate scaling up of waste management processes across the city.

The programme encourages individuals and communities to be responsible in their generation and disposal of waste. On the other hand, they have set up a series of collection receptacles for waste streams like Tetra Pak and e-Waste.

Drivers of the initiative

Local Economy: Formalises the waste sector, thus giving regular source of livelihood to waste pickers and standardized service to waste generators.

Value to the Customer: The customers get access to professional waste services.

Equity: Waste picking gets recognised and organised, thus allowing waste pickers to develop an identity.

Objectives

- To provide professional, scientific, waste management services to apartments, corporates, communities, industries and schools.
- To enable waste generators to comply with the prevailing Municipal Solid Waste Management and Handling Rules.
- To help corporates fulfill their Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) by engaging with their collection and return processes.
- To work with the informal sector to improve livelihoods.
- To offer a range of premium-recycled products.
- To encourage and help one and all to adopt sustainability as a way of life.

Stakeholders involved

Waste Generators:

- Segregate waste according to the guidelines
- Pay their fees and behave respectfully
- Ensure wet waste and toxic waste items, are adequately wrapped

Waste Collectors:

- Provide timely and professional services
- Follow all the prescribed rules and regulations

Innovative Features

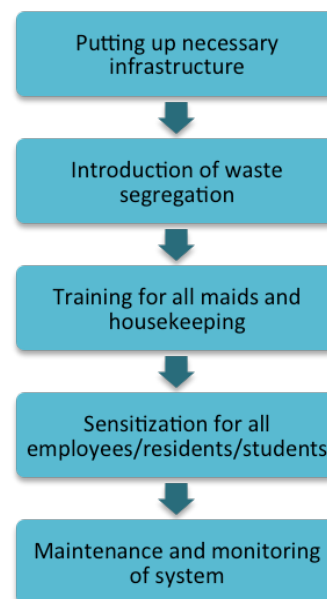
Saahas believes very strongly that all waste can be converted into resources. Today Saahas, manages at source (through its composting, collection and segregation systems) more than 6 tonnes of waste per day. Awareness, collection and facilitating safe recycling of e-Waste is one of the core programmes of Saahas and its subsidiary Saahas Zero Waste Solutions LLP.

Overcoming Barriers

- **Cost of programme:** Dealt with by including bulk waste generators, so as to increase returns from waste
- **General lethargy to change:** Awareness campaigns are held to keep local interest going.

The Process

The programme begins with a waste audit after which the following steps are executed:



Environmental Benefits

- Constantly working to reduce the amount of rejects
- Ensuring low value waste is retrieved for recycling, reducing burden on landfills

Social Benefits

- Stable household incomes for waste pickers' families

Economic Benefits

- Livelihood
- Proper work environment (providing PPEs)
- ESI and PF benefits

Governance Related Benefits

- Regular monitoring and sensitization for residents and housekeeping
- Ensuring that systems do not fall apart through regular engagement