

Declaration

Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation (TMC) has been following decentralized solid waste management and encourages on site management of bio degradable discards since 2013. The TMC do not have access to any centralized solid waste management system, landfill or waste dumping yard.

The TMC generates about 350 tonnes of waste per day and of which about 49% is from households, 11% from commercial centres, 10% from hotels and restaurants and rest is from other segments. About 83% of total waste generated in the TMC is compostable, 11% inerts, 7% paper 5% plastics and the rest belongs to glass, leather, metals etc.

The TMC made it mandatory for all bulk waste generators to take responsibility for the waste generated by them and it was made a criterion for licensing. Hotels, Restaurants, commercial establishments, community halls, institutions etc are covered under this. Residential flats and gated communities are also considered as bulk waste generators, but the TMC extended 50% subsidy for setting up organic waste management on site. TMC is not collecting waste from the bulk waste generators except low value non bio degradables through collection drives.

Households were encouraged to do composting or biomethanation at home through providing financial subsidies varying from 90% to 50%. This programme was supplemented with urban kitchen gardening to motivate people to join composting at home. The TMC is operating dry waste collection centres from 5 am to 9 pm where citizens can drop segregated non bio degradable discards based on a pre defined schedule.

The TMC have distributed free Bio Composters to households who are willing to pay monthly subscription to authorized service providers for monthly maintenance and dry waste collection.

Currently TMC provides 5 options to the citizens for solid waste management

1. Utilize service of authorized service providers, who will provide technical support for composting and will collect dry waste from house holds
2. Maintain own composting or biogas facility and avail paid door to door collection facility for non bio degradable discards
3. Maintain own composting or biogas facility and drop segregated non bio degradable discards at dry waste collection centres for free of cost
4. Drop segregated organic waste at community compost or biogas unit and drop segregated non bio degradable discards at dry waste collection centres for free of cost
5. Avail paid service of service providers for door to door segregated collection of organic and bio degradable discards.

TMC is supplying matured compost from its community compost units for farmers at free of cost as a promotion. The TMC have entered into contract with scrap dealers for clearing segregated non bio degradable discards from collection centres from time to time.

TMC also organizes periodical clean up drive, where citizens were asked to bring a specific type of non bio degradable discards at pre defined collection points in the city. The materials will be sent to the authorized recyclers.

TMC staff collect waste from public places and streets, which is segregated and sent to community compost units and dry waste collection centres on a daily basis.

TMC hand over all electronic, household hazardous waste to Clean Kerala Company – the authorized service provider for the State.

TMC run a resource recovery centre which is operated by Clean Kerala company – a state owned enterprise who process low value plastics for road construction and recycling.

Meat waste and fish waste from markets and shops along with food waste from commercial establishments are being collected and sent to piggeries as feed by authorized service providers.

The slow decaying bio degradable discards such as coconut husk, coconut shell etc are collected and sent to the crematorium operated by the TMC. The timber, and other such things collected are aggregated and supplied free of cost to people for fuel wood.

TMC have successfully implemented green protocol which eliminated about 80% of disposable plastic products. There is a ban on plastic carry bags and non woven poly propylene bags in TMC. The major festivals, fairs in the city are being organized as plastic free. TMC have provided support to enterprises to produce alternate products to replace plastics. Periodical raids are being organized in commercial establishments for seizing plastic carry bags and other disposable plastic products. Night patrol is active in the city to prevent waste dumping. A whatsapp number have been opened for public to report open burning, waste dumping or complain about sanitation issues in their region. The complaints are redressed with immediate priority.

Green Army, the extended campaign team of TMC formed with school students and youth volunteers do door to door awareness campaigns and training programmes. They also help the TMC in implementing green protocol in major events, festivals and fairs in the city.

Thus the city manages its waste without a landfill or dump yard.