



## **E-WASTE AWARENESS WORKSHOP- RESPONSIBILITY OF BULK CONSUMERS**

**Banks**

13<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**CONFERENCE HALL, PARIBESH BHAWAN, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA**

**Organised By**

**West Bengal Pollution Control Board**

**&**

**Toxics Link**



**WORKSHOP SERIES  
ON  
E-WASTE MANAGEMENT & HANDLING RULES, 2011**

**INTRODUCTION**

The first workshop of the series for bulk generators on E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011 was organized by West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) & Toxics Link on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at the Conference Hall of Paribesh Bhawan. These workshops are being organized under European Commission sponsored project on Establishing E-Waste Channels to Enhance Environment Friendly Recycling (WEEE Recycle). The workshop was organized for all banks and financial institutions and saw a good turnout from the representative sector. The objectives of organizing the workshop are detailed below.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The objectives of this workshop were:

- To inform the participants about the new E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011 and the responsibilities of bulk generators.
- To inform about WEEE Recycle project & its deliverables
- To discuss on the best strategies for establishing clean and regulated e-waste recycling channels.

## **PROGRAMME PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Inaugural Session**

#### **Welcome Address: Sri Sandipan Mukherjee, Member Secretary, WBPCB**

Sri Sandipan Mukherjee, Member Secretary, WBPCB delivered the welcome address. Welcoming the participants, he shared the objectives of conducting this workshop. He mentioned that deliberations from this workshop would help in identifying achievable steps for proper implementation of the new E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011. He thanked Toxics Link for taking such an initiative to and expressed hope that the forum will be used for a fruitful discussion on establishing clean and regulated e-waste recycling channels. He also thanked the representatives of all the banks who had participated in the workshop for their attendance.

#### **Introductory Speech: Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB**

In the inaugural speech, speech Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB pointed out that e-waste is the most sophisticated kind of waste in our society. Prof. Dutta mentioned about two companies who have shown their interests in getting authorization from the State Pollution Control Board for establishing e-waste collection, dismantling & recycling units. He thanked Toxics Link for taking this initiative. He also mentioned that the participation of the banks will make this workshop a success.

#### **Objective of the Workshop: Ms Priti Mahesh, Sr. Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link**

In her speech, Ms Priti Mahesh thanked WBPCB for the partnership. She spoke about the issues related to E-waste and lack of focus on environmental and health concerns in the existing recycling operations.. Ms Priti shared that Toxics Link with the active cooperation of WBPCB has started generating public awareness at all levels to improve E-waste management. Toxics Link has also placed E-waste collection bins at different prime public locations of the city, which will serve as model collection points. This project for establishing e-waste channels to enhance environment friendly recycling is being implemented with the support of European Commission. She also focussed on the livelihood issues of the informal recyclers and about the initiatives taken under this project for formalizing and sustaining their livelihood.

### **2. Technical Session**

#### **Presentation on E-waste Handling & Management Rules 2011: By Mr. S. K. Adhikari, Sr. Engineer, WBPCB**

Mr. Adhikari's presentation began with what is e-waste, types and composition of e-waste. He described the concerns about e-waste, scenario of e-waste in Kolkata, its main sources etc. He shared findings of the study that was conducted on e-waste in Kolkata by WBPCB, which quantified annual e-waste generation in Kolkata to be around 26,000 tons.

He then elaborated on E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011. He explained the features of the rule, responsibilities of manufactures, consumers, recyclers etc in detail. He stressed on the fact that all bulk consumers should dispose e-waste only to authorized recyclers and maintain records of all e-waste disposed. In discussing the rule he cited the example of electronic manufacturers who are showing some interest in setting up collection centres. Under the Rule under the provisions of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) it is now mandatory for producers to take back the goods that they sell in market.

### **Presentation on E-waste Scenario in Kolkata & Formalization of informal sector: Mr. Sasanka Dev, Secretary, DISHA**

In his presentation, Mr. Sasanka Dev discussed about the process of formalization of informal sector under the WEEE Recycle project elaborately. He mentioned that proper method for recycling need be followed, but at the same time livelihood aspects of the informal sector should also be protected.

Mr. Dev also shared about the existing e-waste scenario in the city and its suburbs, collection methods, and current practices of dismantling. Finally, Mr. Dev shared information about Self Help Groups of e-waste collectors at village level.

After Mr. Sasanka Dev's presentation, Ms Priti Mahesh shared few facts about Toxics Link's local partner organization DISHA and how DISHA is associated with this project. She also mentioned about one association formed by two informal recyclers Ukil Singh and Prasenjit Singh, which was ready to apply for Consent for Establishment from the (CFE) from the WBPCB. Ms Priti requested the representatives of the respective banks to encourage these associations by channelizing their e-waste to them once they receive the authorization from the State Pollution Control Board.

### **Presentation on WEEE Recycle Project and the Role of Bulk Consumers: Mr. Brajesh Singh, Project Coordinator, Toxics Link**

Mr. Brajesh Singh elaborated the WEEE Recycle project and the activities which have been undertaken under the project in the city. He said that bulk generators are at the heart of e-waste recycling chain and also revisited their obligations under the law. Under the laws it is now mandatory for all bulk generators to dispose e-waste to authorized recyclers only. However a well meaning law requires an informed and responsive societal action. By virtue of their position bulk generators can influence other stake-holders to join the clean channel. Mr. Singh said that consumers should do the following

1. Sell e-waste only to government authorized recyclers.
2. Demand take back and pick up services from the manufacturers of electronic goods.

### **Open house discussion**

The open house discussion was moderated by Ms Priti Mahesh. The other panellist were Mr Adhikari, WBPCB, Mr. Singh, Toxics Link and Mr. Dev, DISHA.

Ms. Mahesh began with the fact that it should be borne in mind that the entire e-waste recycling process has far reaching environmental consequences, so all participants should think and act with the larger picture in mind. There after a detailed discussion on implementation of the rules and the best strategies for establishing clean and regulated channels followed. The major points raised and discussed are as follows:

- Could WBPCB bring any statutory order for banks in regards to e-wastes or send circular to all the banks? Would it possible for the Ministry of Finance or the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to issue directives to the banks? The bank representatives felt that such a directive will strengthen the implementation process and ensure active compliance. The WBPCB officials replied that the rule has been notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and hence is binding on all. However it was felt that more dissemination on the rules would be helpful. THE PCB is expected to send a circular to all organizations very soon.
- Whether the rule has mentioned about banks as bulk generator? The WBPCB officials replied that all banks are bulk generators.

- Is there any authorized recycler in the state? Currently there are no authorized recycling units in West Bengal but there are recyclers based in other states who are collecting material from the state. Authorization from the respective PCB is sufficient to operate within the entire country. It was decided that a list of such recyclers may be prepared and circulated among all participants.
- Whether the banks should maintain any record for quantity of e-waste generation? Mr. Adhikari replied that all bulk generators must maintain records of e-waste generated and disposed in the prescribed format (form 2). There was no need to file these returns to the PCB but these forms should be open scrutiny by PCB. Whenever there is disposal of e-waste the bulk generator should inform the OCB. One representative also felt that PCB needs to come with a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure that these procedures are followed by the banks. Ms. Mahesh replied that best form of monitoring is self-monitoring and given the numbers in our country and the resources of the PCBs, complete monitoring is a very challenging task. Mr. Adhikary suggested that best monitoring system is one where the generators monitor themselves and the recyclers and dismantlers are monitored by the PCB.
- How the e-waste collection points established under WEEE Recycle project in different locations of the city would function? The e-waste collection points established under WEEE Recycle project at different locations of the city would serve dual purpose of creating awareness among general people as well as collection of small discarded electrical and electronic goods. Five such bins have already been placed at Paribesh Bhawan, Indian Museum, Birla Industrial & Technological Museum, Calcutta University Main Campus and at Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business Management.
- Whether the recycler will pay anything for collecting the e-wastes from the generators? The recycler will not pay any value for material disposed in the collection points established under WEEE Recycle project. However if any recycler enters into a contract with any organization for disposal of e-waste it may pay some value based on the mutual agreement.
- Whether bulk generators will also require authorization for e-wastes from Pollution Control Board? No other form of authorization is required. Under this discussion it was noted that producers or dealers of electrical and electronic equipments are mandated to collect back their branded goods and have to obtain permission from the PCBs for doing so.
- Who will monitor the operations of the two associations' which have been formed in West Bengal by the informal recyclers after they get the authorization from WBPCB? Ms. Mahesh replied that the PIU will closely work with the recyclers to facilitate that the best practices are followed in the established units. However they will be under the purview of the PCB as applicable.
- Are there separate recyclers for different types of e-wastes? E-waste recycling is now covered under the new rules and there are also other rules based on the categorization of waste. It is important to note that only who has been authorized for e-waste recycling can collect, dismantle or recycle e-waste.

#### **Vote of Thanks: Mr. Brajesh Singh, Project Coordinator, Toxics Link**

Mr. Brajesh Singh thanked all participants for attending the workshop. He also thanked the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for extending their cooperation in organizing this workshop. He expressed hoped that organization of the workshop would help in implementation of the new E-waste Handling and Management Rules and an informed response from the participating organizations to contribute to clean recycling channels. .

# Photo Gallery



## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>10:30 - 11:00hrs.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
11:00 - 11:15 hrs.	Welcome address by Member Secretary, WBPCB
11:15 - 11:30 hrs.	Introductory speech by Chairman, WBPCB
11.30 - 12.00 hrs.	Speech about the Workshop and its Objectives by Priti Mahesh, Senior Program Coordinator, Toxics Link
<b>12.00 – 12.15 hrs.</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
12.15 – 12.45 hrs.	Presentation on the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 Mr. S. K. Adhikari, Sr. Env Engineer, WBPCB
12.45 – 13.15 hrs.	E-waste Scenario in India & WEEE Recycle Project and Its Initiatives Sasanka Dev, Secretary, DISHA and Brajesh Singh, Toxics Link with Q&A session
13.15 – 13.55 hrs.	Open House Discussion On Best Strategy For Establishing Regulated, Clean E-waste Recycling Channels Moderated by Toxics Link
13.55 – 14.00hrs.	Vote of Thanks  Toxics Link
<b>14:00hrs.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>