

Toxics Link can help your community achieve its Zero Waste target

Toxics Link is an environmental organisation working on issues of different kinds of waste including municipal waste. Our goal is to develop information exchange mechanisms and build capacity through creating knowledge that will help direct policy decisions to be more responsive to the needs of the environment, community and society. We shall help your locality towards achieving Zero Waste by increasing awareness, developing monitoring and evaluation systems and training various persons. Our Zero Waste activities include:

- ① Meeting with city-level and zonal-level officers to garner support for the programme and to outline the expectations from municipality, residents welfare associations or any other civic body.
- ② Conducting a baseline survey of your area's waste stream.
- ③ Conducting training for municipal staff, gardeners, waste collectors and the community.
- ④ Involving the youths of the locality as a support group by involving them in the programme.
- ⑤ Facilitating better coordination among the relevant government agencies and community groups.



Toxics Link
for a toxics-free world

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Who does what?

Though true Zero Waste is not achievable without the support of industries, you have the power to ensure that your locality makes waste management a habit. The role of various players in this plan is outlined below:

MCD

- Provide infrastructural help such as land, vehicles and other equipment.
- Institutionalise relationships with RWAs.

RWAs

- Garner participation and cooperation of residents for source segregation of waste.
- Help NGOs in imparting capacity-building workshops, training of residents, waste collectors and domestic helpers.
- Ensure execution and monitoring of the programme.
- Ensure proper utilisation of the produced compost (manure).

COMMUNITY

- Follow the principles of Zero Waste in your home – **source segregate your waste.**
- Educate your domestic help about the importance of waste management.
- Ensure that your neighbour is also aware of the programme.
- Write to the RWA and the local councillor if you see that proper methods are not being followed.

NGOs

- Work as a catalyst with concerned agencies.
- Build capacity of community, municipality and waste collectors.
- Raise awareness on sustainable waste management practices.



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COUNTDOWN TO
ZERO 



How to become a Zero Waste Community, implementing Supreme Court rulings on waste management, and stay on the clean side of the law

Our waste never goes far from us

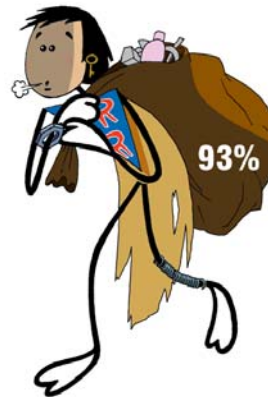
Most waste that is generated by households is collected by the municipalities and dumped into landfills. Some of the waste is sorted by rag pickers who sell recyclable waste material to *kabadiwallas* (waste dealers). This is then recycled. Some of the waste is burnt and releases deadly chemicals into the air that can cause cancer and various other diseases.

The waste that is dumped in landfills decomposes and produces leachate that percolates into the soil and leaks into the ground water, contaminating both the soil and water. Decomposing of organic waste also produces methane gas, which contributes to global warming. Hazardous waste can persist in the environment for generations, impacting the health of the human race.

Remember, the law requires you to keep your locality clean

According to the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2000, every municipality will be responsible for the implementation of the following rules by January 1, 2004:

- 1 Segregated waste will be collected from localities
- 2 Horticulture and construction waste shall be collected separately
- 3 Bio-degradable waste shall be processed either by composting, vermin-composting or any other appropriate biological process to minimise the burden on landfills
- 4 Waste shall not be burnt
- 5 Municipality can punish those who indulge in littering or do not segregate their waste
- 6 Dry waste should follow the route of recycling
- 7 Landfilling should be restricted to waste that is not suitable either for composting or recycling



Approximately 93% of the materials that are used by industries never end up as saleable products at all but are discarded in the production process; approximately 80% of what is produced is discarded after a single use!

What is the solution?

- ☺ All natural processes are cyclic, and produce no waste. Adopting sustainable waste management techniques can recycle resources back to nature.
- ☺ All waste produced in nature is also food for something else. But industrial processes generate waste which is toxic in nature and is harmful to all of us.
- ☺ If we can emulate Mother Nature and change the equation of **waste=gabage** to **waste=resource**, we shall all benefit by saving money and precious resources.

How does Zero Waste work?

Zero Waste is being adopted as a goal by communities around the world. Adopting the philosophy of zero waste can help clean up the environment and improve the quality of our lives. And believe it or not, you can make a big difference to the environment and the health of your loved ones by following some simple rules regarding waste management.

Recycle: Do not throw away your waste but recycle it. A key to recycling is source separation of waste. It is important that you separate waste at its source – your home.

Reuse: Instead of discarding used products, you can organise a sale of old products. Someone will always need something that you don't. You can also give products to charities which can pass it on to organisations in need of products.



Reduce: Avoid unwanted packaging of products.

Compost: Organic waste, which is a large portion of the domestic waste stream, can be composted effectively to enrich the soil. Composting can be done both at the individual as well as at the community level.

Be responsible: Do not litter. Always segregate waste and put it into dustbins.



Committed families have been able to divert up to 84% of their waste away from landfills in experimental programmes. That is one target you can set for your household as well.

Zero Waste benefits

Economic well-being

Using waste as a resource reduces the expense of waste disposal. The cost of using new resources is also greatly reduced, thus resulting in cheaper products and less wastage during the manufacturing process.

Environmental protection

By reducing hazardous and solid wastes we reduce the burden on the environment.

Social well-being

By becoming a waste conscious society, we minimise the harmful effects of waste on our environment and loved ones.

Conservation of natural resources

A Zero Waste approach puts pressure on the industries to recycle products. This conserves our limited natural resources and saves money in the long run.