

»» NEWSLETTER ««

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

AIPMA - ENVIRONMENT CELL

UPCOMING EVENTS

GLOBAL CONCLAVE ON PLASTIC RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION
4TH - 7TH JULY, 2024
 Bharat Mandapam, IECC, (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi

ORGANIZED BY: AIPMA, CPMA
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BUSINESS TRENDS



»» AMAZON ANNOUNCES 'LARGEST REDUCTION IN PLASTIC PACKAGING,' DOING AWAY WITH AIR PILLOWS

Source: USAToday

Amazon has initiated a plan to use recycled paper instead of plastic air cushions as packing material in an effort to reduce the amount of plastic packaging. This is a component of a larger strategy to eliminate plastic delivery packaging from its North America Center fulfillment hubs.

The change, described as the "largest reduction in plastic packaging in North America to date," is set to be completed by the end of the year. The company expects most packages delivered on Prime Day in July to feature paper filler.

According to studies done by the ocean conservation organization Oceana, Amazon produced 599 million pounds of waste from plastic packaging in 2020—a 20% increase over the year before. The research states that up to 23.5 million pounds of this garbage have found their way into rivers and oceans, impacting the ecosystem. In October, Amazon started testing the environmentally friendly paper substitute at a fulfillment site in Ohio. Within a year, Amazon was able to reach a 95% conversion rate to paper filler because to improved technology, cooperative employees, and a new supplier.

The initiative is a component of Amazon's larger program to decrease waste and improve the packaging's capacity to be recycled. The company has listed a number of collaborations, activities, and campaigns that try to reduce packaging waste and improve sustainability.



»» COUNCIL IS SENDING RECYCLING TO INDIA AND THAILAND

Source: BBC



Buckinghamshire Council has been sending a portion of its recycling overseas, including paper to India, cans to Thailand, mixed plastics to the Netherlands, and card to Turkey, with over 9,000 tons of waste shipped abroad in 2023. Despite this, the majority of the county's household waste more than 95% is processed within the UK, with 130,000 tons managed locally. The council highlights the environmental benefits of recycling and note that recovered materials are traded internationally, occasionally being sent overseas for processing in countries with stronger recycling industries. The small portion that is shipped overseas is integrated into effective supply chains and frequently makes use of otherwise vacant transportation vehicles.

PLASTIC RECYCLING



➤➤➤ MORE WORK ON IMPROVING BIN RECYCLING RATES

Source: : BBC



The South Kesteven Council is improving its new recycling system, which comprises a two-bin system to sort recyclables including foil, glass bottles, and hard plastic bottles (collected in silver bins) from paper and cardboard (collected in purple bins). The council recognizes the need to increase the rates at which other recyclables are collected, even if the purple bin program has shown to be beneficial. Bins holding non-recyclable materials won't be emptied starting on Monday, and extra workers will help by labelling inappropriate items and offering advice. The council will also gather information in order to comprehend and resolve the recycling concerns of the community.

➤➤➤ 8 GARBAGE DUMPS IN KEY AREAS CONVERTED INTO MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES TO BOOST SEGREGATION, RECYCLING OF WASTE

Source: Times of India



In an effort to improve trash segregation and recycling, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) transformed eight dhalaos, or garbage dumps, that were close to residential neighborhoods and marketplaces into material recovery facilities (MRFs).

Delhi is currently generating 11,328 tons of waste per day, with only around 7,802 tons being processed. In order to ensure proper waste segregation, the Delhi government has set a deadline of December 2024 for closing all dhalaos and replacing them with MRFs. Additionally, the chief secretary has mandated that by December 2024, all 272 Delhi wards achieve 100% trash segregation at the source.

At present, 170 MRFs are operational in Delhi, which can process 317 tons of waste per day. The conversion of dhalaos into MRFs is part of a larger effort to improve waste management in the city, which includes setting up new waste-to-energy plants and expanding existing ones to add 6,000 tons per day in processing capacity by August 2027.

➤➤➤ PLASTIC RECYCLING 'THE ONLY WAY' OF INTRODUCING CIRCULARITY TO OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Source: Yahoo Finance

Plastic recycling is the most viable way for the oil and gas industry to introduce circularity, according to a new report by GlobalData. While incorporating circularity is extremely difficult for the industry, plastics are cited as "the most relevant to the circular economy" among its conventional products.

The report argues that companies that fail to shift from linear to circular operations risk failure due to government fines and consumer boycotts. Alternatively, adopting a circular economy could help oil and gas companies establish themselves as ESG leaders.

Recycling plastic, meanwhile, has several difficulties. The recycled plastic quality gets decreases because of the shorter polymer chain. The 2023, demonstration of a chemical recycling process by Saudi Aramco and TotalEnergies that produces certified circular polymers from plastic waste is proof that progress has been made. The plastic sector now is becoming more interested in the production of bioplastics. Since bioplastics are made from biomass rather than oil or gas, they are easier to recycle even though they now account for less than 1% of global plastic production. Encouraging feedstock availability will be essential to advancing bioplastics production.



RULES/POLICY

➤➤➤ CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS PASS BILLS TO BAN THICK-FILM 'REUSABLE' PLASTIC BAGS

Source: members.asicentral

California lawmakers have passed two bills, AB2236 and SB1053, to ban thick-film 'reusable' plastic bags and reinforce the existing ban on thin, single-use plastic bags, aiming to reduce plastic waste and close loopholes in the decade-old legislation. If the proposed legislation are passed, retailers would be able to charge a 10-cent fee for paper bags or bags made of at least 50% recycled materials after the consumer. This action is in response to research showing that, even with the original ban, there was a notable rise in the quantity of plastic bag waste.

Proponents point out that the economic benefits of producing virgin plastic make recycling thick-film plastic bags worthless. The legislation, which are opposed by plastic bag producers and backed by environmental groups, are expected to go into effect on January 1, 2026, which will be a significant milestone in California's effort to combat against plastic pollution and reduce oil industry influence.



➤➤➤ PAKISTAN'S LARGEST PROVINCE TO BAN PLASTIC PRODUCTION, TRADE FROM JUNE 5

Source: ARAB News

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➤➤➤ PARLIAMENT PANEL SUGGESTS GOVT TO SEEK THREE YEARS DEFERMENT ON EU'S CARBON TAX FOR MSMEs

Source: The Economic Times

A parliamentary panel has recommended that the Indian government seek a three-year deferment on the European Union's carbon tax (CBAM) for the engineering sector's MSMEs. The EU plans to impose this tax on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, starting January 1, 2026. The panel's report emphasizes that domestic MSMEs might lack the financial resources to counter this duty and suggests that a robust mechanism to support these businesses be developed urgently. Furthermore, as the EU accounts for around 55% of India's coffee market, the panel suggests interacting with the EU on its deforestation rules, which may have an effect on Indian coffee exports.

The report also recommends proactive measures for the gems and jewelry sector to diversify diamond sourcing and includes suggestions for extending support to the iron and steel sectors through the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. In an effort to reduce the higher cost of financing for exporters, the panel recommends raising the Interest Equalization Scheme rates for MSME exporters from 3% to 5%.

The report calls for policy interventions, export promotion schemes, and enhanced logistics infrastructure to boost India's global trade share.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

»»» PRIVATE WASTE MANAGEMENT FIRMS IN COIMBATORE CALL FOR STANDARDISED RATES AND STRICTER REGULATION OF BULK WASTE GENERATORS

Source: The Hindu

Private waste management companies in Coimbatore are urging the Corporation to standardize the rates for collecting, processing, and disposing of waste generated by bulk waste generators (BWGs). According to the 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules, BWGs, which produce over 100 kg of waste, must process wet waste on-site.

According to CCMC records, fewer than 20% of the city's 600+ Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) meet the required standards. To address this issue, Coimbatore and other cities allow BWGs to partner with recognized waste management agencies for a fee. Unfortunately, some BWGs hand over their waste to agencies that ultimately dump it in unauthorized locations such as the Vellalore dump yard and city outskirts due to a refusal by stakeholders to cover processing and disposal costs. This has resulted in a surge of open dumping, with over 2,000 truckloads, or 6,000 tons of waste, being dumped at the Vellalore compost plant every month.



BWGs currently pay up to ₹6 per kg for waste disposal, which amounts to ₹4.2 lakhs daily for 70 tons of waste. However, the waste processors are incurring costs exceeding ₹7 per kilogram, a financial burden often covered by the civic body. To address these challenges, private agencies have proposed the idea of routine inspections of BWG waste disposal and meticulous tracking of the waste amounts. They also suggest displaying information on waste generation and disposal publicly. Despite facing losses, private agencies run Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and other facilities at no cost to the Corporation. To foster better collaboration between BWGs and waste management entities, a model akin to Kochi's where a minimum fee for BWGs was established could be adopted. This approach aims to curb open dumping and bolster public-private partnerships in waste management.

»»» MUMBAI: IPCA LAUNCHES SECOND PHASE OF PROJECT S.O.R.T. AFTER TREATING 2 LAKH KG OF WET WASTE IN PAST TWO YEARS

Source: Free Press Journal

Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) announced the second phase of Project S.O.R.T. (Segregation Of waste for Recycling and Treatment) in Mumbai. In the past two years, Project S.O.R.T. has been implemented in 43 locations and has treated 2,00,000 kg of wet waste. This initiative, supported by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and funded by the Motherson Group, converted organic waste into high-quality manure and was executed in 43 areas, including 38 societies and 5 educational institutions. As a result, treated approximately 200,000 kg of wet waste and harvested 10,000 kg of compost, decreasing landfill waste.

The project's success is marked by the installation of Aerobins, which efficiently process organic waste within 40 days. Dr. Radha Goyal, Deputy Director of IPCA, highlighted the project's impact on reducing landfill burden and enriching soils, laying a strong foundation for further expansion. The third phase will extend to 50 locations, enhancing waste management practices across more societies and institutions.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

»»» GLOBAL MEET ON SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO BE CONDUCTED IN VISAKHAPATNAM FROM NOVEMBER 28

Source: The Hindu

GITAM Deemed to be University School of Business, in collaboration with the International Society of Waste Management, Air and Water (ISWMAW), will host the 14th international conference on Sustainable Waste Management and Circular Economy, along with the IPLA Global Forum 2024, in Visakhapatnam from November 28 to December 1. ISWMAW president and conference chairman Sadhan Kumar Ghosh announced that this conference would be a major international platform in India, facilitating knowledge sharing, technology exchange, and business opportunities for industries in waste management and the circular economy.

The conference is expected to attract as many as 1,000 delegates from 60 countries with more than 400 presentations. A School Children's Congress, hackathon, and industry expo on Waste Management and Circular Economy will be held on November 27 to raise awareness among the next generation. Approximately 600 school students and teachers from across India are expected to participate. Additionally, field visit will be there, delegates will visit significant waste management sites and industries on December 1. Mr. Ghosh highlighted the pressing issue of various types of waste, including electronic, plastic, biomedical, hazardous, and construction & demolition wastes, and emphasized the need for improved waste management in India's growing cities to mitigate environmental pollution and protect human health.

»»» NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL FINES MANALI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RS 4.6 CRORE FOR POOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

Source: The Indian Express

The Manali municipal council in Himachal Pradesh has been fined Rs 4.6 crore by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for inappropriate garbage management at a dumping site in Rangri village. This came about in response to a petition claiming that litter that had been scattered over a 2-kilometer area had an adverse impact on the health and quality of life of those around it, including two local schools and a town. On May 29 deciding orders that the municipal council pay the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board the amount within three months.



The waste management site center in Rangri, which can handle up to 80 tons of garbage a day despite only having a 20-ton capacity, has been overrun, particularly during the busiest travel seasons. The tribunal ordered that the fine be applied for recovery and compensation for the environment. In response, Municipal Executive Officer Karun Bharmoria acknowledged the issue and stated that the facility will also manages trash from the districts of Lahaul, Spiti, and Kullu.

The NGT took action in response to a complaint made in May 2022 by Paldan Phunchog, the head of Shalen gram panchayat, which brought attention to the serious local effect. On January 3, the inspection brought up several infractions, including raw trash. In addition, a joint committee has been mandated by the NGT to monitor appropriate waste management and segregation and to develop an environmental rejuvenation approach within six months.

WASTE CLEANUP



RIVER SUNKOSHI CLEANUP CAMPAIGN REMOVES 24,575 KG OF PLASTIC WASTE IN GOLANJOR MUNICIPALITY OF NEPAL IN 36 HOURS

NEW RESEARCH/INOVATION

»» RESEARCHERS INVENT 100% BIODEGRADABLE 'BARLEY PLASTIC'

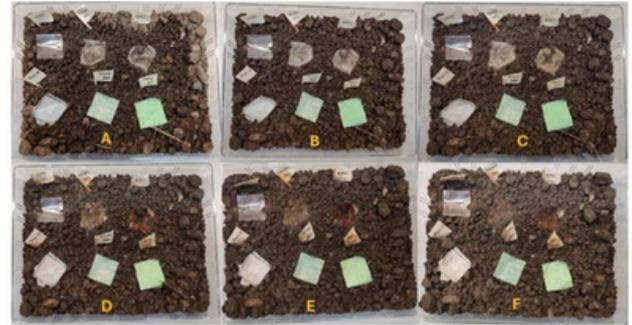
Source: Phys.org

At the University of Copenhagen, a unique environmentally friendly material was created by blending sugarbeet waste fiber with barley starch. When this sturdy substance is left in the open, it has the unusual ability to turn into compost. The innovation's developers believe it has the potential to be extremely important in the fight against plastic pollution and in lowering the carbon footprint related to plastic manufacturing. The material holds immense potential for applications such as in food packaging.

Professor Andreas Blennow from the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences explains, "We are faced with a colossal challenge when it comes to plastic waste, and recycling alone seems insufficient in addressing this issue. Hence, we have developed a new type of bioplastic that surpasses current bioplastics in terms of strength and water resistance. Moreover, our material is entirely biodegradable and can be converted into compost by microorganisms if it ends up outside of designated waste bins."

Globally, only approximately 9% of plastic is recycled, while the majority is either incinerated, ends up in the environment, or is deposited in massive plastic landfills.

Although bioplastics already exist, Professor Blennow believes that the term itself is misleading. While current bioplastics are partially derived from bio-based materials, only a small portion of them is genuinely degradable, and that too, under specific conditions in industrial composting facilities.



Experiments on the degradation of different plastic materials.

»» INNOVATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING CHEMICAL COMPONENTS OF WASTE WILL BOOST ITS REUSE: EXPERTS

Source: Hindustan Times

During a panel discussion on June 9 at the Bengaluru International Centre, experts highlighted the importance of innovations and the understanding of waste's chemical components in order to boost its reuse. Myriam Shankar, Co-founder of the Anonymous Indian Charitable Trust, said that in India 45% of Dry garbage go unexamined because of improper source of segregation, which is affecting the cost of recycling in India's Recycling market.

Shubhi Sachan, a designer specialises in textile waste, noted the alternative uses rather than traditional waste disposal methods, she also discussed the challenges in waste processing. Shubhi pointed out the economic and visibility issues facing by the waste management sector, such as under appreciation of the GDP contributions made from waste and high taxes. Jesh Krishna Murthy, founder of Advanced Nature, stressed the need for merging science and art in creating sustainable solutions, while Sachan highlighted the knowledge gaps that often undermine waste-to-resource interventions.

The panellists called for stronger political will to support sustainable waste management practices. Shankar noted that despite laws mandating waste segregation at the household level, enforcement is weak due to political considerations. The discussion, moderated by Jenny Pinto of Oorjaa, underscored that while innovative solutions exist, they are insufficient to achieve widespread sustainable living without broader systemic changes.

Pinto's organization, Oorjaa, focuses on combining waste with natural fibres to create handmade paper, reflecting the innovative approaches discussed at the event. Overall, the panel emphasized the need for comprehensive strategies and policies to transform waste management and promote sustainability

DO YOU KNOW?



ONE MILLION PLASTIC BOTTLE ARE
BROUGHT EVERY MINUTE

source: giving compass



THERE IS SPECIES OF FUNGUS FROM THE AMAZON
THAT FEEDS ON AND CAN LIVE OFF PLASTIC