

Press Note: Symposium on “Waste to Wealth – CPCB Initiatives towards Clean & Green Economy”

Waste management is a major environmental concern with an ever-increasing human population, rapid economic development, ongoing urbanization and changes in lifestyle. Waste, which includes solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, battery waste, agro-waste and industrial waste, has the potential of being used in several avenues including energy recovery, recycling to recover resources etc. Waste utilization, not only reduces the burden on the environment, but also provides a viable alternative to our ever-depleting resources. Recognizing the damage to environment and terrestrial & marine ecosystem by waste and potential for recovery of valuable resources from waste, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India appealed to the nation to adopt measures for utilization of waste in various walks of life. In line with the clarion call given by our Prime Minister, CPCB has taken several initiatives for utilization of different categories of waste.

A symposium on “Waste to Wealth- CPCB Initiatives towards Clean & Green India” was convened by CPCB in Chennai on April 28, 2022 to present the initiatives taken by for conversion of waste to wealth through alternate channels as well as the impact observed on implementation of these initiatives. The issues covered in the Symposium included role of circular economy towards effective utilization. Technologies used for recovery of energy from paddy straw as well as from cow dung generated in the goshala were highlighted during the Workshop. Status of waste management of technologies for Solid Waste Management including Waste to Energy plant, Bio-methanation, Composting as well as the way forward for these technologies were presented during the Symposium. Working of Integrated Waste Management Facilities based on a combination of Solid Waste Management technologies was illustrated during the Symposium.

Further, for plastic waste management, approach adopted for elimination of Single Use Plastic & promotion of alternatives and its impact was presented in the Workshop. CPCB officials presented outline of External Producer Guideline on Plastic Packaging and the Centralized Portal for Plastic Packaging developed by CPCB. It was informed that there is a multi-fold increase in the number of registered producers, importers, brand owners (PIBOs), plastic waste processors (PWPs) on the EPR Portal developed by CPCB. Further, PWPs having adequate processing capacity (170 Lac TPA) required for fulfilment of EPR obligation by Registered PIBOs (23 lac TPA)

Sh. R.Kannan, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Sh.H.C.Girish, Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board were invited as Chief Guest to the Symposium. The Workshop had participation from CIPET, NEERI, Deptt. of Science & Technology, Industry Associations, Municipal Bodies and students and professors from educational institutes located in Chennai. Officials from State Boards, IIT & MoHUA joined the meeting online. The subject matter presented by CPCB officials was widely appreciated and it was concurred that the concerned stakeholders shall take necessary efforts for implementation of the various measures presented during the Workshop and carry forward the message of Waste to Wealth in their respective work zones.