



# Combating Pollution Activities



## **Grey water recycling**

Greywater or sullage is all wastewater generated in a building from streams without faecal contamination, i.e. all streams except for the wastewater from toilets. Sources of grey water include, sinks, showers, baths, clothes washing machines or dishwashers. Typically, grey water comprises to 50 – 80% of the waste water generated in an organization. If recycled properly, grey water can lead to saving almost 70 liters of water per person, and is an efficient tool for any community with a goal to save water. Please remember that grey water is never going to be safe to drink, even when treated. However, the reclaimed greywater can be utilized for flushing toilets, washing clothes and water your garden.

Grey water can be directly used for purposes of cleaning or gardening; however, it cannot be stored for long due to potential bacterial growth. Treated grey water is more versatile in its use.

For more information on greywater watch the video given below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBMpaWq4EKE>

## **Waste Segregation Systems**

Improper management of waste management systems is one of the bigger environmental issues the world is facing. It is necessary for most organizations to reduce their waste production, and foster an environment that promotes the reduction of waste.

A simple way to do this is to implement a solid waste segregation system within the organization.

The categories for waste segregation should be decided by

analysing the kind of waste an organization generates. Waste can generally be sorted into the following categories:

- Organic Waste
- Paper
- Plastic
- Glass
- Metal
- E-Waste
- Mixed

The categories for waste segregation can depend upon the nature of waste generated by the organization. If the 7 bin system is too tedious, you may choose to segregate waste using the three bin approach – Biodegradable, Recyclable and Non-Biodegradable.

Ensure that the waste bins are clearly labelled and easily accessible throughout the campus. It might also be advisable to conduct a session/workshop explaining to your members the segregation system, and what waste belongs in each category. Having the same displayed in the form of infographics near the bins might be helpful.

### **Waste collection & recycling drives**

Waste collection and recycling drives can be an important tool to manage your organizations waste generation. To manage, and properly dispose of the waste generated within the organization, and by its members within their own homes.

You can also organize multiple drives over the course of a

particular year, with each drive focusing on collection of a particular category of waste on each individual drive. If you have the resources, you can also have a single drive focused on collecting and segregating different types of waste.

To ensure the success of the drive, ensure that the date of collection is well known. make sure that the members of your organization are well aware of the date on which the waste is being collected. Use social media and word of mouth to create awareness, focusing on what types of waste is going to be collected. Organize a group of volunteers, who can, on the day off, help segregate and sort the waste as per the classification. You can also speak to various recycling centres, informing them that you are going to be dropping of material for recycling, as well as asking them for any special instruction regarding the recycled material.

## **Composting**

While waste collection and recycling drives will help the organization reduce its quantum of recyclable and non-biodegradable waste, while composting can help reduce the quantum of biodegradable waste. Composting is a simple practice of decomposing organic waste by means of bacteria, fungi, worms or other organisms under controlled, aerobic conditions.

If done correctly, can serve as a solution to recycling biodegradable waste, and coupled with dry waste recycling enable you to create a zero waste campus.

If you can, invest in a bio composter to easily compost your waste, otherwise composting can be carried out using the pit / bin method. While using worms and fungi might not be

feasible in a campus area, composting using a bacterial 'starter' is achievable.

Take care while selecting the location of the bin so as to not attract rodents or vermin. Most of the organic waste created within a kitchen can be composted. A general ratio of 2 parts of wet waste to 1 part of dry waste is useful while composting.

While most of the kitchen waste is easily compostable, it is advisable to avoid bones, egg shells, meats, etc. as these can attract rodents and vermin, disrupting the process.

## **Carpool Clubs**

carpooling is the practice of sharing car journeys so that more than one person travels in a car, thereby reducing the need for multiple cars with driving to the same location. It is also a far more environmentally friendly option, as it reduces fuel consumption, travel costs, exhaust emissions etc. Setting up a carpool club for members within your organization can help you reduce your carbon emissions. It is also far less complicated, as the final destination for the members will be the same.

create a sign-up sheet to determine how many members of the organization will be willing to carpool to work. You can collect information along the lines of if they own a vehicle, the no of passengers their vehicle can accommodate, how often will they be willing to drive etc. you can visit the following link to access a list of apps that will allow you to better organize your carpool.

<https://mashable.com/2012/08/13/carpool-apps/>

To ensure the success of the club, set up the rules regarding pick up points and drop of points well in advance. Try and group the members by their general vicinity, so that common pick up and drop off points can be determined. ensure that there is clarity of how the fuel costs incurred will be shared, and also set rules in place to ensure car etiquette.

### **Trip chains**

Trip chaining is a relatively new way to look at the series of trips made by people every day, and there is no formal agreement on the definition of a chained trip. At its most basic level, a chained trip includes a stop on the way to another destination. it can be set up in a similar way to a carpool program, however, these can be utilized for a more purposes, as opposed to pick up & drop that entails a carpool. A trip chain can drop off and pick people up from multiple locations, and can be utilized for grocery trips, post office runs, lunch etc. Similar to a carpool, it pairs people up into groups, however, since there are multiple trips, the fuel consumption is further reduced.

### **Bike sharing programs**

A bike share system can be described as a program in which bikes are available to be shared by individuals for a short duration. It is generally a service that can be availed for free, creating a system wherein bike owners can volunteer their bikes to be made available for public use. It generally involves placing a dock, allowing people to borrow a bike from a dock and returning the bike to the same dock, or another dock in the same system. At a campus level, a

At a campus level, a car free day can be organized to raise awareness regarding the problems associated with fossil fuels and exhaust gases. A car free day on campus can also serve as a day to launch carpool, bike sharing programs etc.

### **Promoting electric vehicles**

Electric vehicles are a potential industry disruptor. As the problems associated with fossil fuels and traditional modes of transport become more and more damaging, electric vehicles will serve as the solution to the negative impacts associated with commercial vehicles. Electric cars are far more energy efficient as compared to conventional cars, with 75% energy converted to kinetic, as opposed to 25% fuel efficiency of conventional cars. They are far more environmentally friendly, and the lack of greenhouse gas emissions can greatly improve public health.

It is essential to promote electric vehicles within your organization. While the members of your organization may not be vehicle holders now, they will be purchasing them in the future. By ensuring that the members are well aware of the issues associated with commercial vehicles and benefits of EVs, you are creating a more environmentally informed consumer.

### **Clean up drives**

Organizing a clean-up drive may be daunting, however if you plan in advance, it doesn't have to be.

Identify a location that needs to be cleaned up, and speak to the authorities for the necessary permissions required for the same. Organize a bunch of volunteers who can help out.

If necessary, speak to local organization to help you out with the requirements for the clean-up drive. You will require gloves and mask for all volunteers, as well as multiple waste bins to collect and segregate the waste. Before starting the drive, educate your volunteers about the proceedings, ensure that the waste collected is being segregated. Divide the volunteers into groups as per your ease. Contact the authorities again to ensure that you have all the necessary permissions to conduct the clean-up drive, and keep all the cleaning tools and materials ready

An important aspect of a clean up drive is to ensure that you have a strategy to dispose of the collected waste. Drop off all recyclable waste at a recycling centre, and compost the organic waste.

Ensure that you share the success stories with all those who are involved with the clean-up drive!

## **Webinars**

A webinar is an event held on the internet which is attended exclusively by an online audience. This distinguishes it from a webcast, which also includes the presence of a physical audience. Webinars can serve as a great tool for discussing environmental issues and solutions.

There are a few simple criteria to ensure that a webinar is a success. The foremost step is determining if a webinar is the right tool to serve your needs.

Choosing an attractive topic is essential for the success of a webinar. Generally, a more specific topic is preferred over a broad topic. Based on your topic, you can narrow down resource persons who can serve your chosen topic well.

Depending on the number of resource person available, you can determine the topic of your webinar. Once you have these details locked down, you can start promoting your webinar. You will also have to work with the speaker to create appropriate webinar visuals.

you will also have to pick a webinar tool. The criteria for choosing a webinar tool depend on the size of the audience, cost, required features. Ensure that you schedule a practice run, to ensure you do not face technical issues during the webinar.

Set up a registration, and how much (or whether) to charge for your webinar. Before you begin marketing your webinar, determine what tool you will use to register attendees. Some online conferencing and webinar tools include built-in registration options. Signing up participants using a separate event-registration tool is another option. You will also want to decide whether you will charge for your webinar – and if so, how much. With free webinars, you can expect that more than 50 percent of the people who sign up will fail to attend. One advantage of charging for your webinar is that it provides an incentive for participants to show up.

ensure that you publicize your webinar in the right circles to engage the right kind of audience. Create a succinct description that clearly conveys to the audience the scope and subject of the webinar.

### **Awareness Workshops:**

Awareness workshops are the cornerstone of building empathy for the environment. It is important to recognize that not everyone is hyper-aware of the gravity of the

there are multiple actions and events that can comfortably fit within the umbrella term. You can design a workshop around any area of concern, however picking a problem that is localized, will be resonant for the members of your organization.