



Wipro Ltd



Practices and Experiences of Waste Management at Wipro

CASE STUDY



Figure 1 Compost for Distribution

Summary

Urban India is facing an unprecedented solid waste management challenge. A combination of rapid growth over the past two decades, lack of foresight and planning from planners, vested interests and lax implementation has created a situation of seemingly unmanageable proportions. Local government have largely continued the practice of unscientific landfills— existing and newer ones in peri-urban areas—situated far from economic growth centers and well-endowed localities. Sustainable solid waste management brings in multiple benefits—public health, environmental and economic.



Objective of Intervention

The main goal of mixed solid waste management is reducing and eliminating adverse impacts of waste materials on human health, environment and reduction of waste ending up in landfills.

Description of Intervention

Inorganic waste (Paper, plastics, metals, and packaging materials) consists of shredded paper from the employee work areas and tissue paper waste generated out of rest rooms. Shredded paper is recycled through pulping and converted into note pads. Tissue paper is sent for incineration/landfill. Plastics, metals and packaging materials generated out of daily operations are segregated and are recycled. Plastics are being reused within the campuses, like milk covers are being reused in the garden for growing saplings. Water bottles are being used to construct compound walls for in-house nursery and garden area. Manure is also given to employees and is filled in sugar bags.

Individual bins in work areas leads to mixed solid waste – as organic waste (fruit peels, tea bags, etc.) can be mixed with paper waste at the point of generation in the absence of separate bins. Removal of individual bins across towers has met with good success. Employees are thereby encouraged to dispose in segregated bins kept centrally in the pantry area. Initiatives like these necessarily involve a behavioral change and cooperation from all employees. The major waste generated out of multi-vendor cafeteria is food waste, which is being treated in-house. We have successfully worked with all vendors in campus in implementing no use of paper/plastic cups. We have replaced paper cups for Juices with thick poly carbonated /acrylic cups /glass mugs. Similarly, we have replaced paper cups for hot beverages with steel/ceramic cups. One-hundred per cent reduction of paper plates and plastic plates/spoons is not possible, used only if it is very much necessary. One of the main challenges was to provide demarcated and easily accessible cleaning areas for the tuck shop vendors.

Intangible or Tangible Benefit

- Public health – by reducing the ill effects of unscientific landfills in the communities – apart from contaminating ground water and polluting the environment, they are a source of many vector-borne diseases.
- Conservation – Resuse and Recycling
- Economics – Resource recovery mindset, Valuable inorganics can be traded in the market
- Engineering – Informs selection of products which have longer life, provide extended warranty, and provide lower cost of ownership, and through managed services in contrast to owning products.



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