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SEMINAR ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The Forest Department organised a seminar at Vanchetna Kendra on biodiversity conservation. Nature Club Surat actively participated in the seminar. The representatives talked about the Vulture conservation programme. The club has started a vulture restaurant on the outskirts of Surat, where they provide safe food to vultures.



Precious waste

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power every day. As one unit of electricity costs Rs 6. In a day, electricity worth Rs 780 is produced here. In a year, the savings add up to Rs 2.07 lakh.

The green idea germinated after the Gujarat High Court in 1995 ordered factory owners to clean up their act and stop dumping hazardous industrial waste into the Sabarmati.

The HC directive prompted the state government to transform existing industrial estates in Gujarat into Eco-Industrial Parks. Under the eco-networking concept designed by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the University of Kaiserslautern in Germany, waste from one industry will be used as raw material for another.

The pilot project was introduced at Naroda Industrial Estate, which contains 900 industries. The estate approached the Centre for Environment Education for help. Former CEE Programme Director Dr R Gopichandran said, "As biodegradable waste could not be dumped, the idea was to convert it into an energy source. Gujarat Energy and Development Agency helped co-finance the project." Naroda Enviro Projects Ltd (NEPL), a section-25 company, spearheaded the project by setting up a common effluents treatment plant in its premises.

THE PROCESS

MONEY SAVED

130 units
Daily power generated

Rs 6
Cost per unit

Rs 780
Daily savings

Rs 2.07
Yearly savings

245 kg
Daily manure generated

Re 1
Cost per kg

Rs 245
Daily income

Rs 89,425
Yearly income

digester where the decomposed material generates methane. The gas is channelled into a dual fuel generator, which also uses 20 per cent diesel, to generate electricity. The power is used to light up the common effluent treatment plant at night.

That's not all. The plant also generates 245 kg of organic fertiliser each day. Sold at Re 1 per kg, it yields Rs 89,425 each year.

CLEAN PRODUCTION

NEPL TRUSTEE Shailesh Patwari said, "The fertiliser is in demand even in Hong Kong. We began the project in 2002 to ensure cleaner production at Naroda GIDC.

The waste generated by the industries were earlier discarded outside the units, creating filthy and unhygienic surroundings. When we tested the waste, we realised that it had calorific value and released gases. The pilot project was set up here for Rs 10 lakh. The GEDA bore 75 per cent of the cost. The rest was paid by the estate.

"The research and development on waste was conducted in Vadodara. Today, the success of this project has motivated other industrial estates in the state to implement it on their premises," said Patwari

CARBON CREDITS

THE PROJECT can be imple-



PLEDGE-A-TREE PROGRAMME

Vikram Sarabhai Community Science centre marked the day by distributing free gifts in the form of environment awareness material. Activities like pledge-a-tree, in which children put up pledges on the tree. Along with this, other activities like green story writing, web of life game, tattoo making were also held.

FILM SCREENING AT BRITISH LIBRARY

British Library held the premiere of films that won the UK Environment Film Fellowships 2010 award. Five films, each of 12 minutes, with the focus on 'environment' were screened. They were: Wheeling in Change, Notes from a Green city, Blocks of Green, Melting Paradise and The Miracle Water Village. Of these, Notes from a Green city by Madhyama Subramaniam is about Surat as the city takes measures to mitigate climate change. All these films focus on the theme of energy and water; the two most significant indicators of climate change.

THE FIRM collects degradable waste like sesame seeds, sugar syrup, decomposed fruits and vegetables, herbal waste, banana skin, potato skin, oil sludge and rejected bread from industries like Samrat Namkeen, Rasranjan, Azad Food, Gwalia Sweets, Monginis and Modern Bread.

Everyday, it gets 2 to 6 tonnes of waste. Using a manual crusher, the refuse is turned into slurry and sent to an underground

mented at hospitals, hotels, vegetable markets or any place that produces waste. Since the project utilises methane — a relatively potent greenhouse gas — it will help the user earn carbon credits.

To gather more waste, the NEPL has now approached the AMC. The request is under process.

Meanwhile, the firm continues to light up the path for other industrial estates, the green way.

SPREADING CHANGE THROUGH ACTIVITIES



Centre for Environment Education had organised an open house to spread awareness about environment among children. Various activities such as film screening, interactive games, treasure hunt, pottery, face painting, origami, clay modelling and slogan writing contest were held on the day.