



Environment Awareness Campaign

**PLASTIC WASTES POLLUTE ENVIRONMENT
AFFECT ALL LIVING BEINGS**



**SAY
NO
TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ASSAM

Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 21

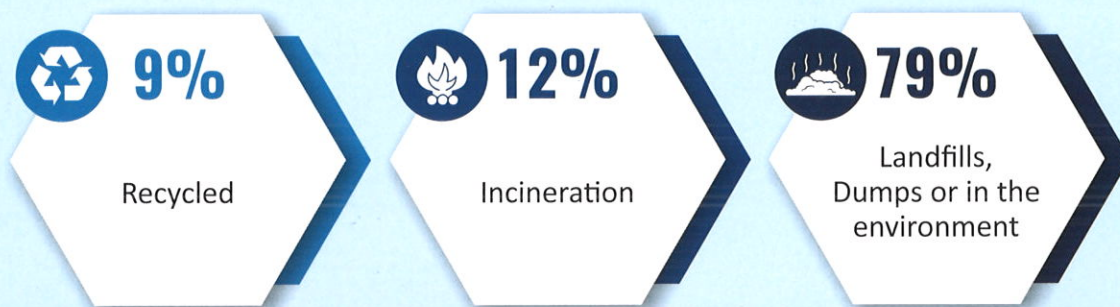
The Plastics Context

Much of the plastics we produce are designed to be thrown away after being used only once. The qualities of plastics – low price, light weight, durability, resistance and easy to make, along with the changing consumption behaviour of the people, led to a boom in the production of plastics. Since the 1950s, this production of plastics has outpaced that of almost any other material. As a result, the volume of plastic waste increased to an unmanageable proportion and it emerged as one of the greatest environmental crisis of our times. Single-use plastics are easily thrown away within just a few minutes of their first intended use. It does not mean that they are disposable or get assimilated with nature without any harm. In fact, when discarded in landfills or in the environment, plastics can take up to a thousand years to decompose and can cause serious harm to environment and human health. In our country also ever increasing volume of plastic wastes is the biggest environmental crisis. It is evident that we are already unable to cope with the amount of plastic wastes we have generated. Thus, tackling one of the biggest environmental scourges of our time will require governments to regulate, businesses to innovate and individuals to act immediately.

Identified Single-use Plastics

Plastic carry bags less than 75 micron; ear buds with plastic sticks; plastic sticks for balloons; plastic flags; candy sticks; ice-cream sticks; polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration; plates; cups; glasses; cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives; straw; trays; wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets; plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron; and stirrers.

What happens to plastic wastes?



Global Plastic Pollution by the Numbers

- 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic.
- About 13 million tonnes of plastics leak into the seas and oceans annually.
- By 2050 the stomach of about 99 percent of sea birds will be filled with plastic waste.
- Nearly 50% of the plastic wastes generated globally is plastic packaging items.
- Presently the world is producing more than 400 million tons of plastics every year and by 2030 it is expected to rise up to 619 million tonnes.
- 10 million plastic bags are consumed worldwide in a minute.
- Marine litter harms over 600 marine species.
- 15% of species affected by ingestion & entanglement from marine litter are endangered.



Impacts of mismanaged single-use plastics

Cost of inaction: If we do not improve our current consumption patterns and waste management practices, by 2050 there will be around 12 million metric tonnes of plastic wastes in landfills and in the environment globally.

Environmental impacts

- Contaminates soil and water
- Chokes waterways and exacerbate natural disasters
- By 2050, an estimated 99% of Seabirds will have ingested Plastic.
- Plastics in the environment pose significant hazards to wildlife both on land and in the ocean.

Health impacts

- Blocks sewage systems and provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes, raising the risk of vector-borne disease transmission
- Releases toxic chemicals and emissions if burned
- Welfare losses (visual pollution)
- Food chain contamination

Economic impacts

- Causes economic loss in tourism, fishing and shipping industries.
- High cost of removal of accumulated plastic litter in the environment and their recycling.
- Causes reduction in agricultural productivity.

What can we do

A. Eco-friendly alternatives

- Avoid single-use plastics and use eco-friendly alternatives.
- Promotion and adoption of reusable bags, as alternatives to plastic bags.
- Refuse to take items in plastic carry bags from the vendor and ask for eco-friendly alternatives.



B. Waste Management

- Don't dispose plastic wastes with other solid wastes or litter in the environment.
- Avoid using plastic bags as household bin liner and to wrap other disposable wastes.
- Don't burn plastic waste at openly.



C. Recycle

- Sale or donate plastic wastes to recyclers or waste collectors and promote recycling.
- Segregate plastic wastes at source for effective recycling.

D. Awareness

- Gather knowledge on impacts of plastic wastes, eco-friendly way of wastes handling, use of alternatives etc. and give attempt to raise awareness in the society.
- Have discussion with friends and neighbours on issues pertaining to single-use plastic waste.
- Sensitise children, students and youth on environmental impact of plastics and viable alternatives.

Plastic Wastes Management: Legal Framework in India

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to the Government of India has published the new 'Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016' on 18th March 2017 in supersession of the earlier 'Plastic Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011' and thereafter the Rule has been amended 3 times bringing some modifications and incorporated new provisions to ensure proper management of plastic waste in the country. The latest version of the Rule is called Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021, published on 17th September, 2021. Few of the important provisions of the Rules, which shall apply to every waste generator, local body, Gram Panchayat, manufacturers, importers, brand owners, stockists, distributors, sellers, plastic waste processors and users of petro-based plastic and compostable plastic are:

- "Single-use plastic commodity" mean a plastic item intended to be used once for the same purpose before being disposed of or recycled;"
- Plastic carry bags/films shall not be less than 75 micron thickness with effect from the 30th September, 2021 and 120 microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastics, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene shall be prohibited with effect from 1st July, 2022:-
 - a. Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;
 - b. Plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.
- The provision of thickness shall not be applicable to carry bags and commodities made up of compostable plastic. Carry bags and other commodities made from compostable plastics shall conform to the Indian Standard IS 17088:2008 specification.
- Non-woven plastic carry bag shall not be less than 60 Gram per Square Meter (GSM) with effect from 30th September, 2021.
- Carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic can be used for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff subject to the notification of appropriate standards and regulation under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India;"
- Each plastic carry bag and multi-layered packaging shall have the following information printed in English, namely,-
 - a. Name, registration number of the manufacturer and thickness in case of carry bag;
 - b. Name and registration number of the manufacturer in case of multilayered packaging; and
 - c. Name and certificate number [Rule 4(h)] in case of carry bags made from compostable plastic.
- The shopkeepers and street vendors willing to provide plastic carry bags for dispensing any commodity shall register with respective Local Bodies.
- Every local body shall be responsible for development and setting up of infrastructure for segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of the plastic waste either on its own or by engaging agencies or producers.
- Every Gram Panchayat either on its own or by engaging an agency shall set up, operationalise and co-ordinate for waste management in the rural areas under their control.
- No person shall manufacture carry bags or recycle plastic bags or multi-layered packaging unless the person has obtained a registration from the State Pollution Control Board or the Pollution Control Committee of the Union Territory concerned, as the case may be, prior to the commencement of production.

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