

Segregated garbage collection can tidy Chennai city

TNN Nov 6, 2012, 05:44AM IST

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CHENNAI: Corporation of Chennai should separately collect solid waste to avoid mixing of different kinds of garbage, said experts at a meeting to promote zero-waste management and source segregation in the city on Monday.

Vellore Srinivasan, project director of Indian Green Service, has suggested that Chennai should follow zero-waste management project implemented in Vellore. "The civic body should separately collect waste materials from hotels, saloons, vegetable markets, fruit shops, chicken shops and other commercial establishments," he said. Now, the civic body collects all types of waste materials without segregation and dump them together, resulting in vegetable peels from restaurants, hair from saloons and plastic from commercial units getting mixed.

According to his plan, corporation should conduct a survey on the number of hotels, saloons and other establishments using GPS. "If the civic body is able to collect segregated waste, the organic part could be used for biogas," said Srinivasan. Corporation commissioner D Karthikeyan said that the civic body will consider this proposal. "If it's feasible, we will operate a special purpose conservancy vehicle to collect garbage materials from hotels and other institutions," he said.

Members of hotels' association has also welcomed the idea. Chennai Hotels Association president A Ramadas Rao said there are nearly 3,000 hotels across the city. "The civic body should also bring the street food vendors under this, since they casually dump kitchen waste in the open," he said.

Srinivasan told the civic body to operate the conservancy round the clock. "Biodegradable substances become waste after 24 hours. So the civic body should collect garbage from households at regular intervals. If there is proper awareness, the public would segregate waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable," he said.

Experts also slammed the civic body for setting up blue group bins across the city. "It's unfortunate that the civic body is following wrong strategies in garbage collection and disposals. Group garbage bins are stinking across the city. We should adopt segregation of garbage with the participation of residents," said M G Devasahayam, managing trustee of NGO Sustain.

Experts also urged the civic body to replicate a systematic waste collection system, recycling of inorganic waste and scientific disposal of non-recyclable waste across the city. The corporation is spending nearly 40 crore every year on waste management.