

Schools go green, start waste audit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Students in various schools across Kolkata and its adjacent districts are being trained in waste audit as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project, which has been undertaken jointly by the Center for Environment Education (CEE) and Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC).

The project that started in 2012 covers around 50 schools in Kolkata, Hooghly and South 24 Parganas. Of them, 30 are government schools where many students have already been taught the methods to audit and recycle waste. Fifteen government schools are located in Kolkata.

Taki House Boys' School, Hare School and Scottish Church Collegiate School are among the city schools where the waste audit has begun.

"The main objective of the audit is to reduce waste by imparting training to the students, who are members of eco-clubs in schools. They are taught to conduct waste audit, by which they would

PROJECT DETAILS

- ▶ Started in 2012
- ▶ Undertaken by CCE and CESC
- ▶ Covers 50 schools in Kolkata, South 24 Parganas and Hooghly
- ▶ 30 govt schools
- ▶ 15 govt schools are in Kolkata

Target: Reducing waste by 10% next year

Recycling: Paper, plastic, food and water



Taki House Boys' School, Hare School and Scottish Church Collegiate School are among the city schools where the waste audit has begun

be aware of how much paper, plastic and food wastes are generated daily," said Reema Banerjee, programme director, CEE (eastern region).

Banerjee added, "The audit will show each student how much waste is

being generated by them."

Alongside waste auditing, the students are also taught various ways to reduce it as well as recycle and reuse waste papers. For instance, they make greeting cards with such papers.

"They have set a target to reduce waste by almost 10% next year," said Banerjee.

The students are also recycling plastic waste like pet bottles to make vertical gardens where they produce various herbs used for midday meals. Besides, the schools have been provided with kits to compost food waste.

The project makes the students aware of reducing water wastage as they have been taught water harvesting. Under the project, several schools have been using rain water for three months for sanitation and cleaning purposes.

"By auditing waste, we learn how to minimize it," said a student.

Gautam Sarkar, headmaster of Shyamsundar Children High School in Bhadreswar, said that the project is allowing students to imbibe good habits.