

## Students to help in recycling plastic waste in Sirmaur

**SANJEEV KUMAR**  
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Collecting and disposing of plastic waste in Himachal Pradesh has become a major concern with the government coming out with a plan to buy back plastic in the state.

Though littering in hill state still remains a cause of concern, the Sirmaur district administration has come up with a unique initiative to tackle the menace.

The district administration has decided to involve school students in collection of plastic waste from their homes and surroundings which would also go a long way in inculcating habits of cleanliness among them.

"We have decided to involve students of all schools across the state in the campaign against plastic to rid the beautiful landscape of garbage," Deputy Commissioner R K Pruthi told The Statesman.

Pruthi said the students are told to bring plastic waste such as bottles and wrapping to school which is then collected for recycling.

"The district administration is using the plastic to build poly-bricks and these will later be used for construction of various public utilities. Recently, we have used the poly-bricks to make a bench and a toilet in the district headquarters," Pruthi added.



The initiative would result in spreading awareness among students and soci-

ety at large on the dangers of plastic use.

The students will col-

lect plastic waste not only from their houses but also from surrounding places

near their homes and schools.

The district administration has also decided to utilise the plastic for construction of roads in the district. Recently plastic waste was used for metalling 1 km road under Paonta Sahib Sub-division.

"One tonne plastic waste was used for construction of one-km stretch of road and plastic comprised about 8 per cent of the total material used in the entire process," Pruthi said.

He said the initiative, besides making use of plastic waste, will help in improving the quality of roads in the district as it helps in offsetting the damage caused to roads in heavy rains.

