

Theme 5

Achieving Zero Waste: Focus on waste segregation at source

Achieving zero waste in Delhi requires a systemic shift towards waste segregation at the source, where households, businesses, and institutions separate recyclables, organics, and non-recyclables from the outset. This can be achieved through widespread awareness campaigns, community engagement, and the implementation of convenient systems like color-coded bins and doorstep collection of segregated waste. By ensuring that waste is sorted properly before it reaches landfills or incinerators, valuable resources can be recycled or composted, reducing the overall waste burden and environmental impact. The introduction of a robust circular economy model, where waste is treated as a resource, can further facilitate the transition to zero waste. Partnering with local recycling businesses and developing infrastructure for organic waste processing will be essential. Government incentives, coupled with stringent regulations, can encourage compliance, making waste segregation an integral part of urban living.

Possible Challenges

Behavioural Change: Encouraging consistent waste segregation at the source can be challenging due to ingrained habits and lack of awareness.

Infrastructure Gaps: The need for widespread distribution of bins, waste segregation facilities, and processing plants requires significant investment and planning.

Compliance and Enforcement: Ensuring that citizens and businesses follow segregation rules may be difficult without strong monitoring and penalties.

Waste Collection and Transport: Efficiently collecting and transporting segregated waste to the appropriate processing facilities could present logistical challenges.

Lack of Market for Recycled Products: Without a steady demand for recyclable materials, the incentive for proper segregation may decrease.

Informal Sector Involvement: Engaging the informal waste sector, which plays a large role in waste collection and recycling, is essential but can be difficult to formalize.

Public Perception: Overcoming scepticism about the effectiveness of zero waste initiatives can hinder participation, particularly in densely populated areas.

Contamination of Recyclables: Improperly segregated waste or contamination of recyclable materials could undermine the efficiency of recycling programs.

Resource Allocation: Government funding and resources may be stretched thin due to the need for large-scale implementation and education.

Long-Term Sustainability: Ensuring that zero waste practices are maintained over time, especially as the city grows, may require continuous innovation and adaptation.

Concerned Delhi Govt. departments for Theme 5

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD):

The **MCD** is one of the primary bodies responsible for waste management in Delhi, including implementing waste segregation at the source. They are responsible for creating policies and implementing schemes that promote waste separation into categories such as biodegradable, recyclable, and non-recyclable waste.

MCD works on educating the public about segregation, ensuring that waste collection and disposal systems are in place to handle segregated waste.

For more readings follow the links below:

<https://udd.delhi.gov.in/>

<https://mcdonline.nic.in/portal>

<https://environment.delhi.gov.in/environment/waste-management>