

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
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F.No.DE.40(6)/90/SCB/2023/1305-1309

Date: 09.10.2023

CIRCULAR

Sub: Climate sensitive best practices such as the usage of public transportation, as well as including the students in local air pollution monitoring activities

Please find enclosed herewith the Minutes of Meeting vide no. F.No.10(60)/Env/2022/3826-3858 dated 29-09-2023 received from Department of Environment, GNCT of Delhi regarding importance and usage of public transport.

Thus, all the HoSs of Govt./ Govt. Aided/Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi are requested to disseminate to the students regarding climate sensitive best practices such as the usage of public transportation, as well as including the students in local air pollution monitoring activities at the community levels with the help of staff/SMC members.

This issues with the prior approval of the competent authority.

Encl. As Above

(ZAREEN TAJ)
Addl. DE (Science)

Date: 09.10.2023

F.No.DE.40(6)/90/SCB/2023/1305-1309

Copy for information and necessary actions to:-

1. PS to Secretary (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
2. PA to Director (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
3. All DDEs (District/Zone) to monitor & ensure the compliance please.
4. All the HOSs of Govt./Govt Aided/Private Unaided Recognized Schools of Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
5. In-charge, Computer Cell with the request to upload the Circular on the Departmental website as well as public circular.

(DR. SUDHAKAR GAIKWAD)
DY. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (Science)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
6TH LEVEL, C-WING
DELHI SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI -110002

F.No.10(60)/Env/2022/3826-3858

Dated: 29-09-2023

Minutes of Meeting

Sub: Minutes of Environmental Experts meet held on 12.09.2023 (Tuesday) under the Chairmanship Hon'ble Minister (Environment & Forest), GNCTD for the Winter Action Plan 2023-24

The meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, GNCTD on 12.09.2023 with a round of introductions from the participant organizations and the presiding chair. The meeting was attended environmental experts from various international, national level practitioners, non-government organizations, academicians, researchers, and others. (List of participants at Annexure A).

At the outset, Hon'ble Minister (Environment) welcomed all the participants and highlighted the geographical and climatic factors affecting Delhi's air quality. Highlighting the falling trend of PM levels and the reduction in the severe AQ days over the years, he laid emphasis on the role of CSOs to come together to strengthen the government's actions in the Winter Action Plan. With permission of Chair, Dr. K.S. Jayachandran (Special Secretary-Env.) initiated the proceedings with an overview of the 2022-23 Winter Action Plan and its major focus areas. It was followed by a presentation on the success of the Delhi Government's efforts towards addressing air pollution. It was followed by an overview of the Winter Action Plan for the upcoming season October 2023 – February 2024.

Following are the inputs from the respective experts from different organizations:

1. United Nations Environment Programme -

The representatives pointed out the need for collaboration with the NCR states for a more holistic mitigation approach. This collaboration would tackle the issues of external pollutant sources such as crop burning, vehicular pollution of inter-state transportation services, and dust pollution, among others.

The delegation mentioned the learnings from their work on tackling transport emissions in Seoul that can be translated into policy in Delhi. They suggested strengthening national standards on the PM_{2.5} emissions over and above the national mandates. Additionally, the need for reducing fuel consumption was also raised as it would target GHG emissions.

The specific policy recommendations for Poor and Severe AQ days were as follows:

- Restrictions on pre-BS VI diesel vehicles
- Improving the services of public transportation mediums during the poor AQ days
- Issuing advisories to reduce pollution exposure and private travel demand
- Mandating industry closures in the NCR cities as well
- Doubling down on waste burning
- Improving access to clean home fuels and heaters to the under privileged sections
- Real-time monitoring of industries that have shifted to biomass from fossil fuels.
- Specific greening of sections of road where traffic movement would lead to the generation of dust.

- Focusing on secondary particulate matters such as SO₂, NO_x, and VOCs. Suggested that Delhi take the lead on developing standards for the same.

Additionally, the poor efficacy of smog towers was also addressed, and it was advised against using them.

2. IIT Kanpur -

The idea of cloud seeding as a proof of concept was presented to the Hon. Environment Minister. The process, the cost, and the findings from the initial trials were shared with the Department.

After multiple discussions around the feasibility of the project, the Minister directed the officials to initiate consultations for the same.

The Source Apportionment team was also directed to reduce the duration of the deployment of Mobile Vans to each hotspot to 4 days from 7.

3. Environment Defense Fund -

The suggestions focused on climate modeling and conducting a trend analysis of pollution data to improve the forecast the instances of Poor and worse air quality days.

An in-depth analysis of the notified hotspots needs to be conducted to better understand the pollutant sources as it was mentioned that in some cases the major pollutants in those areas were external to that region.

The importance of targeting and enforcement of polluting activities at the ward level such as garbage burning, waste burning was also highlighted.

4. The International Council for Clean Transportation -

The delegation mentioned their pilot initiative with the Transport Department in measuring on-road vehicular emissions through the Remote Sensing technology. With the upcoming results from the pilot, they mentioned the need for identifying grossly polluting vehicle categories, and early identification of such vehicles by installing Remote Sensing Devices at the border entry points.

They also emphasized the need for the electrification of the local and municipal truck fleet operating in Delhi.

5. Centre for Science and Environment -

The major recommendation of this organization was the sectoral mapping of pollution, identifying the hotspots based on it, and subsequently basing the implementation strategies on it. This mapping could be achieved through geo-tagging and mapping of pollutants to the various sources.

For increasing the coverage of Municipal Solid Waste collection, the formalization of rag pickers into organisations such as co-operatives was advised.

Suggestions for C&D Waste Management:

- Publishing a list of bulk waste generators well in advance, and issuing clear mandates on waste management.
- Regular inspection of waste accumulation sites
- Incentivizing private uptake of recycle C&D waste
- GPS tagging of C&D waste carrying vehicles
- A revamp of the quality checks on dust control measures

Other suggestions included:

- Inventorisation of industries using illegal fuels in their operations
- Creating a database of households using unclean fuels and devising schemes to increase the provision of clean fuels
- Database generation of power cuts across Delhi via discoms to track the usage of DG Sets across the city

6. EPIC-India

Shruti Bhimsaria, the Director- Policy, Strategy and Special Initiatives, highlighted the need for improving the efficiency of the Mechanical Road Sweepers (MRS) through initiatives such as GPS-tagging of the vehicles, increasing the dust-collecting capabilities for heavy-dust roads, reworking the SOP for the machines and improving the monitoring system, among others.

With regards to the C&D Waste Management, it was also suggested that the registration of construction sites to the Self-Assessment Portal be made mandatory and the local RWAs be educated about the same, especially for sites less than 500 sq. in size.

She also emphasized the importance of the awareness campaigns to increase the citizen's participation in engaging with the Green Delhi App to increase the number of complaints on the app, especially by involving RWAs and CSOs.

7. Other sector-specific suggestions:

i) Transport Sector

The major themes around this sector were the restrictions on private vehicular movements and the focus towards reducing fuel consumption by means of discouraging private vehicle use.

Another initiative that was brought forward multiple times was the introduction of Low Emission Zones in certain parts of Delhi where vehicular movement is heavily restricted and only vehicle types such as public transport or Electric Vehicles are allowed at certain times in the day.

On Poor AQ days, it was also suggested that the public transportation rates are reduced, and parking rates are increased to promote bus and metro ridership.

The EV Policy may also have provisions for the electrification of medium and heavy-duty commercial goods vehicles operating as part of the municipal and governmental fleet in Delhi.

Traffic flow restrictions were also brought forward, along the lines of making certain road sections one way.

ii) C&D Waste Management

The WRI delegation talked about their pilot in Surat on clean construction practices and their implementation across various sites which led to PM level reductions.

Clean Air Asia representative talked about issuing clean construction practices toolkits to the site engineers and workers and suggested that the toolkit be integrated into the C&D Waste regulatory guidelines.

They also emphasised accounting for the health of the construction workers in the clean construction implementation practices, as well as involving the on-ground stakeholders in drafting of the C&D Rules. It was also suggested by CEEW that capacity building workshops be conducted for the site engineers on the usage of the C&D Self-Assessment portal. Moreover, the organisation talked about utilising the low-cost sensor data on the construction sites for enhanced decision-making.

Mandating the registration of all the construction sites on the self-assessment portal was also shared as an input, followed by the sensitisation of RWAs to ensure on-ground awareness around the same.

iii) **Dust Pollution**

Installation of low-cost sensors for monitoring dust pollution sources across the region.

Greening of empty pockets of land that contribute majorly to the localised dust.

iv) **Industries**

Notification of bulk wet waste generating industries and issuing clear mandates for the wet waste management.

A mapping of the MSMEs that fall under banned list during GRAP measures and checking whether they still operate during it, or shift to other unclean industries and their locations.

v) **Public Engagement**

Leveraging Eco Clubs across colleges and schools to disseminate climate sensitive best practices such as the usage of public transportation, as well as including the students in local air pollution monitoring activities at the community levels.

vi) **Additional Inputs**

Emphasizing the need for providing efficient heating devices to the security guards, the CEEW team also mentioned their work on developing insulated jackets that can be introduced to the security firms to include as part of the uniform.

Partnership with the Urban Local Bodies and other departments to double down on waste management practices and device coordinated strategies.

Mr. Jasmine Shah concluded the session with the advice to the participant organizations to submit their suggestions in written formats and the specific areas where they can provide their support to the Environment Department.

Summarizing the discussions, the Hon. Minister encouraged the organizations to continue engaging with the Department on their input and findings. He also suggested the creation of a common platform for the CSOs to engage directly with the Environment Department in real-time.

Also, outlined the sectoral analysis of pollutants, creation of localized pollution action plans, and the specific trainings to improve the public transportation services, among others as the priority areas for the upcoming Winter Action Plan. The Department officials were also instructed to collate the performance report of the Smog Towers to take a call on their usage in the coming year.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the chair.



Nigam Agarwal
Director (Environment)


To,

1. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority
2. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council
3. Chairman, NHA
4. Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, GNCTD
5. Divisional Commissioner, Department of Revenue, GNCTD
6. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi
7. Commissioner, Department of Industries, GNCTD
8. Commissioner, Department of Transport, GNCTD

9. Pr. Secretary, Public Works Department, GNCTD
10. Pr. Secretary, Education Department, GNCTD
11. Commissioner, Development Department, GNCTD
12. Secretary, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, GNCTD
13. CEO, Delhi Jal Board
14. Managing Director, DSIIDC
15. Chairman-Cum-Managing, DTC
16. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Forest & Wildlife, GNCTD
17. Managing Director, DMRC
18. Additional Director General (RD), CPWD
19. CEO, Delhi Cant. Board
20. Special Secretary, Power Department, GNCTD
21. Special Commissioner, Delhi Traffic Police
22. CEO, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
23. Director, Delhi Fire Service
24. Director, Horticulture, GNCTD
25. DCP (Licencing), Delhi Police
26. Managing Director & CEO, DIMTS
27. Deputy Secretary, Department of Environment, GNCTD
28. SEE, RDPC, DPCC

Copy To:

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister (Environment & Forest), Delhi
2. PPS to Principal Secretary (Environment), GNCTD
3. PA to Spl. Secretary (Environment), GNCTD


Nigam Agarwal
Director (Environment)