

Yediyur is Bengaluru's first ward to get waste-to-energy plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Yediyur ward in south Bengaluru on Saturday became the first among 198 wards in the city to have its own waste-to-energy plant.

With this, the BBMP will be able to save Rs 6.5 lakh of its monthly expenditure that includes Rs 4 lakh electricity bill and Rs 2.5 lakh being spent for transportation of garbage to the processing unit in the outskirts of the city.

Located near South End Circle, the facility processes 4.5 tonnes of wet waste at the bio-methanization plant and the biogas is then converted into electricity. At present, 4.5 tonnes of waste is processed at the plant, which has the capacity to process 5 tonnes, and

SOLAR PANEL NETWORK

Former corporator of Yediyur ward N R Ramesh said they are in the process of setting up a solar panel network near two parks at a cost of Rs 15 lakh that will supply power to 17 buildings of the BBMP. "Once operational, Yediyur ward will become the first ward in south India which doesn't have to rely on electricity companies like Bescom, and energize its properties using green energy," he claimed.



250kW of power is being generated. It produced electricity to power the nearby clock tower, a badminton academy, five parks and one km-stretch of a pedestrian walkway.

Union minister Ananth Kumar, who inaugurated the plant, said: "A booklet on this model will be prepared and submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We'll also

TIMES VIEW

Bengaluru's fall from a much-loved Garden City to stinking Garbage City is a classic case of failure of governance. However, there's some hope with at least one ward now equipped with a waste-to-energy plant. Turning trash into energy is a step in the right direction especially when the city is choking with garbage. The advantage of such plants is that they can produce electricity which, in the long run, can help reduce cost to some extent. Now, similar plants should be installed in every ward. This could well be a win-win situation and help solve the city's waste management problem.

ask urban local bodies across the country to follow suit."

"We'll set aside Rs 500 crore to revamp 13 defunct biogas units across the city," Mayor R Sampath Raj said.

Power shutdown

BENGALURU

Several areas coming under the L.R. Bande MUSS will face power shutdown till January 23 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. According to a Bescom release, the areas to be affected are Srinivas Layout, KHB Quarters, Bheemanna Layout, Adityanagar, Muniswamappa Layout, Sakamma Hanumanthappa Layout, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Chinnanna Layout, Rankanagar, Shampuravillage, Hanuman Layout, Nanjamma Layout, M.R. Palya, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Sultanpalya Main Road, and surrounding areas.

Waste-to-energy unit opens

BENGALURU: A bio-methanisation plant to generate electricity from wet waste was inaugurated at the Yediyur ward near South End Circle on Saturday.

The plant has a capacity of converting 5 tonnes of wet waste into electricity. At first, the wet waste is converted into methane and which in turn is generated into electricity. The liquid emitted during the process can be used for fertilisation purposes, said Yediyur corporator Poornima Ramesh.

The electricity generated in the plant will be used for Ambara Chumbana clock tower,



Union minister Ananth Kumar at the waste unit.

badminton academy, and for streetlights used in Ranadheera Kanteerava park, Dhantantari garden and Sanjeevini garden. Poornima said this will help to cut the electricity bill up to Rs 4 lakh in the ward. She also said that about 4.5 tonnes of wet waste is generated in a day and it is sent to Kannahalli waste-processing plant and Rs 2.5 lakh was being spent for its transport. This money will be saved as well.

"I will write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give 30% subsidy to this unit," Union minister Ananth Kumar said.

How power plants burning wood got a 'green' label

One of Europe's biggest coal-burning power plants has transformed into the continent's "largest carbon-saving project" using a trick that has environmentalists up in arms.

Instead of burning coal, the Drax plant in Britain now burns wood pellets imported from the US. The argument is that, since forests are renewable, whatever carbon dioxide the plant emits is recaptured when replacement trees grow.

It's a seductive argument but the catch is, there is no guarantee that the denuded forestland will not be used for agriculture (in which case the emissions are twice as much as from burning coal).

Also, trees don't grow back in a day. The type of massive tree that is being felled requires 20-100 years to grow back to full height. Above all, trees are not just fuel but habitat for birds and animals, and cutting them down will play havoc with nature.

For now, the business lobby is winning. Pellet production increased 40% to 28 million tonnes during 2012-15. Other countries are also showing interest in burning wood.

For more: Yale E360