

FIRST & FOREMOST...



We are happy to announce that we have dedicated a total of 2,000 hours towards our volunteering programmes.

This programme, carefully curated by our committed SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra staff members, invites volunteers every weekend in HSR Layout to contribute their precious time towards various meaningful activities. Posters are circulated on social media inviting people to join the programme and take part in green skilled activities.

The idea behind these programmes is two-fold: to build a community in SGKK that can contribute to composting and gardening activities and to give people a platform to share their experiences on low-waste living.

The programme has been a tremendous success in the last year. Individuals, corporates, schools, and communities have come together to volunteer at the centre.

Some passionate volunteers have travelled from different cities to give their waste, surplus compost, and event waste to the centre. SGKK has even attracted several overseas visitors.

To be a part of our volunteering programmes, reach out to us at info@swmrt.com.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SWMRT's Founding Member N S Ramakanth's passion for environmental preservation through scientific and low-cost solid waste management is as deep-rooted as it gets. Over more than one decade, he has dedicated most of his time advocating for low-waste events, weddings, festivals and community initiatives. His invaluable contribution as a member of the BBMP Expert Committee from 2012 to 2018 has been foundational especially when it comes to decentralised practices in Bengaluru. Recognised for his outstanding efforts, he was honoured with two back-to-back prestigious awards in 2016: Namma Bengaluru Award and Kempegowda Award.

Even after years of experience and accomplishments, Ramakanth's commitment to educating people on sustainable living remains unwavering. He continues to conduct sessions and workshops like the Environment Education Program Workshop on "Education for Sustainable Lifestyle" at Dayananda Sagar Business Academy in Bengaluru on May 22. Through such platforms, this veteran SWM activist strives to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to cultivate sustainable practices. His dedication and tireless efforts serve as an inspiration to all those seeking a greener and more environmentally conscious future.



WtE plants must be designed based on the 'feed type': RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel) or unprocessed waste. RDF has a higher calorific value and burns more uniformly but is expensive to make. Hence, to cut costs, the plants designed for RDF are often fed raw waste. Burning RDF is also polluting. As RDF is called 'fuel', many developed nations export it in violation of the Basel Convention-1989 that banned the export of waste from developed to developing countries.

Our earlier campaign on 'Small Incinerators' has also been echoed in a recent article by 'Down to Earth'. "The presence of plastics and bleached absorbent materials in these pads combined with low temperatures releases a harmful cocktail of pollutants."

(This is a monthly summary of the Whyburnwaste campaign being carried out by SWMRT to disseminate information on WTE plants so as to enable citizens, policy-makers and administrators to make informed decisions.)

WTE WRAP-UP



GLOBAL SUMMIT



Pinky Chandran moderated a panel discussion for Global Zero Waste Cities (GZWC) summit hosted by GAIA and Zero Waste Europe on May 31. The panel discussion covered worker’s inclusion and community engagement. This session addressed two fundamental building blocks required to build zero-waste cities: fair labour practices and community engagement. A panel of experienced leaders shared their practices to include essential stakeholders of zero-waste systems: workers and communities. The session clocked the highest number of participants.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

On the occasion of World Menstrual Hygiene Day, SWMRT organised a gardening and menstrual hygiene workshop hosted by Meenakshi Arun, Smita Kulkarni and Malini Parmar. During the workshop, menstrual cups and cloth pads sponsored by StoneSoup.in were distributed to the participants.

BRAINSTORM

Sixty Students from New Horizon Engineering College visited SGKK on May 26. Savita Hiremath took them through the intricacies of waste management and composting. Her talk shed light on the importance of decentralised waste management for economic, social, health and environmental sustainability in cities.



THE HEARTBEAT

THE MONTH THAT WAS

- SGKK Community volunteering Day | All weekends.
- Instagram live: Q&A on composting with Vani Murthy and Vasuki Iyengar | May 10.
- ELCEP workshop: Session hosted by Satya Foundation for Vidyashilp students by Sandya Narayanan and Shanthi Tummala on public policy and its challenges | May 12.
- Stall setup: SWMRT put up a stall at MSRIT to educate students on segregation | May 15.
- Instagram live: Waste-to-Energy plants: Understanding RDF & MSW | May 17.
- SGKK workshop: Workshop on SWM/composting by Savita Hiremath for New Horizon Engineering College | May 26.
- SGKK workshop: Gardening and menstrual hygiene workshop by Smita Kulkarni and Meenakshi Arun | May 28.
- SGKK visitors update: Visit by 48 members from Hariyali Vadakara Municipality, Kozhikode, Kerala.



#whyburnwaste has its own instapage now!

We are rerunning this information campaign since July 2022 on our new Instagram page.

Follow us to catch up with all that you have missed so far.

As a concerned stakeholder in your city's waste woes, make sure you—as a citizen or a policymaker or an administrator—are making informed decisions in the best interest of all.



(Clockwise) Aarthi Thoppae at the MSRIT stall; Community Volunteering Day marketing poster; Instagram live: Waste-to-Energy plants: Understanding RDF & MSW; ELCEP workshop hosted by Satya Foundation for Vidyashilp students by Sandya Narayanan and Shanthi Tummala; Visit by 48 members from Hariyali Vadakara Municipality, Kozhikode, Kerala.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & INSTAGRAM FOR INFO ON OUR UPCOMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & A LOT MORE.