

Greenenergy a green concern

e-MAGAZINE

13THYEAR 13THEDITION

08.07.2021

GUEST EDITOR : MISS. ARATI PATIL

PUBLISHED BY

ABHALMAYA FOUNDATION

CONTRIBUTED BY : STUDIO 888 ARCHITECTS



FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Imagine a beautiful scenario, a beautiful morning...lush green paths...walking on a road surrounded by trees...hearing the birds singing...well..that's how we assume our ideal mornings to be..But now lets get back to reality...A beautiful morning..walking on the road..you look to your left..there's a huge trash bin overflowing with garbage..animals around it trying to eat anything they can get from the trash..you look to your right..all the wrappers spread across the street and some cow eating it along with the grass around it..you open your phone..you see pictures of landfills getting in news for inadequate space to dispose off the waste..well..that's sad..but that's the truth..

This is something that is usually blamed on somebody else, but the truth is, we, ourselves, can modify our lifestyle a bit at personal level and thus creating a larger impact. We can bring about the change we wish to see in the world by putting a little effort in our lifestyle...and that is adapting to zero-waste lifestyle...



- MS. ARATI PATIL

A top-down view of various reusable items on a teal background. The items include several glass bottles and jars of different shapes and sizes, some with metal lids, some with cork stoppers, and one with a red and white checkered lid. There are also several fabric bags, including a white drawstring bag, a beige canvas bag, and a beige mesh bag. The items are arranged around the central text.

ZERO WASTE

WHAT IS ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE?

With increasing problem of waste generation and pollution because of it, it is important for each one of us to adapt to sustainable ways of living. Adapting to zero-waste lifestyle is one of the most sustainable ways of living.

Zero-waste lifestyle means adapting a lifestyle in which we reduce our consumption according to needs and reduce waste generation. It helps excessive extraction of resources, reduces wastes sent to landfills, reduce pollution at various stages right from when the product is manufactured till it is disposed, thus impacting various environmental areas.

It actually seems overwhelming to implement this kind of lifestyle, but with small and simple steps and knowing about our needs and wants, we can easily adapt to it. It not only does help environment, but it also helps us cut-down some of or unnecessary expenses. Although it may seem to require some amount of investment at first, but it cuts down various recurring expenses thus paying worth of its investment in first place. Also the expenses are cut down because of reusing and recycling our stuff.

HOW CAN WE ADOPT ZERO-WASTE LIFESTYLE AS AN INDIVIDUAL?

It is really necessary to take steps individually towards the goal of zero-waste lifestyle – this will slowly impact every single business to adapt to these conditions and thus living a life in eco-friendly manner.

Well, adapting to zero-waste lifestyle is not an easy task, it needs a great amount of dedication. Also, some practices may not be affordable in some cases, so though we target to zero-waste lifestyle but it is really upto us how can we participate in it, only the thing is we should reduce waste generation to its minimum.

The same basic principle works for all the problems because of waste, that is: reduce, reuse, refuse, recycle. Now lets see how little things might help us in this zero-waste movement...

WHAT WE CAN DO...

- Refuse what is not needed
- Reduce whatever we are using in excess i.e. what we are using even if it is not needed
- Reuse stuff we have again and again until it cannot be used anymore, and not just dump stuff because it is no longer in trend
- Repairing stuff which can be used again
- Recycling only when all the other options cannot be used



LET'S START NOW....

ZERO-WASTE LIFESTYLE AT HOME

With growing demand for “modern lifestyle”, consuming products for the sake of consuming is increasing, though it may not be actually necessary. We’re stuck in an vicious cycle of consuming things for displaying a particular lifestyle and working really hard to earn for it, which not only harms us but also generates huge amount of waste and thus harming environment.

Living a zero-waste lifestyle does not mean living without luxuries of life, it means living a lifestyle we want but in a sustainable way. This will lead to saving money on consumables as well as helping us reduce ecological footprint, thus making it affordable for our ecosystem as well.

Some of the ways in which we can practice zero-waste lifestyle at home are:

Avoiding use of plastic packaging. Plastic packaging is the main source of pollution around us, thus ditching it will greatly impact our surroundings. Instead of plastic packaging, using glass and stainless-steel utensils which can be washed and used again and again can be preferred.

Eliminating disposable paper products like paper napkins and switching to cloth based washable alternative will help reduce tremendous amount of waste.

Composting of kitchen waste is an better alternative, making great use of waste generated for plants. Various types of composting can be practiced depending on our preference.

Buying stuff in bulk reduces the amount of packaging waste generated, if such kind of packaging is unavoidable. Try to shop where you can have refiling facilities instead of buying everything again though not necessary.

GETTING STARTED

- 1** **Locate bin** (good drainage; convenient to kitchen and water source; need room to move around)



- 2** **Set up storage for browns** (carbon source or bulking materials)



- 3** **Have tools accessible** (pitch fork, bucket, temperature probe)



- 4** **Decide on kitchen pail for food scraps**



- 5** **Create a 4- to 6-inch base of browns, such as twigs or wood chips, in the bottom of the bin for aeration**



- 6** **Build a pile** (either layer browns and greens, or add greens to a big pile of browns)



- 7** **Aerate and mix as needed** (e.g., aim for weekly for first few weeks, or based on temperature or odor)



- 8** **Check and adjust moisture as needed**



- 9** **After 8 to 12 weeks, harvest finished compost**



- 10** **Screen (optional)**



- 11** **When bin is full, empty and move, and start a new pile**



To start any initiative, leveraging stuff for benefit of participants is an most important parameter for their active participation. As already discussed, zero-waste lifestyle is not completely feasible and a minimum amount of waste is generated for sure. So providing an alternative for disposal of this waste instead of just dumping in landfills is necessary.

Some of the start-ups all over the world have developed various business ideas to leverage this and need for more such initiatives is required.

But thing to remember is, having an alternative for disposal of waste does not mean it is alright to generate more waste, reduction of waste at source is always the first priority and these options for recycling or disposing are the last resort for stuff that cannot be repaired or reused.

SOME OF THE START UPS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ENCOURAGING ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE-

Zwoice – Zero-Waste Online Marketplace

With the advent of the internet, e-commerce and online shopping have become one of the most convenient ways to buy and sell all kinds of goods and services. The consumer goods industry has also been quick in leveraging e-commerce platforms to their advantage. However, the amount of waste generated from packaging and logistics has an adverse impact on the environment. Startups and scaleups offer online platforms where customers choose and buy products that generate low or no waste.

The Luxembourg-based startup Zwoice offers an online marketplace for zero-waste products. The startup combines zero-waste values with ethical and cruelty-free manufacturing practices. Consumers get to experience a unique online shopping platform that also positively contributes to the environment.

Go Zero Waste – Zero-Waste Economy

In addition to online zero-waste marketplaces, customers also want to adopt zero-waste practices in many facets of their lives. For example, dining out in a zero-waste restaurant or choosing retailers who use sustainable alternatives for plastic packaging. Increased public awareness of plastic pollution encourages startups to develop solutions that incorporate zero-waste concepts into their products and services.

Spanish startup Go Zero Waste develops its Go Zero Waste mobile application to enable users to identify retail stores that are plastic-free and embrace the zero-waste lifestyle. The mobile app assists the users in getting acclimated to the new lifestyle with small doses of sustainable habits. This further helps nudge its users to implement more sustainable practices.

Evanescence Packaging Solutions – Sustainable Packaging

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry utilizes a significant amount of packaging material for their products and this directly results in an increase in waste generation. Many FMCG companies have made a sustainable packaging pledge to counter the effects of non-biodegradable waste. In order to fight plastic pollution, startups develop sustainable alternatives to plastic packaging with the help of natural materials.

Canadian startup Evanescence Packaging Solutions produces biodegradable and compostable food packaging that decomposes in under 90 days. The startup uses renewably sourced biomass by-products to produce packaging that has increased strength, insulation, and is also cost-effective. Evanescence's product portfolio includes a wide range of molded products that includes meat trays and food trays, as well as cups, bowls, and clamshells.

Rekosistem – Rewards For Recycling

Considering the increasing greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, significant efforts are being put into the reduction of carbon footprint. Incentivizing circular economy concepts encourages people to recycle more and also creates a market for reusable products. Startups are also leveraging the internet of things (IoT) to develop zero-waste solutions for smart cities.

Indonesian startup Rekosistem is developing an IoT-enabled smart bin, ReBox, to increase public engagement for recycling non-organic waste and generate rewards for recycling. The startup is using this smart bin to encourage the public to drop off any non-organic waste and claim rewards from Rekosistem. The startup also offers zero-waste consulting services for municipal solid waste (MSW) management facilities.

INDIAN START-UPS AIMED AT MAKING BEST OUT OF WASTE

SKRAP

Founded in 2017 by Divya Ravichandran, SKRAP is a startup that provides end-to-end waste management solutions for events and offices. What does an end-to-end solution mean? Implemented at large-scale events like the YouTube Fanfest and the Bacardi NH7 Weekender, SKRAP uses this model to manage the event's complete waste needs, from start to finish. From assessing the needs of the event, recommending zero-waste friendly and compostable wares to setting up and manning the entire infrastructure for waste disposal, SKRAP does it all. Considering the great amounts in which waste is generated in large-scale events, every SKRAP project goes a long way in making India zero-waste.

SAAHAS ZERO WASTE

This Bangalore-based startup has a simple policy – “send zero waste to landfill.” Providing management and consultation services to bulk waste-generators, Saahas zero waste prevents 25 tonnes of waste from reaching the dump yard on a daily basis. Run by the 56-year old founder and CEO Wilma Rodriguez, this organization emphasizes on segregation at source. In servicing their clientele of MNCs, tech parks and corporates, Saahas is sure to provide segregation aid, front-end services, train the staff and make sure that the client is sending zero waste to the landfill.

NAMO E-WASTE

We live in an era of use-and-throw. Buy a new phone, throw the old one away. Update to a laptop, dispose of the old, bulky PC. What happens to them? These discarded electronic items become a part of toxic e-waste, which is just as dangerous as any other non-biodegradable item of waste. NAMO e-waste, founded by Akshay Jain, works out of Delhi. It collects disposed e-waste, treats it and recycles it into usable items. They also aim to provide green alternatives to electronic assessments by furthering policy changes. By providing eco-friendly solutions to the increasing amount of electronic waste, NAMO e-waste has a significant role in making sure India becomes zero-waste.

ANTHILL CREATIONS

At Anthill creations in Bangalore, Pooja Rai explores a new, unique way of making the best out of waste. Their mission is to encourage “Interactive learning environments in public spaces with a primary focus on sustainability.” Anthill collects and recycles scrap tires to build playgrounds for children and have already built over 10,000 such playgrounds. In their effort to encourage sustainable solutions to create safe and innovative playscapes, Anthill uses the 3R’s model and practices eco-friendly and cost-effective methods of upcycling. Not only does this organization treat harmful waste, it also brings smiles to remote, inaccessible corners of the country.

EXTRACARBON

ExtraCarbon seems to do it all. Proclaiming themselves as “on-demand kabadiwala”, ExtraCarbon provides a market place for selling items that you would otherwise dispose of. ExtraCarbon treats and refurbishes the item before selling it. Gaurav Joshi, founder and CEO, works toward one important objective: to allow individuals to practice recycling in real-time. By enabling their clients to schedule a pick-up service for their scrap and building a network of kabadiwala, ExtraCarbon makes recycling easier and more accessible. ExtraCarbon has over 16,000 users, with about 100 new users registering everyday.

GEM ENVIRO MANAGEMENT

Of all kinds of waste that is disposed of, plastic is perhaps the most dangerous. Gem Enviro Management, founded in 2013 collects polyethylene terephthalate (PET) – a kind of hard, lightweight plastic used in containers -waste from factories, offices, hotels, and institutes, and recycles them into products such as T-shirts, caps, and bags. These products are then sold under the brand of “Being Responsible”. Gem Enviro also works to further awareness regarding recycling and environment sustainability. Easily one of the biggest names in the waste management industry, this organization has a clientele consisting of the likes of Bisleri, Pepsi, IDFC Bank and Google.

Source: homegrown.co.in

Studio 888, C S No 13700

Local Board Colony, Near Udyog Bhavan

SANGLI-416416

MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

+91 888 842 4888

abhalmaya888@gmail.com



dreamstime.