



REPORT

WORKSHOP PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT IN UTTARAKHAND

SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAN AND
EXTENDED PROUCER RESPONSIBILITY
ROAD MAP AND WAY FORWARD

FEBRUARY 17, 2023



भारत 2023 INDIA

UTTARAKHAND POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

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Uttaranchal Pollution Control Board was established in Year 2001 as per Section (4) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by Forest and Environment Division, Uttarakhand Secretariat's notification no 7756/I-V.G.V./2001-13(5)/2000 dated 26.12.2001. With continuation to the same Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board was reconstructed by the Forest and Environment Division, Uttarakhand Secretariat notification no. 153/1(2)/V.G.V./2002-13(5)/2000 dated 01-05-2002

Vide notification no. 1100/1(1)(2)/V.G.V./2003-13(5)/2000/T.C. dated 14.07.2003 of the Forest and Environment Division, Uttarakhand Secretariat. of Uttaranchal Pollution Control Board was changed to Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board.

Vide notification no. 967/XXXVII-19-13(05)/2000 dated 11.12.2019 of the Forest and Environment Division, Uttarakhand Secretariat the name of Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board was changed to Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board.

This report is prepared on behalf of the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board by its Knowledge Partner, the Dehradun based not-for-profit organization Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation.

Material from this publication can be used but with acknowledgment.

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Inaugural & Technical Session

10:30 to 13:45 Hrs

S.No.	Programme	Time (Hrs)
1	Registration of Participants	10:00 to 10: 30
2	Arrival of Chief Guest. Welcome and Lightning of Lamp	10: 30 to 10: 40
3	Address by Director Environment	10:40 to 10:45
4	Address by PCCF (HoFF)	10:45 to 10:55
5	Address by Principal Secretary Forest and Environment	10:55 to 11:00
6	Address by ACS Urban Development Department	11:00 to 11:05
7	Address by Chief Guest (Hon'ble Minster of Forest, language and Technical Education)	11:05 to 11:15
8	Vote of Thanks (MS, UKPCB)	11:15 o 11:20
9	Tea	11:20 to 11:40
10	Plastic Waste Management-Success story by District Level functionaries a) DM Rudraparyag-Deposit Refund System b) Director NDBR-Plastic waste collection & disposal in forest areas in Kedarnath route	11:40 to 12:00
11	Technical session on EPR by Dr.Divya Sinha, CPCB and Dr. Ankur Kansal, UKPCB	12:00 to 12:45
12	Discussion and Q&A	12:45 to 13:30
13	Lunch	13:30 to 14:15

Valedictory Session

14:15 to 16:00 Hrs

S.No.	Programme	Time (Hrs)
1	Panel discussion-Plastic Waste & Circularity	14:15 to 14:50
2	Arrival of Hon'ble CM and visit to Stalls	15:00 to 15:15
3	Welcome of Chief Guest by Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board	15:15 to 15:20
4	Inauguration of Movie on Plastic Waste	
5	Presentation on Plastic Waste to Energy Conversion and Inauguration of 1st Waste to Energy plant in Pulp & Paper Industry- M/s BAHL Paper Mills	15:20 to 15:25
6	Address by Principal Secretary Forest and Environment	15:25 to 15:30
7	Address by Hon'ble Chief Minster	15:30 to 15:45
8	Mementoes and Vote of Thanks (Joint Director Environment)	15:45 to 15:50
9	High Tea	15:50 to 16:00

A. INTRODUCTION

On February 17, 2023, Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) held a workshop on “Plastic Waste Management in Uttarakhand: Single Use Plastic Ban and Extended Producer Responsibility - Road Map and Way Forward” at the head office of Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Timely and extremely relevant to the growing plastic menace in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, the one-day workshop marked the beginning of many such proactive steps in the near future by the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board.

Members from as many as forty industrial associations, representatives of eight urban local bodies, and media people were present in large numbers. Over 1,000 people watched the programme online.



B. BACKGROUND

Plastic Ban in Uttarakhand

Govt. of India notified Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 on 18 March, 2016. There have been 5 amendments to these rules during the past 7 years:

1. Plastic Waste Management Rules, 18 March, 2016
2. First Amendment (CPCB EPR Registration) 27 March, 2018
3. Second Amendment (Ban on SUPs) 12 August, 2021
4. Third Amendment (Use of Recycled Plastics) 22 September, 2021
5. Fourth Amendment (EPR Guidelines) 16 February, 2022
6. Fifth Amendment (PWM Rules On EPR) 6 July, 2022.

Five Key Highlights of PWM Rules 2016

1. Expand jurisdiction of applicability from municipal area to rural areas
2. Local bodies shall be responsible for setting up, operationalisation & co-ordination of waste management system
3. Bring in responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system & introduce collect back system of plastic waste as per EPR
4. Introduce collection of plastic waste management fee through pre-registration of producers, importers & vendors
5. The options on reuse of plastic in various applications namely, road construction, waste to oil, waste to energy will enhance plastic recycling.

In 2022, the Uttarakhand High Court said that plastic manufacturers and sellers without a plan for disposal of the waste would be banned in Uttarakhand. The division bench added that organizations selling and manufacturing plastic products in Uttarakhand would not only have to register with the Pollution Control Board, but also present a plan for disposal of their plastic waste. They can have the waste disposed of by the local body, but will have to reimburse its expenses.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a globally recognised waste reduction strategy that requires producers to take back products they have produced at end-of-life for reuse and recycling. It is related to the idea of a circular economy, an industrial system that creates zero waste beyond biological nutrients that can be safely released into the environment.

In a state like Uttarakhand where a big percentage of plastic waste generated comes from a humongous floating population of pilgrims and tourists, the issue of EPR becomes all the more important. To address this, the government has enacted the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, which applies to all producers, brand owners, importers and plastic waste recyclers.



C. INAUGURAL SESSION

The Guest of Honour for the session was Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Language, and Technical Education, Uttarakhand, Mr Subodh Uniyal. Also present on the dais were Director State Environment Protection and Climate Change Mr S P Subudhi, Secretary Forest Govt of Uttarakhand Mr Vijay Yadav, PCCF (HOFF) Mr Vinod Kumar, and Member Secretary Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board Mr Sushanta Pattnaik. It is worth mentioning that the shawl and mementos presented as a token of appreciation were made from recycled plastic bottles.

Guest of Honour Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Language, and Technical Education, Uttarakhand, Mr Subodh Uniyal

The Hon'ble Guest of Honour pointed out the palpable effects of climate change and the importance of a circular economy. "We need to find a balance between ecology and economy," he stated. He congratulated representatives of industrial associations present for the increase in EPR registration.

At the same time, he warned those present against individuals in the field of environment who are doing more harm than good by playing in the hands of some powers, and cited the opposition against Tehri Dam and Sardar Sarovar Dam as examples. He rued the fact that there has been a decrease in connecting with the populace from the forest department and said it was detrimental since no initiative can succeed without community involvement.

He congratulated Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board for the workshop saying good work will always get recognition. In reply to Mr Vinod Kumar's query about biodegradable bags having a shorter shelf life for nursery plants, he suggested that the same can be used for fast-growing plants; after all, it will have to start somewhere.



PCCF (HOFF) Mr Vinod Kumar:

PCCF (HOFF) Mr Vinod Kumar congratulated Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board on the workshop and said it is a great initiative and a need of the hour. He talked about how until even a decade ago, waste management was hardly the top agenda when it came to urban development. Now that waste generation has multiplied several times, however, it is a different story altogether.

Waste management is a big challenge and has become a top priority for governments today. Having said that, it is also important to be mindful of the waste that is generated and cited Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mission Life, that should encourage us to make changes in our lifestyles. He also expressed concern at the plastic bags that are used in the nurseries and asked the business community to explore alternatives for biodegradable bags that can also last three years for the saplings to grow healthy.

He reminded those present that plastic has been banned completely in forest areas such as sanctuaries and reserves. He mentioned a small NGO run by a women's SHG in the Jim Corbett area that takes plastic bags from visitors and gives them jute bags, and earned a revenue of Rs 7.5 lakh. He also pointed out how waste is strewn around on the roadsides of forest areas and urged urban local bodies to be more cognisant of this and take appropriate action.



Vote of Thanks : Member Secretary Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board Mr. Sushanta Pattnaik

Member Secretary thanked the dignitaries for sparing time for the workshop and encouraging the Pollution Control Board team. He also thanked members of industry associations as well as the founder of Social Development for Communities Foundation Mr Anoop Nautiyal as a Knowledge Partner for the workshop. He invited the Guest of Honour to inaugurate the stall on products made of recycled bottles and closed the session for a tea break.



D. TECHNICAL SESSION ONE

First Technical Presentation - Mr Jitendra Verma, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ukhimath:

He shared a presentation (COPY ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE) on Litter-Free Kedarnath Yatra, with India's first Digital Deposit Refund System. A simple incentive system that encouraged consumers to bring back their waste for a refundable deposit, collected at the time of purchase. By placing a value on the waste, the system has efficiently increased material recovery and better quality for recycling.

The QR code is put on plastic water bottles for an additional sum of Rs 10, sold by a shopkeeper, and reimbursed to the person bringing the bottle back at one of the 12-13 collection centers along the Kedarnath route. Since the refund is solely online, there is complete transparency as well. Those who returned the bottles included the end-consumer, safai saathis, and pitthuwalas. If there were bottles that were not returned, the money unreturned was put in a corpus and that trash from the hill or slope was retrieved.

"A solution is as good as it is imposed," he said. With the help of the private company who is working on this initiative, the administration implemented it and the business community was given ownership of the initiative. Citing all plastic pollution rules and acts, the administration implemented it in the entire route without exception.



The impact of the project was in that 1200 kg of legacy waste was retrieved; the initiative reached 546 shops, 334 eateries and 94 hotels; 92,650 QR codes were bought for bottles, of which 64,102 were collected and processed for recycling; 25 jobs were created; high community ownership and effective partnership was perceived; and there was reduced littering. There are plans to expand it to all types of beverages and multi-layer plastic packets in the forthcoming Char Dham Yatra of Kedarnath that will start in the month of April 2023.

Second Technical Presentation - Mr Nishant Verma, Director, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve:

He explained the initiative that took place in the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary with the help of a presentation (COPY ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE). In 2022-23, 122 kilogram non-biodegradable waste was collected and handed over to Sulabh International from the Kedarnath trek route and Vasuki Tal route. 774 kilograms of plastic and non-biodegradable waste was collected from the Tungnath-Chopta area by the forest officials and sent to Nagar Panchayat, Ukhimath. From the Devariya Tal region, 114 kg of such waste was collected.

Twenty-eight people were fined a collective amount of Rs 1,04,500 for littering in the forest and route area in Kedarnath Dham, and this was put in the state coffers. People littering the area were fined and those going to Rudranath Temple in Gopeshwar range were asked to deposit Rs 100 while taking plastic with them and the money was reimbursed when they brought it back and deposited it there.

Plastic bottles, wrappers, and packets were collected along the Char Dham Yatra route by daily wagers and handed over to Gopeshwar Nagar Palika. In 2022-23, 132,44 quintal plastic waste was collected from these areas. He also shared that 40.81 quintal non-biodegradable waste was collected from the Badrinath Dham route. A total of 55,000 kg of such waste was collected by Eco Vikas Samiti, Bhyundar from Hemkund Sahib and Valley of Flowers routes.

He lauded this committee that has been formed by the local rural population and has done commendable work in the field of waste management. Moreover, in Valley of Flowers and Auli-Gorson treks, tourists and trekkers need to submit a deposit of Rs 500 which is returned when and if they show the plastic bottles and wrappers that have been brought back. Additionally, waste bins have been installed along all trek and pilgrimage routes in the biosphere.



His recommendations: Up until now, the waste is given to the nagar palikas and nagar panchayats. If a plastic densification unit can be put up in the area, it will be easier to transport this waste and will be cost-effective as well.

E. TECHNICAL SESSION TWO

Dr Divya Sinha, Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) highlighted the technicalities of EPR framework under Plastic Waste Management Rules. With the help of a presentation (COPY ATTACHED FOR REFERENCE), Dr Sinha underlined the elements of EPR guidelines based on the 4th Amendment to PWM rules 2016, which were about:

1. Thrust on processing of plastic waste
2. Annual targets for producers/ importers/ brandowners (PIBOs) based on plastic waste introduced in market
3. Obligations for reuse, recycle, use of recycle content and end of life disposal
4. Key stakeholders: CPCB, SPCBs/ PCCs, PIBOs, Plastic Waste Processors (PWP)
5. PWPs to issue certificates to PIBOs/ local bodies for fulfilling EPR guidelines.

She explained about the kinds of plastic that are covered under EPR, such as rigid plastic, flexible plastic packaging, multi-layered plastic packaging, and plastic sheets and shared the obligations under EPR for each kind of plastic. 70% EPR target was 2022-23; and 100% EPR target 2023 onwards.



She underlined EPR guidelines on how registered PWP will issue EPR certificates to PIBOs, which will then submit EPR certificates as proof of fulfillment of EPR obligation. There is also a provision for exchange of EPR certificates between PIBOs and PWPs. The guidelines, she said, aimed at developing a business model for collection/ segregation/ transportation and processing of plastic waste.

“The certificates will be generated and shared online only,” she reminded those present. Apart from EPR guidelines, working model, modules of EPR portal, EPR targets for PIBOs were also discussed.

There are seven modules of EPR portal:

1. Registration of PIBO
2. Registration of PWP
3. Issue and exchange of EPR certificate
4. Filing of annual return
5. Environmental compensation
6. Third party audit
7. Training



She said that the first three modules are online and were launched on January 6, 2023; the last four were being worked on by the CPCB. Dr Sinha then explained in detail the first three modules, from how to fill in application form for registration, to EPR targets and post-registration mechanism and sales details and invoice generation. She also explained how there is a late fee mechanism, but the objective was not to get late fees but to ensure that the filing and registration is done as soon as possible. Similar information was shared for PWPs being

She assured that the process is simple and detailed. She also shared that leading FMCG Groups such as ITC, Godrej and Tata Consumer Products had already registered on the portal. As of now, more than 200 importers were also registered on the portal.



EPR Question & Answer Session

The session ended with an active question and answer session. Representatives of Industry Associations asked about relevance for asking audited data yet again and to submit invoices, to which Dr Sinha replied that it was because the portal will be unable to read a PDF document and that all the data that is put in by a company is accepted; the only condition was to have tabulated data, so that EPR target can be calculated.

President of Industries Association of Uttarakhand Mr Pankaj Gupta represented his organization and brought some issues to Dr Sinha's attention, such as:

1. Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines were notified on 16 Feb 2022 under PWM Rules, 2016 and since this being a new provision, is evolving. The industries are facing many tedious issues and they need to be addressed and resolved fast.
2. These guidelines are applicable in the entire country and in no other state are units being asked to stop operations. Whereas in Uttarakhand, due to the order of Uttarakhand High Court, units are facing difficulties.
3. MOEF has issued an office memorandum dated 6th Jan 2023, which has clarified some issues but confusion still remains on many important issues.



Mr Gupta also submitted a detailed document regarding the same and additional queries with possible solutions to Dr Sinha.

Mr. Manish Bhatia from Axis Consultants had the following questions:

1. Correction option in Sale and purchase data on the portal.
2. Option for Single Application for Producers having multiple units in a single state should be allowed as all units have common GST there is no billing from one unit to the other units. So no sale purchase data is available to be submitted on the portal. Multiple consent uploading facilities should be provided on the portal.
3. How do you propose to bring the traders in the EPR compliance portal as it is a trade practice to sell plastic packaging to traders and traders further sell to Registered brand owners or producers, bringing the same quantity under the EPR liability twice.
4. Date by which the EPR liability of registered PIBOS is to be discharged should be extended. PIBOS is still in the process of registration.
5. Due to lack of awareness, huge EPR liabilities and monetary involvement on the PIBOs for the past two years, time extension should be granted for further 1 year for discharge of liability without imposition of EC.



Mr Kartik Singhal of BioEnvirons Consortium also asked Dr Sinha about plastic waste management from the perspective of a producer. His question as follows

1. Are there any changes in online details entry scheme in producer applications, such as changes in plastic procurement in the new portal as compared to the old portal. Did one need to enter plastic sold details as well?

From the perspective of an importer, Mr. Kartik Singhal asked whether:

1. In an importer application the entry of procurement details of imported plastic is mandatory, but did one need to enter details of imported plastic sold to PIBO
2. Will surgical products such as cannula, and cock pit made of plastic be covered under this since they are bioMedical waste?

Mr. Anil Marwah from the Food Industry Association of Uttarakhand asked if food industry will need to be registered. Dr Sinha said her department has answered this question several times already.

Others asked why there was not an option to correct data while filling in the forms. Dr Sinha assured that the same was being done. She also pointed out that only trademark and registered labels need to register on the portal. MSMEs were exempted from registration. "Who should be exempted does not come under the purview of CPCB and which is why the ministry has issued an OM on the same," she said, repeating that those who don't produce plastic and are in the MSME category, are not required to register.



A few more questions were taken by Dr Divya Sinha. She was asked about the status of companies that were neither producers nor brand owners, and were merely packaging the product. For instance, companies in the region that are not making blister packs and only the medicines that they pack in these blister packaging for a brand owner.

She was further asked that as per the rules, someone can generate certificates only until March 31. However, the statement closes only three-four months after the financial year end, which means the production and recycling will continue until then. Dr Sinha said she had replied to this question even during lunch time, wherein she had said that only the person who introduces the product in the market under a brand name will have to register.

Industry Representatives requested for a written explanation for the same, and she agreed to the same if the query is given in writing. Regarding the generation of certificates by March 31, she agreed that there has been a delay, both by CPCB and the states; only Maharashtra has completed the physical verification of the same. "CPCB was following up with the PWP's on the same as well," she said. Regarding a delay after March 31, Dr Sinha said she will have to consult with her authorities and was not in a position to comment about the same as of now.



Regarding importers of plastic units, Dr Sinha said that CPCB had already clarified this saying that any importer who is importing plastic packaging or commodities in plastic packaging has to be registered, without exception. She also encouraged the business community to ask questions beyond the registration.

Others asked for an understanding from the point of view of a producer who has four units in one state and asked if there can be an option of single application for all four. Dr Sinha said that CPCB had considered it but had run into hurdles, because of which they had to make it into four, and clarified that the fee will have to be paid in only one.

She also clarified that those who purchase plastic from waste pickers can merely put in the Aadhar number or even phone number and don't have to rely on a GST number. Dr Sinha clarified that biomedical waste and hazardous waste will not be covered under EPR. She urged everyone to read the guidelines once again, which will answer a number of queries that were put up. Additionally, she took a number of small queries from the business community.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Dharam Singh lauded the efforts made by UKPCB in organizing this workshop that was much needed. "This Devbhoomi of ours that is so rich in natural beauty is looking at laying down a strategy to manage waste and plastic waste through this workshop. We have made a number of efforts to ensure that plastic waste management is on point to ensure that our natural beauty that is unique, is preserved," he said and added that we have to find a fine balance between economy and ecology.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Dharam Singh rued the fact that he couldn't be here for the entire day, but believed that the workshop will have several takeaways to counter waste generation and its management. He also reminded those present of the initiatives that Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has taken, such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Namami Gange. He agreed that the plastic waste generated from our homes, restaurants and commercial buildings has become a big challenge and we need technology, awareness and sensitivity to battle it.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Dharam Singh talked about how a lot of this is already being done and congratulated those who are working in this direction. He congratulated businesses such as Pashupati Group and Bahl Paper Mills for converting plastic waste into a resource, and said that these examples are sure to inspire others. The Hon'ble Chief Minister was also optimistic that the manthan in the workshop will bring out nectar, amrit, which will benefit not only the environment but also the industry and business community in Uttarakhand.

"Waste should be perceived as a resource and that will add to our progress story since it will provide employment opportunities," he said. He reminded those present of Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi's Mission Life and urged everyone to incorporate a positive change for the environment in each of our lives.

F. VALEDICTORY SESSION

**Chief Guest : Hon'ble Chief Minister Uttarakhand
Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami**

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was felicitated by Principal Secretary - Forest & Environment Mr. RK Sudhanshu with a shawl, plant, jacket and a memento. The shawl and jacket were manufactured with recycled plastic, and were made by Uttarakhand's Pashupati Group of Industries. Principal Secretary - Forest & Environment Mr. RK Sudhanshu was welcomed by Director State Environment Protection and Climate Change Mr SP Subudhi.

Member Secretary Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board Mr Sushanta Pattnaik formally welcomed Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Pushkar Singh Dhami by thanking him for finding time to attend the valedictory session. He also told the gathering that with the coordination of UKPCB and CPCB, in the past four months, 216 PIBOs in Uttarakhand have registered on the EPR portal. At the same time, 67 PWPs have registered in the same. In North India, Uttarakhand is number one in this registration, and seventh in India. He reminded everyone that plastic waste is a big challenge and lauded Dr Divya Sinha's efforts in communicating about the EPR guidelines to the business community.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister unveiled a short film on plastic waste and its management with the click of a mouse button. He also inaugurated the plastic waste to energy boiler in virtual mode, at Bahl Paper Mills Ltd in Kashipur. This is the first such boiler in the state where 100 tonnes of plastic can be converted into 2.5 MW electricity on a daily basis.



Principal Secretary - Forest & Environment Mr. RK Sudhanshu

Principal Secretary - Forest & Environment Mr. RK Sudhanshu talked about how while countries such as the US uses most plastic on a per capita basis, the country's management of the same and its recycling is commendable as well. He reminded those present of the four Rs of recycling – refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle. He urged urban local bodies to take the lead in the same.

The workshop ended with group photographs with dignitaries.



Displays and Stalls at UKPCB

The lawns of UKPCB were also a venue for the following six stalls that exhibited the work that was being done in the area of plastic waste management and recycling:

1. Shagun Enterprises, Kotdwar
2. Sahayata Samuh, Dehradun
3. Swayambhu Innovative Solutions Ltd, Haridwar
4. Pashupati Polyplex, Kashipur
5. EIACP Programme of UKPCB, Uttarakhand
6. Professional artist Ms Tanushree Mishra, Dehradun



COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक के विकल्प अपनाएं स्वस्थ भविष्य बनाएं

BRING YOUR OWN CLOTH/JUTE BAG

REFILL RE-USEABLE BOTTLES

SAY NO TO SINGLE USE CUTLERY

SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS

USE RE-USEABLE TIFFIN BOXES

Plastic Waste Management in Uttarakhand
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Single Use Item

Alternative

plastic water bottles

plastic ice cube trays

plastic containers

stainless steel water bottles

silicone ice cube trays

mason jars

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Wooden Stirrer

Single-use Plastic knife

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WORKSHOP MEDIA COVERAGE

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CM stresses on waste recycling, eliminating single use plastic

By OUR STAFF REPORTER
DEHRADUN, 17 Feb: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami addressed a workshop on plastic waste management organized by the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board at Gaura Devi Paryavaran Bhawan, IT Park, here, today.

On this occasion, he also inaugurated the state's first waste to energy plant in Kashipur and a short film based on plastic waste management. The Chief Minister also visited the stalls based on plastic waste management at the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, Dhami said that discussion regarding the solution to the challenges caused by plastic pollution during the workshop would definitely prove effective in improving the standard and condition of the environment in the state. He said that, at present, the plastic waste coming out of the homes, industries, hotels, restaurants and establishments has become a big challenge for everyone concerned. To deal with this challenge, there is a need to become more aware and sensitive towards developing plastic waste recycling technology.

Please see page ... 3

Technical solutions needed to tackle challenge posed by plastic waste: Dhami

CM calls for working on concept of waste to wealth & energy

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that plastic waste generated from homes, industries, hotels, restaurants and other establishments has become a very big challenge. He stressed on the need for becoming aware and sensitive towards developing modern plastic waste recycling techniques to overcome this challenge. The CM also said that it is now time to work on the concepts of waste to wealth and waste to energy. Dhami also stressed on the need for more seriousness at the collective level to remove single use plastic from lifestyle usage. The CM said this while addressing a workshop on plastic waste management organized by the Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board (UEPPCB) here on Friday. He also virtually inaugurated the State's first waste to energy plant, Kashipur unit and released a short film on plastic waste management.

He appreciated the UEPPCB for EPR registration of industries and units linked to plastic production, stating that Uttarakhand is leading on this front in north India. "The time has come for work on waste to wealth and waste to energy in Uttarakhand. The concept of a circular economy will also help in reducing carbon emissions. There is a need for viewing waste not just as garbage but as a resource as it will also provide livelihood to common people while also generating employment opportunities. Many startups in the nation are coming forward with new techniques and products in this direction," said Dhami. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sent a message on awareness on environment protection to the global community by initiating programmes like the SwachhBhata mission, construction of toilets and Namami Gange mission. The campaign to remove plastic has gained impetus through Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other sanitation programmes, said the CM. Referring to Mission Life started under PM Modi, he said that this initiative is connected to every person's life. The major challenge of environmental pollution can be tackled and the planet can be saved from a big threat if people make even small changes in their lifestyle, added Dhami.

Principal secretary RK Sudhanshu, Environment director SP Subudhi, UEPPCB member secretary Subhant Pattnaik, Environment joint director Nitish Mani Tripathi and others were also present on the occasion.



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