

Two major dump yards in city to be reclaimed

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Thiruvananthapuram: Heaps of waste accumulated in two major dumping sites in the city—Palayam and Erumakuzhy—will be removed through bio-mining and bio-remediation. The corporation estimates that over 11,000 cubic metres of unsegregated waste have been piled up at both the sites over the past few years.

The dumping site at Palayam will be cleared as part of Smart City project. The temporary rehabilitation block for vendors and shop owners who have to be shifted for the modernisation of Connemara Market, is being planned at the site which has turned into a dump yard. A total of 484 vendors will have to be shifted to the temporary rehabilitation camp and around 60 vendors will be given permanent space as per the old agreement with Trivandrum Development Authority (TRIDA).

Bio-mining of legacy waste/un-processed municipal solid waste is done by excavation of the non-biodegradable waste by using suitable mechanical sieving machine or any other suitable equipment. It involves segregation and retrieval of recoverable materials and recycling and reclamation of the dumpsite. It is roughly estimated that there could be roughly 9684 cubic metres of legacy waste spread over 40 cents at Palayam.

The corporation's health wing has recently undertaken a total survey to assess the volume of waste that has to be bio-mined at Erumakuzhy. The survey results showed that 2,388 cubic metres of waste have accumulated at Erumakuzhy. The corporation will now undertake bio-mining of the waste with the help of specialist agencies.

The civic body has decided to do bio-mining of two the dump yards as per rule 15 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. As per the rule, the local body has to investigate and analyse all old open dumpsites and existing operational dumpsites for the potential of bio-mining and bio-remediation and take actions to bio-mine or bio-remediate the sites.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had raised alarm that the incremental growth of municipal solid waste dumpsites has

resulted in mountains of waste and it had directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to propose standard operating procedure (SOP) for bio-mining and bio-remediation of legacy solid waste.

As part of bio-remediation and bio-mining, the dumpsite is excavated and waste is stabilized through bio-remediation. The waste is exposed to air with use of composting bio-cultures. The stabilized waste will be screened to recover all valuable resources like plastic, brick, metals, clothes, rags followed by sustainable management through recycling, co-processing and road-making, according to SOP issued by CPCB.

Bio-mining at Palayam is estimated to cost Rs 94 lakhs. The process will be completed within in three months.