

Bulletin



Monthly Newsletter



MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

NOVEMBER 2021



We are gladdened to present to the stakeholders MPCB's 7th edition of E-bulletin as we continue to series. This E-bulletin is an attempt to give you a brief insight into the latest happenings in the field in terms of various new initiatives undertaken, awareness programs being carried out by MPCB and introduce the reader to the breakthrough research which is being done in this field.

In this edition of the E-Bulletin, we are presenting article on C40 and highlights of The New Tree Act that has been published recently. It also includes the brief on Maharashtra's achievement in leadership award at COP26 for climate action.

Editorial

We hope this E bulletin is very much valuable, informative and helpful for the readers and we will also greet your suggestion & feedback for betterment of our future E-bulletins.

ARTICLE

C40 CITIES

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a group of 97 cities around the world that represents one twelfth of the world's population and one quarter of the global economy.

Created and led by cities, C40 is focused on fighting climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks, while increasing the health, wellbeing and economic opportunities of urban citizens.

Working across multiple sectors and initiative areas, C40 convenes networks of cities providing a suite of services in support of their efforts, including: direct technical assistance; facilitation of peer-to-peer exchange; and research, knowledge management & communications. C40 is also positioning cities as a leading force for climate action around the world, defining and amplifying their call to national governments for greater support and autonomy in creating a sustainable future.

C40 member cities earn their membership through action. C40's most distinguishing feature is that it operates on performance-based requirements, not membership fees. C40's Leadership Standards set the minimum requirements for all member cities and ensure the integrity of C40 as a network of climate leaders.

C40 - A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MAYORS TAKING URGENT ACTION TO CONFRONT THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND CREATE A FUTURE WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE.



1**ADAPTATION & WATER**

Cities are already experiencing a new climate reality. C40's adaptation work helps cities to take action to protect residents and infrastructure from immediate and future climate risks, as well as to develop solutions and implement actions towards transformational, city-wide resilience to the impacts of climate change.

2**AIR QUALITY**

The majority of urban populations breathe dirty air, leading to early death, disease and significant impacts to economies and general wellbeing. C40's Air Quality team works with cities to implement policies and programmes that reduce urban air pollution and protect public health.

3**ENERGY AND BUILDINGS**

Buildings are responsible for more emissions than you might think – 60% on average, and up to 80% in some cities. This means that the transition away from fossil fuels and into renewable energy and green buildings solutions must be an essential part of all climate action.

4**FOOD SYSTEMS**

Cities have strong control over many aspects of urban food systems. Our work in this area helps cities to implement solutions that make it easier for people to eat more plant-based options and waste less food. Doing so will help reduce emissions, improve health and equity, and enhance climate resilience around the world.

5**TRANSPORTATION**

The cities with the most successful transport strategies prioritise people-friendly streets over space for cars. Cities have the ability to build a future where the majority of people travel on foot, by bike or by shared transport, and make sure that remaining vehicle trips are made using zero emission vehicles.

6**URBAN PLANNING**

Urban planning measures are critical for cities to be able to deliver on their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and reduce their vulnerability to climate hazards. C40's Urban Planning work supports cities to develop, implement and share planning strategies and regulations that set a framework for sustainable and equitable urban growth.

7**WASTEF MANAGEMENT**

Around the world, sustainable urban waste management practices can improve public health and economic opportunity, promote equity and create resilient infrastructure. When approached holistically, waste and sustainable materials management can help cities reduce 15–20% of their emissions through reduction, avoidance, recycling, treatment and offsetting.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



FOR INSPIRING REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

MAHARASHTRA IS THE ONLY INDIAN STATE TO WIN AWARD AT COP26 FOR CLIMATE ACTION

CLIMATE WEEK NYC
°CLIMATE GROUP

We can't keep emitting carbon. We don't have the luxury of time. Maharashtra will set an example of how subnational governments can act on climate change despite being massively industrialized.



AADITYA THACKERAY
Minister of Environment and Tourism,
Government of Maharashtra



Maharashtra bagged the Inspiring Regional Leadership Award from Under2 Coalition for Climate Action and became the only Indian state to win one of the three awards by U2 in Scotland.

Shri. Aditya Thackeray, Maharashtra's Environment Minister received the prestigious award on behalf of the State.

Speaking in Glasgow, Scotland, Maharashtra's Minister for Environment, Tourism and Protocol said, "We strongly believe that it is high time we put in collective efforts and meaningful actions to work on this global issue that sees no borders of geography, race, nationality or gender."

The Minister also highlighted that the State wants to lead the way in India to tackle climate change. Maharashtra has started with a movement called Majhi Vasundhara, which means My Planet. We are focusing on the traditional five elements of nature.

Ahead of the upcoming 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November, Maharashtra's Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Aaditya Thackeray announced that 43 AMRUT cities and urban clusters from Maharashtra will join the global "Race to Zero" campaign.

Cities joining this campaign have pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions in the 2040's or sooner.

Some prominent cities in the list are Mumbai, Vasai-Virar, Panvel, Kohlapur, Shirdi, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Badlapur, Ulhasnagar, Solapur, Osmanabad and Latur among others. Of these, six cities from western Maharashtra — Mumbai, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kalyan-Dombivli, Pune and Nagpur — already joined the campaign earlier this year.

The State Environment Department will undertake a greenhouse gas emission inventory exercise for all the cities and clusters, which account for a floating population of 50 million.

NOTIFICATION



PROTECTION & PRESERVATION OF TREES ACT

This act may be called the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Act, 2021

Under the proposed amendment, a tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree. It may belong to specific species, which will be notified from time to time. Experts believe that in addition to the age, the state climate change department (which will be implementing the Tree Act), should also consider a tree's rarity, its botanical, historical, religious, mythological and cultural importance in defining a heritage tree. Anyone cutting a heritage tree will need to plant trees in the same numbers as the cut tree's age.

According to the current Compensatory Plantation in the state, one sapling has to be planted for each tree that is cut. In Mumbai, as per the Tree Authority set up in 1976, to help in regulating the felling of trees and providing for the planting of an adequate number of new trees through the Garden Department, the compensation ratios are 1:3.



The number of trees planted will be equal to the age of the heritage tree that is cut. For instance, if a 52-year-old tree is to be felled, then the party felling the tree will have to plant 52 trees in compensation, with each compensatory tree at least 6-8 ft in height at the time of planting.

How is the age of the tree determined?

The most common method of determining the age of the tree is Dendrochronology – or tree-ring dating also called growth rings. Each year, roughly a tree adds to its girth, the new growth is called a tree ring. By counting the rings of a tree, the age can be determined. However, the process is invasive. To analyse the rings, core samples are extracted using a borer that's screwed into the tree and pulled out, bringing with it a straw-size sample of

wood. The hole in the tree is then sealed to prevent disease.

What is the economic value of the tree?

In case compensatory plantation is not possible, the tree feller has to pay compensation for the economic valuation of the trees being felled. While the state government has not defined the economic value of the tree, experts say that the amount of oxygen that a tree releases into the environment should determine its economic value.

The organization planting the compensation trees will also have to ensure the survival of the plantation for seven years and geo-tag the trees. Such plantations can be carried out either in the same plot or a common amenity plot.



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