



GREEN ALERT



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The focus of Environment information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Centre focuses on 'Eco-labeling and Promotion of Eco-friendly Products'. This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

Eco- friendly soy-based alternative to plastic

A team of four Purdue students has developed **SoyFoliato**, a soy-based soap that eliminates the existing plastic micro-beads in exfoliating soaps. The soap uses soy-based components that are environmentally friendly, unlike the plastic micro-beads, which is banned in 2017. The soy beads provide a naturally degradable substitute for the plastic micro-beads. The plastic beads do not absorb water, but soy can over time. So they mixed beads with small amounts of oil to prevent water from saturating the beads and decreasing their rigid properties. Students are still doing research on increasing the shelf-stability and ensuring the product is safe for the environment.



Source: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2016/Q3/purdue-students-develop-environmentally-friendly-soy-based-alternative-to-plastic-exfoliating-beads-in-soap.html>

Eco product

Greening the Blue & SDGs

The 'We the Peoples' Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals is likened to a "to-do" list for people and the planet. The UN's journey towards climate neutrality began on 5 June 2007 when UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon publicly called on all UN agencies, funds and programmes to 'go green' and become climate neutral. UN has committed to becoming climate neutral across all entities by 2020. The Greening the Blue (GtB) initiative is the part of a global drive to fulfill its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the foundation of the 2030 Agenda.



Within the SDGs, Goal 7, "Affordable and Clean Energy", strive to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and Goal 13 "Climate Action" aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The GtB initiative is specifically targeted to reduce carbon footprints in the UN system. It helps the efforts to design programmes and projects in line with international, regional and national aspirations to conserve the environment and limit carbon footprints.

The 2017 GtB report details the greenhouse gas emissions produced in 2016 by the UN system as a whole, as well as each UN entity individually. The 67 UN entities reported their greenhouse gas emissions. Of which, 56 provided data on waste and 39 were climate neutral. In addition to detailing the UN's environmental impacts in 2016, the GtB Report also showcases a number of UN entities that are making an effort to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and improve overall environmental performance.

The data reveals that the 67 UN entities that reported their greenhouse gas emissions collectively emitted a total of 1.90 million tCO₂eq in 2016, and 37% of these emissions were offset. Some UN system entities are already offsetting part or all of their emissions. The UN has committed to becoming climate neutral across all entities by 2020.

Source: [http://www.greeningtheblue.org/sites/default/files/Greening%20the%20Blue%20report%202017%20-%20Brochure%20\(web%20-%20low%20res\).pdf](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/sites/default/files/Greening%20the%20Blue%20report%202017%20-%20Brochure%20(web%20-%20low%20res).pdf)

Green issue

Eco-friendly vehicles in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is the first state to introduce the eco-friendly electric vehicles, efforts to prevent pollution. The electrical buses will run on a trial basis in Amaravati capital and Tirumala. The State government has signed MoU with Toyota Motors. Toyota will do research in Andhra Pradesh on the feasibility of Eco-Friendly Electrical Vehicles like "Prius PHEV" and "Small EV Commuter." The company will work out the infrastructure requirements to be set up for the plying of these vehicles like charging stations, etc. The company will distribute electric vehicles in December or January for a trial run in the Amaravati capital region. The electrical buses will be introduced in Tirumala at first.

Source: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/171117/eco-friendly-vehicles-in-andhra-pradesh-soon.html>



Maharashtra to ban plastic bottles

The Maharashtra government is banning plastic bottles, which will come into effect on March 18, 2018. Initially, it will be implemented in government offices, functions and state educational institutes. Later it will be extended to the private institutes and restaurants. State Environment Minister Shri Kadam announced the new measures at a meeting with municipal officials in Mumbai. The Minister said that the government had asked "big retailers" to "make alternative arrangements well in advance so that the policy can be rolled out smoothly". The state government will hold meetings with beverage manufacturers and industry leaders over the next few weeks and urge them to shift to the environment-friendly options such as compostable plastic.

Source: <https://scroll.in/latest/858219/maharashtra-to-ban-plastic-bottles-in-all-government-offices-schools-and-colleges-from-march>



Eco news

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Eco tip

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