

Eco-friendly Products

If you are among those who waste paper, water, petrol, diesel, etc., beware! These natural resources are fast depleting. If they are not preserved, the next generation may suffer a dearth of them. Do you want your children to starve, suffer from fatal diseases, buy water, etc.? If not, strive to be eco-friendly from today. But how?

Let's begin at the very beginning. What does eco-friendly mean? Which are eco-friendly products? How do you know whether a product is eco-friendly or not? What is eco-marking or eco-labelling? India has listed 16 products for their eco-friendly characteristics. Which are they?

What is eco-friendly ?



Eco-friendly means “not harmful to the environment”. An eco-friendly product or process is perceived to have no harmful effect on the environment and its inhabitants.

Ecology is not only nature, it's the environment in totality. The plants, the birds, the animals, the insects, we humans, the rising sun, the flowing water, the sand, the dew, the clouds, the air that we breathe ... everything has its place in the environment. The environment maintains its balance.

We humans tend to waste the resources and create an imbalance. Anything that we use, disuse or misuse has an effect on the environment. A disequilibrium in the ecology will not only affect the health of your neighbour, but also affect you, me, us and the generations to come. This effect on ecology can be reduced or minimised by using eco-friendly products, services or ideas.

The Indian Scene

Eco-labelling was introduced in India as 'Ecomark' in 1991 for easy identification of eco-friendly products. Though eco-labelling schemes exist in India, they are yet to be widely known in the country. The Union Ministry of Environment and Forest set up a steering committee for eco-labelling with 30 members, including



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26 bureaucrats, from different ministries. How far they are interested in taking the eco-labelling movement forward is, however, a debatable issue. The government expenditure on promoting the eco-labelling concept has been nil in the past decade. CERC is going to campaign for taking this scheme forward.

How to choose an eco-friendly product ?

CERS tested both 40W and 36W tubelights and the information above is based on the tests. The reports were published in INSIGHT May-June 2005 and July-August 2005 respectively. This is how you may decide to opt for an eco-friendly product – a product beneficial to your pocket and the environment at the same time. More such tips would follow in the coming issues.

[This interactive section welcomes your contribution on the concept of being eco-friendly. If you are aware of the advantages of being eco-friendly or if you have implemented a change or changes in your life-style, do share them with us. Also send us your concerns, views, suggestions on the issue.]

The best suggestions and contributions to this section of INSIGHT will be selected and the contributor of the best entry will receive a FREE ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION for INSIGHT. The winner will be announced in each succeeding issue of INSIGHT. The decision of the management of CERC, CERS and INSIGHT will be final and binding. There are no restrictions on the number of entries or contributions.]

36W Tubelights

* Energy cost of 4 36W tubelights burning 7 hours a day at an energy cost of Rs. 4/KWh is Rs. 1471.68

* The ideal average efficacy (Lumen/wattage) is approximately 68.05 for 2450 lumens and 67.36 for 2425 lumens.

40W Tubelights

* Energy cost of 4 40W tubelights burning 7 hours a day at an energy cost of Rs. 4/KWh is Rs. 1635.20.

* The average efficacy ranges from 56.22 to 60.04

Are you eco-friendly?

Do you fulfil what is now known as the 4-R criteria for being eco-friendly?

Reduce : Do you Reduce the waste of electricity, water, gas, petrol/diesel, etc. ?

Reuse : Do you Reuse old and unwanted products to avoid the accumulation of waste and to ensure optimum use of resources like plastic bags, buckets, paper, etc.?.

Recycle : Do you support the Recycling of bottles, glass, rubber, paper, plastic, etc?.

Respect : Are you among those who Respect ecology and want to maintain the ecological balance?

