



Under the Solid Waste Management project the waste is separated into three categories: (i) biodegradable waste or organic waste (ii) inert and non-biodegradable waste and (iii) recyclable waste (plastic, paper, bottles, glasses, etc.) The increasing quantity of plastic waste has also become a significant challenge and is a major contributor to environmental degradation.

“The main responsibility is to monitor collection, transportation and disposal of the solid waste generated in the municipal area, estimated at about 50 tonnes per day.” said, Atindra Reang, the implementing officer.

A fleet of six vehicles, e-rickshaws and two Self Help Groups (SHGs) namely Sri Krishna and Sabooj Saathi SHGs comprising women were engaged to collect and transport the solid waste and garbage and dump it at an authorized waste segregation centre. Under the project the SHG members were imparted 15 day training programme. Altogether three waste segregation centres have been established in Ward No. 1, 13 and one at Fire Service Chowmuhani under Santirbazar Municipal Area. At the waste segregation centre, recyclable, organic and non-recyclable items are packed separately after segregation. The waste is collected in uniformly designed e-rickshaws and each rickshaw has two compartments for storage of dry and wet waste separately.

When asked about Door to Door Collection Smt. Madhuri Chakraborty, SHG member says “both dry and wet wastes were collected door to door from 1,953 households.” “Though we are paid very small amount of salary for our designated work but I am happy to work to make Tripura a clean state.” says Mina Das, a worker.

Moreover, under the Solid Waste Management project about 1,237 households have been covered under Compost Pit scheme for storage of kitchen and backyard waste. “The selected beneficiary receives Rs 2,500 for setting up a compost pit,” says Sri Sushil Mog, Master Trainer. One tertiary waste processing centre is also being set up at Kathalia in Santirbazar Municipal Area with the fund involvement of Rs 1.5 crore, he added.

Through sustained and holistic efforts the Santirbazar Solid Waste Management model is now an excellent example of how we can protect our environment and generate livelihood opportunities with proper management and efficient use of resources. The project was implemented on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 under the Tripura Urban Employment Programme (TUEP). The solid waste management has also generated livelihood opportunities for women members of 2 Self- help groups. Each worker also receives Rs 3000 as salary per month.

Santirbazar Municipal Council has also presented a decentralized model of waste management which is socially relevant and inclusive in nature and has become the torch bearers for others for effectively implementing solid waste management project.