



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
SIKKIM

SPCB SIKKIM Newsletter

Issue 4 | October - 2021 to March - 2022

"SPECIAL ISSUE ON PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT"

PLASTIC WASTE AWARENESS WEEK 6TH TO 12TH MARCH 2022



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang launched the Plastic Waste Awareness Week initiated by the State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim, on 5th March 2022 at a program held at Samman Bhavan, Gangtok. Speaking on the occasion he stated that plastic waste awareness was necessary for both urban as well as rural people. The Plastic Waste Awareness Week was observed throughout the State from 6th March to 12th March 2022 with the main objective of creating awareness of the health hazards of plastics among the public and the need to properly dispose of plastic waste.

The Chief Minister stated that plastic was one of the most commonly found materials on the earth today and had become an integral part of people's everyday life. It is a convenient material for packaging and for carrying goods but has the potential to do irreversible damage to mother earth. He said that plastic pollution can cause several diseases and the changed lifestyle of modern times and dependence on packaged foods has led to higher incidence of diseases like cancer, heart problems and kidney problems which were unknown in the Sikkimese population years ago. Speaking about the recent ban on the packaged drinking water bottles of 2 litres and below, the Chief Minister stated that the State Government would support entrepreneurs for setting up of units that produce drinking water in glass bottles which can be reused like beer bottles.

The Chief Minister released awareness materials such as pamphlets, posters, stickers and videos developed by the State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim on the occasion. These materials were distributed in the gram panchayat units and municipal wards to all households through the Rural Development and Urban Development Departments.



HCM releasing a short video on harmful effects of Single Use Plastics



HCM releasing a 5 minute video on the harmful effects of plastic waste



HCM felicitating a Single Use Plastic survey Volunteer



HCM releasing stickers with the message of "Say No To Single Use Plastics"



Plastic Waste Awareness Week was organized by Singtam Nagar Panchayat

School children being educated about plastic waste management



Plastic Waste Management Awareness to the general public



Women's 'Run' for SUP awareness



A 'Run' for ladies on the theme of "Run to Say No to Single Use Plastics" was organized jointly by the State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim and the Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok at M.G. Marg Gangtok on 27th March 2022. The event was flagged off by the Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment Shri Karma Loday Bhutia. Speaking on the occasion he urged all to reduce the use of plastic as it was harmful to the environment and had serious consequences to human and animal lives. Shri Arun Upreti, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development gave away the prizes to the winners of the run. While congratulating the organizers of the 'Run' he stated that everyone should accept the responsibility to take care of the environment by using environment friendly products.

Single Use Plastic waste audit conducted by SPCB-Sikkim through Volunteers



At Buriakhop, Soreng District



At Chuba Phong, Namchi District



At Geyzing



At Khamdong, Gangtok District



At Mangan



At Navey Shotak, Gangtok District



At Suldung Kamling, Soreng District



At Tadong, Gangtok District



At Wok-Omchung, Namchi District

Sensitization Program for Councillors In SWM



The State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim organized a sensitization programme on municipal solid waste management on 6th October 2021 at the State Institute of Rural Development, Karfector, South Sikkim. The programme was organized for councillors of South and West District urban local bodies. The Councillors from Namchi Municipal Council and Geyzing and Naya Bazar-Jorethang Urban Local Bodies participated.

Welcoming the participants Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim mentioned the challenge faced by urban local bodies all over the country in managing solid wastes due to the consumerist trend of modern society. Two presentations were made during the program. Joint Director SPCB-Sikkim, Mrs. Kusum Gurung explained the principles of solid waste management and its reflection in the Solid Waste Management and Plastic Waste Management Rules of 2016. She emphasized on the importance of segregation of wastes into biodegradable, non-biodegradable and domestic hazardous wastes by the waste generators and how this facilitates waste management at subsequent stages in landfills. Shri Ranjan Rai, Executive Environmental Engineer SPCB - Sikkim provided a glimpse into the technologies for waste management available which ought to be introduced for minimization of waste entering landfills.

In the interaction that followed, the Chairman SPCB-Sikkim Dr. Thomas Chandy, emphasized the role of public representatives in motivating people towards segregated and safe disposal of solid wastes.

CAAQMS display board at Zero Point Gangtok



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Prem Singh Golay, inaugurated the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) at Zero Point on 5th March 2022. This station will monitor the real time ambient air quality of Gangtok and display it at Zero Point and M.G. Marg Gangtok. The facility was set up by the State Pollution Control Board with the assistance of CPCB.

Extended Producer Responsibility meeting



A meeting on plastic waste management with special focus on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was organized by the State Pollution Control Board Sikkim at the Sidkeong Tulku Conference Hall in Forest Secretariat on 30th November 2021. The meeting presided over by the Chairman SPCB Sikkim was attended by officials of SPCB Sikkim, Urban Local Bodies, Forest and Environment Department and other departments apart from the distributors of consumer goods, industrialists, leading waste management agencies of the country and representatives of small and medium enterprises.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Gopal Pradhan, Member Secretary, SPCB-Sikkim stated that EPR did not have the desired effect in the State so far, as there was a gap in the plastic waste generated and collected. Shri Ranjan Rai, Executive Environmental Engineer, SPCB Sikkim made a power point presentation on the principles and stipulations of EPR in the proposed new law of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Dr. Thomas Chandy in his closing remarks stated that there was a good opportunity for local entrepreneurs to enter the recycling business which is economically viable due to the thriving fast moving consumer goods market in the State.

Monthly Air Quality Index (AQI) from Eight (08) Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

State Pollution Control Board Sikkim has been conducting ambient air quality monitoring under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme in eight stations in the State. Under NAMP three main pollutants viz. PM10, Sulphur dioxide (SO2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) are being monitored regularly at all air stations.

Monitoring is carried out over 104 days and on 24 hours basis in a year as per the frequency stipulated by CPCB guidelines. The data generated is uploaded in the EAQDES portal and subsequently reports are prepared and also uploaded in the SPCB-Sikkim websites and ENVIS.

As per the comparative analysis of the data generated for the average air quality index, Sikkim State is well within the national standard (permissible limit) and has been mostly under Good category of AQI Health Index.

Sl. No.	Name Of Station	Oct- 21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
1.	Deorali,Gangtok District	51	56	54	50	46	66
2.	Rangpo, Pakyong District	44	64	66	64	62	71
3.	Singtam, Gangtok District	48	50	54	61	58	66
4.	Pelling, Gyalshing District	33	31	32	35	39	41
5.	Ravangla, Namchi District	23	23	23	22	23	21
6.	Namchi,Namchi District	32	33	27	25	24	29
7.	Chungthang, Mangan District	27	29	25	25	25	27
8.	Mangan, Mangan District	34	26	30	23	27	29

AQI Category and Health Impacts

Good (0–50)	Minimal Impact	Poor (201–300)	Breathing discomfort to people on prolonged exposure
Satisfactor y (51–100)	Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people	Very Poor (301–400)	Respiratory illness to the people on prolonged exposure
Moderate (101–200)	Breathing discomfort to the people with lung, heart disease, children and older adults	Severe (>401)	Respiratory effects even on healthy people

Monthly Air Quality Index (AQI) October 2021- March 2022-Sikkim

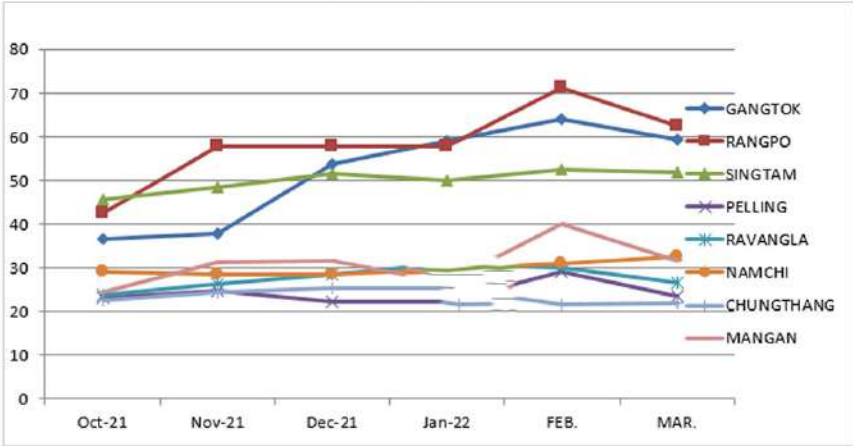


Figure 1.Graphical Representation of Monthly AQI Values from October 2021 to March 2022.

River Water Quality for the month of March, 2022

Station Code	Type	Sampling Date	pH	Cond. µmhos/Cm	NO3-N mg/l	D.O mg/l	B.O.D mg/l	T. Coliform MPN/100ml	Faecal Coliform 100/ml
1801	R	01/03/22	7.5	165	1.0	8.5	1.3	60	45
1802	R	04/03/22	7.1	250	1.9	8.7	2.0	115	85
1803	R	07/03/22	6.5	150	1.5	8.0	2.5	110	40
1804	R	09/03/22	6.7	215	2.2	8.9	2.1	210	85
1805	R	11/03/22	6.8	225	2.2	9.1	2.2	220	100
1806	R	14/03/22	6.5	160	1.4	8.2	2.0	120	45
1807	R	14/03/22	7.2	231	2.1	8.7	1.8	190	100
1808	R	17/03/22	7.1	222	2.2	9.0	1.9	175	85
1809	R	17/03/22	6.9	235	2.3	8.9	2.0	165	105
2034	R	23/03/22	7.0	160	1.5	9.0	1.0	70	45
2035	R	23/03/22	7.0	170	1.3	9.0	0.8	60	38
2036	R	26/03/22	6.5	160	1.2	7.5	1.0	75	37
2037	R	26/03/22	6.5	155	1.3	8.0	1.2	100	85
2038	R	28/03/22	7.0	145	1.5	7.0	1.1	150	100

The details of the monitoring stations are as under

SN	Station Code	Name of Station	Latitude °N	Longitude °E
1	1801	River Teesta after confluence of River Lachenchu and Lachungchu, CHUNGTHANG, NORTH Sikkim.	27.602	88.649
2	1802	River Dikchu before confluence with River Teesta near NHPC hydro-electric power project, DIKCHU, East Sikkim	27.40	88.52
3	1803	River Maney KHOLA AT BURTUK near Army Base camp 4 km U/S of Gangtok, East Sikkim.	27.35	88.61
4	1804	River Maney Khola after confluence with Ray Khola at ADAMPOOL AFTER MEETING TREATED WASTE WATER of STOP, Gangtok, East Sikkim.	27.30	88.58
5	1805	After confluence of Rani Chu and Rorachu at RANIPOOL, East Sikkim.	27.29	88.59
6	1806	Ranichu before confluence with River Teesta at SINGTAM, East Sikkim.	27.22	88.49
7	1807	River Teesta after confluence with River Ranichu at SINGTAM, East Sikkim.	27.11	88.45
8	1808	River Teesta after confluence with Rongpochu after meeting the industrial effluents from the town RANGPO, East Sikkim.	27.17	88.52
9	1809	River Teesta at Melli Downstream, MELLI, South Sikkim.	27.08	88.45
10	2034	River Rangit at dam site(NHPC), South Sikkim	27.29	88.29
11	2035	River Rangit at Legship, West Sikkim	27.27	88.27
12	2036	River Rangit at Reshi, West Sikkim	27.22	88.30
13	2037	River Rangit at Jorethang, South Sikkim	27.13	88.27
14	2038	River Rangit at Treveni, Melli, South Sikkim	27.08	88.41

Disclaimer

Efforts have been made to make the data and information provided in this newsletter as accurate as possible. The use of data and information published by SPCB Sikkim should be duly cited.

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SPCB Sikkim Officers(Editorial)

Dr. Thomas Chandy
Chairman

Dr. Gopal Pradhan
Member Secretary

Mrs. Kusum Gurung
Joint Director

Mr. B.K. Chettri
Chief Scientific Officer

Mr. Ranjan Rai
Ex. Environmental Engineer

Mrs. K.Z. Bhutia
Senior Scientific Officer

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SPCB Sikkim
Forest Secretariat,
C-Block, Deorali, Gangtok
PIN-737102
East Sikkim, India

Website: www.spcb.sikkim.gov.in
Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com
Tel(0):03592-281913

24Hoursinspired