

Source Separation of Waste Launched in Uttara, Dhaka on June 2, 2007



Dhaka is one of the fastest growing metropolises of the world with an annual average growth rate of 4.2 percent. Only in Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) area the population is estimated at seven million. These seven million inhabitants of the city generate some 3500-4000 metric tones of municipal solid waste daily, of which 80% is bio-degradable and the rest in non-biodegradable mainly recyclables with economic value.

Presently, non-biodegradable recyclables with economic value are normally mixed with other wastes at the household level. As a result huge amount of potentials recyclables go to the dumpsites as they are soiled and has no attractive economic value. Normally, waste pickers look for recyclables in the waste bins and dumping sites, which may cause health hazards for them as well as city dwellers. At present there is no source separation system of waste exists in the city.



In this backdrop to improve the situation for the first time in Bangladesh an initiative to separate waste into 'wet' (bio-degradable) and 'dry' (non-biodegradable) has been launched by the 'Uttara Sector 5 Welfare Association' in Sector 5 of Uttara Model Town, Dhaka with the technical support from Waste Concern, Sky link, Clean Tech and financial support from the Swisscontact KATALYST. A multimedia presentation was demonstrated on the importance of waste separation during this event. Baskets for 'dry' (non-biodegradable) waste were also distributed among the residents. More than 400 community people, including housewives, children were present during this launching ceremony. About 1200 households in Sector 5 of Uttara Model Town are participating in this program.

