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Chennai's waste management to go hi-tech

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CHENNAI: Several residents have all these years had to complain to get streets swept, sometimes paying money. Others have found diligently segregated waste dumped with other garbage in landfills. Come October, the corporation has promised, these woes will disappear when Urbaser-Sumeet takes over solid waste management in Alandur, Adayar, Valasaravakkam, Perungudi, Sholinganallur, Teynampet and Kodambakkam zones in October. Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami will inaugurate the project on Wednesday.

Residents may be penalised for not handing over segregated waste, but penalties are yet to be finalised. There will be more accountability, mechanization and technology based monitoring,

the corporation has said, following complaints on overflowing bins, fake bills, fudged accounts of manpower rolls and improper waste management.

Moreover, unlike Ramky Enterprises, the new contractor won't be paid based on the quantity of waste collected. The corporation has introduced 36 key performance indicators such as regular sweeping of streets, clearing garbage bins on time, 100% door-to-door collection and creating awareness on segregation that will be audited by a team headed by an independent engineer and corporation officials before the payment is cleared. A toll-free number will help residents post complaints to the call centre through the day.

“We will set up a control room in Alandur that will have separate teams to attend to complaints for each zone and monitor route maps of battery-operated vehicles, trucks and compactor bins. Everything will be geotagged and monitored by a GPS system. We will know even if the worker stops for having tea,” said Mahmood Sait, CEO of Urbeser-Sumeet.

Pic: A Prathap



NEW PLAN IN PLACE

The corporation has appointed a new vendor for waste management in seven zones. The new firm promises to use technology to improve efficiency.

ZONES COVERED

> New firm to cover 92 wards in Adyar, Kodambakkam, Teynampet, Alandur, Valasaravakkam, Perungudi and Sholinganallur, starting from Adyar on October 1

> Kodambakkam and Teynampet will be covered in November and the remaining zones will come under new system by year-end

CONTROL ROOM

> To be set up at Alandur

> 24x7 call centre

PRIMARY COLLECTION

> Door-to-door collection by battery operated vehicles
> Bigger vehicles will come on specific days to collect waste
> Roadside eateries, vendors, bakeries and other commercial establishments will be asked to keep waste separately and hand it over to trucks

SECONDARY COLLECTION

> Colour-coded bins at designated locations, trucks will pick up bins, photos will be taken after the spot is cleaned

ROAD SWEEPING

> Roads to be cleaned every day
> Internal roads will be cleaned in three shifts
> Dry waste will be transported to Kodungaiyur dump yards
> Wet waste to be sent to waste composting sites

AT DISPOSAL

2,900 battery-operated vehicles, each with six bins of 100-litre capacity

9,000 big roadside bins with RFID tags that are colour coded for wet and dry waste collection (each of 1,100 litres capacity)

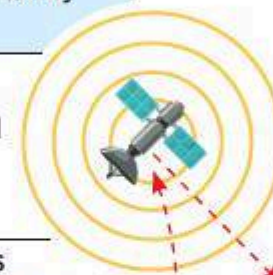
> Mechanical sweepers for 6m wide roads

> Smaller movable bins for internal roads

300 compactor trucks with RFID tags to pick up roadside bins

4,500 manual sweepers

> Toll free number for complaints



MANAGEMENT

> Fleet manager will be in charge of vehicles

> Every ward will have a supervisor

3. Trucks and compactor vehicles will have GPS trackers

1. Screens to monitor routes of vehicles

2. Team will track route map of all battery-operated vehicles and monitor

4. Photos will be taken in areas where roadside bins are cleared

ALL THINGS

> Awareness campaigns

> Volunteers to ensure segregation

> Control room to monitor

> Mobile app to track all vehicles

> Cameras on vehicles

> Photos of waste

> Search for illegal



COLOUR-CODED: The corporation will make source segregation compulsory. Bins of 1,100 litre capacity will be placed on roads for segregated garbage

“ We will set up a control room in Alandur that will have separate teams to attend to complaints for each zone **”** –Mahmood Sait | CEO, URBASER-SUMEET

All pushcarts will be replaced by battery-operated vehicles, streets will have colour-coded bins to dump dry, wet and hazardous waste. Roadside eateries, bakeries and commercial establishments have been advised to store

waste in a separate bin to be collected by the contractor.

“We have already hired significant manpower for Adyar zone and will hire 11,000 people for the entire process. All our vehicles are BS-VI norm compatible ensuring they won't pollute. We will focus more on awareness to segregate waste by conducting road shows and various campaigns...,” said Mehmood Sait.

Residents, however, have some concerns. “Similar promises were made when Ramky took over,” said V Rama Rao of Nanganallur. Jayaram Venkatesan of Arappor Iyakkam said the major concern was lack of infrastructure for disposal of wet waste and setting up material recovery centres. “Even if segregated waste is collected 100%, wet waste will be 50% and 35% recyclable waste. To dispose this, the civic body hasn't created enough facilities proportionate to waste generated. So it will end up in dump yards. What will actually change?”