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# Kodungaiyur dumpyard to be biomined

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CHENNAI: There's some relief for residents of Kodungaiyur in North Chennai as Greater Chennai Corporation has awarded tenders totalling ₹640 crore to three firms to biomine the 50-year-old dumpyard there, Mayor R Priya told the council on Thursday. Chief minister M K Stalin is to flag off the project on Saturday. It's one of the state's biggest legacy dumpyards, spread across 352 acres and with 66 lakh cubic metres of garbage piled up on 252 acres. It has been divided into six packages and tendered to Zigma Enviros, Ramki Infrastructure Limited, and Ascent e-Digit Solutions Private Limited.

Zigma, which reclaimed half of the Perungudi dumpyard in South Chennai, will biomine 111 acres at Kodungaiyur for ₹340 crore. The remaining half is divided between Ramki Infra, 98 acres for ₹218 crore, and Ascent, 44 acres for ₹109.3 crore. The rate of biomining per tonne has been fixed at ₹963.2.

T Saravanabhavanantham, chief engineer, solid waste management department, said the entire dumpyard would be reclaimed in two years. "It has been around for 50 years, and more than 20 lakh people live around it. Now, waste from eight North and Central Chennai zones are going there, and this will be addressed through source segregation and waste processing. Once reclaimed, based on the soil condition and acceptability, we will plan either open ground, forest or a lake," he said.

The project is being carried out under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0. Out of the ₹640 crore, Union govt contributes ₹160 crore, state contributes ₹102.5 crore and GCC contributes ₹378 crore. KfW German Bank is aiding the GCC with ₹180 crore and Anna University has been appointed as the project management consultant for the project. Kurian Joseph, professor, centre for environmental studies, Anna University, said the biomining would help in reducing pollution as the dumpyard used to catch fire frequently. “Ridding textile waste will be a challenge,” he said.

With close to 3,000 tonnes of fresh waste coming to Kodungaiyur daily, experts said the GCC must focus on preventing this. “The corporation must get people to segregate waste. Currently, 100% segregation is aimed at for 2030 and that’s far away. They have to release a plan to prevent waste from entering the dumpyard,” said Geo Damin, a solid waste management expert.