

On road to zero waste, Loyola installs biogas plant

Loyola College has recently installed a biogas plant on the campus, to manage the generated waste in a sustainable manner. The food waste will be used to fuel the hostel kitchen -- estimated to be the equivalent of over 700 LPG cylinders.



Demonstration on using a stove fuelled by biogas generated from waste at Loyola College Chennai:

A complete cycle for biodegradation of the waste has been conceptualised by the institution. The plant installed will process the food waste in an eco-friendly manner, to produce biogas, which will be used in the kitchen. "While the gas produced will be used to run the kitchen, the slurry output from the biogas plant will be combined with dry leaves and garden scraps, to create a high-quality manure through composting.

The compost produced will be used by farmers, who have adopted biodynamic farming. The organic produce from these fields will return to the campus, creating a closed loop cycle of biodegradable waste," said Dr K S Antonysamy, Public Relations Officer (PRO), Loyola College.

The plant will ensure that more than 600 tonnes of biodegradable waste will be prevented from ending up in the city's overflowing dumpyards. According to the data provided by the institution, over 720 LPG cylinders will be replaced by the biogas generated through the plant to run the hostel kitchen, resulting in a sizeable savings for the institute.

Through this, more than a hundred tonnes of manure will be produced and provided to marginal farmers to help them adopt sustainable farming systems. While the food waste management has been taken care of in the first stage, the second stage will focus on sustainable system for disposal of other waste, such as plastics, paper, metals and glass, which will be segregated and collected centrally across the campus, leading to a path of zero waste.

Fr. Francis Jayapathy, SJ, the Rector of Loyola Institutions, said that as a part of their green initiatives, the campus has over 75 Rain Water Harvesting Rechargeable Wells, a sewage treatment plant (STP) to treat over 1,85,000 litres of sewage waste water every day and now, the biogas plant.