Finding effective ways to manage and minimize waste

Reduce, reuse and recycle to minimize waste, including e-waste

Our waste management approach is based on the philosophy of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We seek to uphold our ambition of zero waste to landfills through active minimization combined with technology investment in recycling and streamlining systems and processes. With our efforts, we contribute to a circular economy and convert waste to resource.

In-house treatment and practices

At Infosys, we follow a process of waste segregation at source through which the entire volume is treated or disposed in line with applicable legislative requirements. We established biogas plants and organic waste converters for food and garden waste, to be recycled on our campuses in India. The resultant manure is used for our campus landscape. The efficiency of the biogas plant is enhanced through automation, with the generated biogas offsetting the LPG usage in our food courts and helping avoid methane emissions from the waste.

In fiscal 2021, we continued our efforts in identification and replacement of single-use plastics with alternatives. We focused on further segregating and disposing of mixed waste by identifying partners in India who could support us in disposal to authorized recyclers and ensuring that a greater percentage of the generated waste is recycled or treated and does not reach the landfills.

Another category of waste generated includes the semi-solid sludge from our STPs. This wet sludge contains semi-digested organic matter and a lot of moisture and pathogens, making it unsuitable for direct soil application. At a few campuses in India, we implemented solar sludge drying beds, that ensure the sludge can now be used as manure.

This year, the pandemic resulted in additional quantities of biomedical waste, including PPE kits, tissues, surgical masks, among others. We ensured segregation and disposal of the same in line with revised Biomedical Waste rules across India campuses.

CASE STUDY

Waste management consulting services

Concern

The world generates 2.01 bn tons of municipal solid waste annually, and the global waste management market is set to touch US$2.3 tn by 2027. On the bright side, Visiongain, an independent market research company, estimates that the waste-to-energy market can touch upwards of US$22.6 bn by 2030.

Approach

We are deeply concerned about this topic and our solutions to monitor and manage waste are powered by technology. Having developed and tested an array of solutions across our campuses, our Waste Management sub-vertical decided to take them to the market for Waste Management (WM) companies. We continue our efforts towards a circular economy by forging partnerships with organizations like the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. We help WM companies with digital solutions, such as dynamic routing, enterprise asset management, predictive maintenance, and IoT sensors to monitor segregation and compaction in bins and collection.

Outcome

Increasing volumes of waste can be managed with predictive modeling, which uses big data analytics. The workforce can be better managed with smart customer service, ticket addressing, RPA for invoice processing, smart garbage trucks, mobile solutions, and anytime, anywhere learning on Wingspan.

Read more +

Ambition

- Ensuring zero waste to landfill

Biogas plant at an Infosys campus

Environment compliance

We comply with applicable environmental regulations in the countries where we operate and have established management systems with ISO14001:2015 certification. The significant concerns identified in our practices as having an environmental impact include the following:

1. Depletion of resources like power, water

2. Waste generation and disposal

3. Emissions that are part of our material aspects

We conduct environmental impact assessment studies for all new projects, wherever applicable, covering impacts related to air, water, social aspects and biodiversity, among others. No instances of monetary or non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance or environmental grievances were reported to us in fiscal 2021.

Our campuses are built on government approved land in industrial zones and do not fall within or are adjacent to protected areas or high-biodiversity areas.