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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER FROM BARANAGAR MUNICIPALITY

From Chairman's Desk

Freedom from Plastic Pollution-an overview

Plastic pollution is a blight in our cities and landscapes and is harming our rivers and oceans. Experts estimate that Millions of metric tonnes of plastic waste from the United States pollute the ocean every year, analysis of items collected shows that disposable plastic items used "on-the-go" are most commonly found: plastic bags; cigarette butts; bottles; caps; straws; food wrappers; and food containers. According to Scientific Research Agency, the average plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to break down. Even when broken down, the plastic can remain in the environment and the food chain. The problem is growing worse with the increasing trend to "convenient" consumption and the massive expansion. Local governments are responsible for solid waste management including litter prevention and collection, recycling, storm drain maintenance, tourism promotion, community health and protecting the local environment. Plastic pollution negatively affects each of these community functions and costs precious taxpayer dollars. As the sight of overflowing public trash cans becomes commonplace, it's clear that existing approaches alone fail to stem plastic pollution. Simply too much plastic packaging waste is generated and cities can't afford to pay for capture and management of all of it. Cities can use proven techniques to decrease the amount of plastic pollution generated and capture it before it spreads to landscapes and waterways. While each city's specific tactics should be customized to local conditions, reduction of pollution at a low cost can be achieved through a combination of leveraging local regulatory authority, requiring retailer responsibility, collaborating with partners and engaging citizens to solve pollution hot spots.

1. Legislate restrictions on single use plastic distribution
2. Recognize leaders cutting plastic waste to propagate their practices
3. Require retailer rubbish responsibility
4. Identify pollution hot spots and lead focused campaigns
5. Monitor micro plastic pollution levels and emerging innovations

Progress report:

1. Work for 15-16 and 16-17 is completed.
2. Construction Work for OHR at Ward 17, and 21 completed and OHR at Ward 18 in progress.
3. Construction of Park for the year 17-18 completed.