

NGOs tie up with schools for environmental awareness

Through the Green School Programme, students will get involved in issues related to water, waste, energy, traffic, transport and biodiversity



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THREE city NGOs, SWACH Plus, Parisar and Centre for Environment Education (CEE),

are coming together to bring more awareness about the environment in students. The programme is called 'Green School Programme' and will start at the month-end. Students will get involved in issues related to water, waste, energy, traffic, transport and biodiversity.

"Through the Green School Programme we will help school children and teachers carry out action-based projects leading to environment conservation," said Aparna Susarla, data manager of SWACH. She said that till now she has approached 35

schools in the city and many are willing to implement the programme.

Green School Programme has three levels. The first level includes auditing the school with the help of students to detect areas that need focus. It can involve repairing leakages, managing solid and e-waste, and promoting students to use bicycles etc.

In level two of the programme NGOs will suggest methods to overcome problems with sustainable solutions. If the school is satisfied with the project, in the third level it can

continue the programme over the full academic year.

SWACH will concentrate on waste management. "We are giving training to around 100 waste pickers, who are members of SWACH. In Green School Programme these trained members will directly interact with students and share their experiences, and the problems they face while collecting waste," said Susarla.

On the other hand Parisar deals with issues related to traffic and transport. "We are making special efforts to draw in students even though the

Sponsorship for civic schools

Shweta Vernekar of Parisar NGO said that the programme is not only restricted to private schools and the organisers want more schools under the Pune Municipal Corporation to participate.

"Many civic schools want their students to be involved in extra-curricular activities but lack the resources and finances.

Therefore, we are seeking sponsorship for students of civic schools in order to reach out to more schools and students," said Vernekar.

expertise required is technical," said Shweta Vernekar of Parisar.

Avinash Madhale of CEE said, "Often schools run environment-related projects for years together. Through the Green School Programme we

can suggest more innovative steps by which they can become environmental friendly. The auditing step with the help of students is the most important phase of the programme. We have got good responses from the schools we approached."