

PRESS RELEASE



Awareness Programme on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 Strengthens Urban Waste Management Efforts

Shillong, July 23, 2026: The Department of Urban Affairs through the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Williamnagar Municipal Board, today organized an awareness programme on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. The programme aimed to sensitize stakeholders on the effective implementation of the new rules while promoting responsible waste management practices across urban local bodies and centres.



Shri Marcuise N. Marak, Hon'ble Minister of Housing, PHE, Soil & Water Conservation Departments while emphasizing on the importance of Solid Waste Management initiative stated, "The Solid Waste Management Rules are vital for the well-being of the society and requires the active participation of every citizen." He noted that under the



leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K Sangma, the government has translated development through initiatives that are improving infrastructure, urban cleanliness and public services across Meghalaya. He also highlighted the preparation for the National Games 2027, Smart City initiatives in various parts of the city and ongoing efforts to enhance public spaces.

He urged the citizens to utilize solid waste management methods, which will greatly ease waste processing, reduce flooding and help preserve the environment, while also mentioning ongoing efforts to operationalize biomedical waste incinerator, protection of the Simsang River and prevention of environmental degradation through forest conservation.

The implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 is a crucial step for Meghalaya. Historic regional dumping sites across the State are under severe strain and continuing to send most of our unprocessed wastes into these areas and other local hillsides pose a critical ecological risk to our shared water bodies, forests and river basins. These rules, therefore, are no longer optional but a necessity to protect the environment of the State and health of the people.

Shri Raksin P. Marak, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, expressed his appreciation to the Williamnagar Municipal Board for taking the initiative to promote a cleaner and more



sustainable town. Highlighting the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and changing lifestyle, he stressed the growing importance of effective solid waste management, stressing that improper waste disposal can lead to water pollution, blocked drainage systems and the spread of diseases. Shri Raksin Marak further stated that East Garo Hills

is blessed with rich ecological heritage, making it a shared responsibility of every citizen to protect the environment, urging everyone to work together to build a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable place to live in.

Smti. R. N. Sangma, MCS, ADC & CEO, Williamnagar Municipal Board informed that the town generates around 12.5 tonnes of waste daily, with door-to-door collection currently covering 8 of the 10 wards. While awareness has been extended to the remaining wards, he stressed the need for greater public cooperation to achieve full participation in waste management. She explained that under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, source segregation of waste into four categories is mandatory. Urging residents to adopt proper waste segregation practices, she also briefed participants on the different types of waste and the correct use of colour-coded bins to ensure effective waste management.

The participants were made aware of the important provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 which provides a comprehensive waste management framework through segregation of waste at source, scientific treatment and environmentally sound disposal of waste. The Rules also highlight responsibility of households, institutions, commercial establishments, bulk waste generators and others, ensuring greater responsibility across all stakeholders.



A key focus of the programme was sensitizing the people on the mandatory segregation of wastes into four categories for which four bins are provided – wet waste which includes kitchen scraps, food leftovers, fruit and vegetable peels; dry waste such as paper, plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, packaging; sanitary waste like diapers, sanitary pads, bandages and special care waste which includes e-waste, medicines, batteries and chemicals.



Responsibilities of households and establishments in maintaining separate bins for each category of waste, handing over only segregated waste to authorized collectors and storing garden and construction waste separately were also highlighted. Street vendors are encouraged to ensure proper collection and disposal of waste generated, while event organizers involved in large gatherings were sensitized on the need to coordinate with local authorities to ensure proper waste segregation and scientific disposal.

Special emphasis was laid on responsibilities of bulk waste generators, including apartment complexes, hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals, markets and other large establishments. These entities are to register themselves with relevant urban local body, process wet waste and handover other wastes to authorized collectors, submit their annual reports by 30th June of every year and use only registered waste collectors. User fees will also be applied as per local byelaws.

The event was graced by Shri Marcuise N. Marak, Hon'ble Minister of Housing, PHE, Soil & Water Conservation Departments; Shri Raksin P. Marak, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills District; Shri Pawar Swapnil Vasantrao, IPS, Superintendent of Police, East Garo Hills; Smti. R. N. Sangma, MCS, ADC & CEO, Williamnagar Municipal Board; officials of the Urban Affairs Department and Williamnagar Municipal Board; among others.