

Focus Group: Solid Waste Management



Solid Waste Management is one of the most relevant issues currently affecting Agonda. Based off the results from the Community Survey, it was determined that approximately 97% of respondents were burning trash on site. This process can expose residents to harmful toxins released into the atmosphere during combustion. Additionally, much of the remaining soot and ash; which often contains harmful dioxins, can leech into the ground and effect drinking water. At the outset of this focus group session, participants were first asked to simply identify their most pressing solid waste concerns:

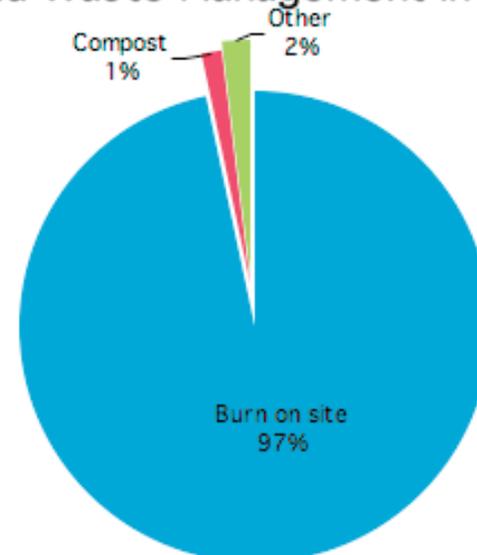
Solid Waste Concerns

- No facility available at local level
- Landfill must be last resort
- Landfill is an 'open dump'
- Most move beyond 'sighting' and into action
- Dry waste collected and stored
- Collection trucks affect roads
- Insufficient recycling / bottle redemption

SOLID WASTE CONCERNS

- NO FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT LOCAL LEVEL
- LANDFILL MUST BE LAST RESORT
- LANDFILL IS AN "OPEN DUMP"
- MUST MOVE BEYOND "SIGHTING" AND INTO ACTION
- DRY WASTE COLLECTED & STORED (LOCATION UNKNOWN - PANJIM?)
- COLLECTION TRUCKS AFFECT ROADS / PUBLIC HEALTH (RPLS 2500 / 10 Km transport costs)
- INSUFFICIENT RECYCLING / BOTTLE REDEMPTION

HH Solid-Waste Management in Agonda

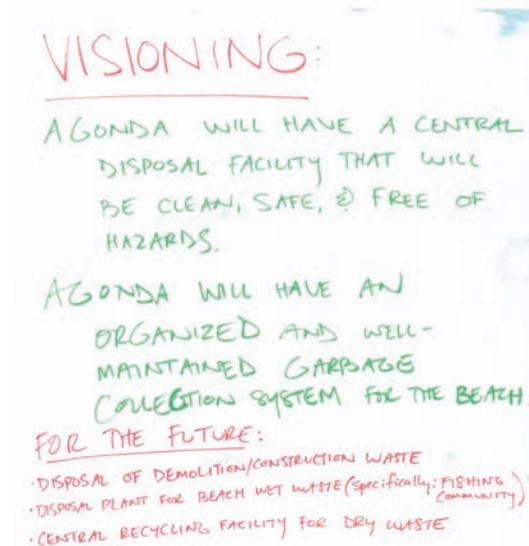


Source: November 2009 Agonda Community Survey

Vision

Workshop participants took part in a visioning exercise focused solely on how Agondans would like to their solid waste managed. The main points of the visioning were:

- Agonda will have a central disposal facility that will be clean, safe, and free of hazards
- Agonda will have an organized and well maintained garbage collection system for the beach as well as proper disposal for demolition and construction waste, beach wet waste (fishing excess), and a recycling facility for dry waste



Residential Solid Waste Management

Agondans are in a unique position to learn from the successes and failures of communities with more entrenched solid waste management systems. While some residents expressed a desire for a centralized collection and disposal facility, others were quick to highlight the associated inadequacies and high costs. Another group of participants stressed the benefits that a more decentralized system can have on addressing the villages concerns. A decentralized system is inherently more flexible and less expensive.

This is an important topic that surely needs more debate prior to the develop of Agonda's final Plan. Workshop participants did however generate a number of ideas regarding the issue:

Priorities- to minimize waste

1. Create a committee (in one month) represented by each of the 7 wards (2 representatives from each)
2. Committee to develop:
 - a. SWM plan/ framework
 - b. ID a central disposal site for solid waste and composting]collection trucks to do household / town-wide pick ups
 - c. Bins to separate wet waste from dry waste – 50 of each bin

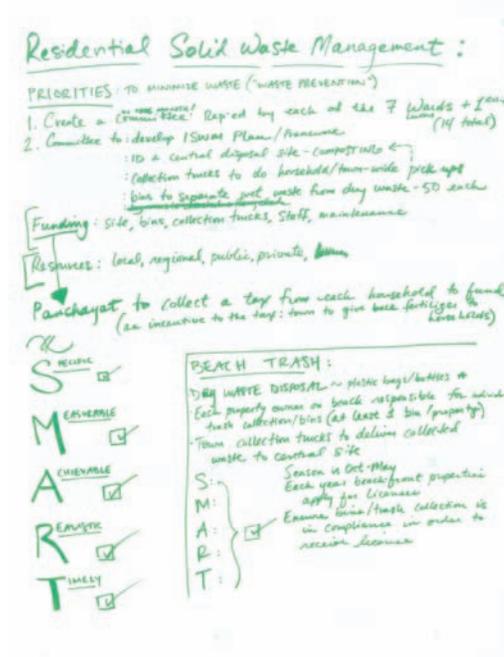
Funding from Panchayat for : site, bins, collection trucks, staff, maintenance

Resources: local , regional, public, private

Panchayat to collect a tax from each household to fund (idea for return from tax could be ability to use fertilizer produced from compost)

Beach Trash

- Dry waste disposal- plastic bags and bottles
 - o Each property owner on beach responsible for individual trash collection/bins (at least one bin per property)
 - o Town collection trucks to bring collected waste to central site
 - In prep for the Oct-May busy season, each year beach front property owners to apply for license – collection practice in compliance in order to get license.



Guest Speaker

Clinton Vaz; a Goan naturalist, delivers an in-depth presentation describing the most common solid waste issues effecting Goans, as well as techniques that when utilized, reduce impact from solid



Solid Waste Management Recommendations

Recommendations:

The community in Agonda is one that values the natural beauty of their beach front community. It is very clear through many of the exercises conducted that they have a strong interest in preserving the pristine beauty- something that can be as simple as implementing proper solid waste management (garbage) tactics.

The plan for solid waste management can begin with easy goals such as educating the community and property owners on the importance of proper waste management, specifically issues such as recycling and composting. Although eventually a waste sight will need to be implemented, and not just sighted, something as simple as composting can differ waste from the land fill while creating valuable soil.

The Panchayat will need to get involved for bigger tasks such as the purchase and regulation of garbage bins and collection trucks, but this too can be done in an affordable, recreational manner. Trucks can be as simple as an old Tuk-Tuk, and bins empty water barrels. These activities could become interactive with something such as an art campaign where children paint the barrels with the beautiful images of their community to further convey the message of retaining this beauty. Soil from composting can be used by the proposed Farmers Club and food can either be used to feed the community or for food packaging and selling schemes.

Short term goals-

- SWM committee
- Signage expressing the importance of managing waste by not littering, recycling, and composting.
- Low impact garbage collection bins (rain barrels, or constructed from bamboo or other natural resources)
- Get trash off beach!

Medium term goals

- Follow up on landfill, in the mean time develop plan for sight's proper use and management
- Propose collection truck route
- Funding? Once trucks, bins and sight are in play- money will be needed

Long term goals

- Way to generate waste into energy?
- Way to reduce total amount of waste per capita? Per person?

