



ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Proceedings of meeting held on 06-02-2025 under the Chairpersonship of Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment, Climate Change Management) regarding the Implementation of Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP)

Date: 06-02-2025

Time: 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue: BBMP Head Office

Participants:

1. Shri. Tushar Girinath, IAS, Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru
2. Shri. Ramachandran R, IAS, MD, BMTC
3. Shri. Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar V, IAS, Chairman, BWSSB
4. Smt. Preeti Gehlot, IAS, Special Commissioner (Forest, Environment, Climate Change Management) BBMP.
5. Mr. Basavaraj Kabade, CE, BSWML
6. Mr. KN Paramesha, CE, BWSSB
7. Mr. Dalayath B S, CE, BWSSB
8. Mr. Ramesh, Director technical, BESCO.
9. Mr. Mahesh, Director, EMPRI
10. Ms. Pavitra Nayak, Scientist, EMPRI
11. WRI India – Knowledge Partner
12. Reap Benefit – Knowledge Partner
13. CAC Fellows

CAC Knowledge partners for CSR Convening:

14. Sattva Consulting

CSR Representatives from following companies:

15. 3M India Limited.
16. Akamai.
17. Alstom.
18. Bosch.
19. HCL tech.
20. Mercedes Benz Research and Development India.
21. Nvidia.
22. Salesforce.
23. Brillio Technology

CAC collaborators:

24. ATREE
25. Biome – solutions
26. Well Labs
27. Rainmatter Foundation

Agenda:

Bengaluru Climate Action Cell hosted CSR convening align the priorities of the city's CSR ecosystem with the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP). Bengaluru is home to several private sector enterprises working towards environmental sustainability and human wellbeing through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. We believe there is a need for aligning such efforts which can help achieve the goals of the BCAP, and the Climate Action Cell (CAC) can play a facilitator role in enabling a better climate finance ecosystem in Bengaluru.

The following are the objectives of this convening:

- To understand priorities & challenges of CSR financing climate action
- To familiarize the CSR ecosystem on the climate actions prescribed by the BCAP
- To introduce the Climate Action Cell's role and activities
- To help align priorities of CSR ecosystem with the City Climate Action Plan

Key Decisions & Next Steps:

The meeting commenced with greetings from the Climate Action Cell (CAC), welcoming all participants. The importance of CSR engagement in climate action and urban sustainability was emphasized. CAC Fellows extended a warm welcome and introduced the session to attendees. The Special Commissioner addressed the audience and provided an outline of the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP). The BCAP aspires to attain net zero emissions by 2070 while also ensuring Bengaluru's climate resilience.

Presentation Highlights:

The Special Commissioner mentioned about the state-level action plans on climate change (SAPCC), which are mandated by the MoEFCC and try to achieve larger goals and city-level Climate Action Plans (CAP), which are voluntarily adopted by municipal governments to plan specialised climate action. The BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) is the principal nodal agency for BCAP, working with more than 15-20 government departments as important stakeholders. The main points of BCAP as explained by special commissioner are:

- Bengaluru faces major climate challenges, including unpredictable rainfall, drought conditions, rising temperatures, and water shortages.
- Under the BCAP, efforts have been made to identify vulnerable communities to enable more focused and effective interventions.
- The city is a major contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with stationary buildings and transportation accounting for the highest emissions. First round of GHG inventory was conducted during 2019 and second round eventually planned for 2024.
- The BCAP framework includes **266 action points** spread across 33 action tracks within **seven key sectors**, engaging stakeholders such as KREDL, BESCOM, and various BBMP departments.
- The priority sectors outlined in BCAP focus on mitigation efforts in Energy & Buildings, Transportation, Solid Waste, and Air Quality, while adaptation measures include Water,



CAC'S role and action:

- A citizen science initiative, Community-led Greening – Virtual Mapathon 2024, has been introduced to involve local communities in leveraging digital technology to identify and verify potential green spaces in vacant sites within their neighbourhoods, contributing to the city's greening efforts.
- The Friends of Climate Action Cell initiative has been launched to bring together various stakeholders including RWAs, civil society organizations, corporate entities, academic institutions, and individuals with the aim of fostering knowledge exchange, raising awareness, and strengthening capacity for BCAP implementation in the city.
- Hold meetings, ensure regular stakeholder coordination to facilitate timely implementation of actions as laid out in the BCAP.
- Monitor, Evaluate and Report the city's progress on implementing BCAP actions, goals, and targets.
- Organize events to build capacities of stakeholders, convene discussions and generate awareness on BCAP.
- Create partner ecosystem and platforms for participation and engagement regarding climate led initiatives.
- The Blue-Green Infrastructure Network is essential for Bengaluru as it addresses critical urban challenges exacerbated by rapid urbanization and climate change.
- To implement BCAP at a local level, Hyperlocal action plan needs to be prepared to implement at the identified unit.
- Climate budgeting is a strategic approach to integrating climate action into financial planning by aligning public expenditures with climate goals. It ensures that government budgets account for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Few Potential Priority Areas Where the CSR Ecosystem could Support CAC:

Special Commissioner highlighted few areas where CSR could play a crucial role:

- **Blue-Green Wards:** CSR can support initiatives like the development of parks, lakes, solarization projects, rainwater harvesting systems, improving solid waste management at the ward level.
- **Blue-Green Schools:** CSR can contribute to creating green schools by promoting energy-efficient buildings, incorporating climate change education, setting up green roofs, and establishing gardens.
- **Climate Knowledge Hub:** CSR can assist in building a climate knowledge hub to enhance the capacity of communities and foster climate action beyond governmental boundaries.

Blue-Green Wards promote climate resilience by integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning. They focus on sustainable infrastructure that enhances ecological balance, reduces heat stress, and improves environmental quality. By prioritizing climate-responsive



design, these wards support sustainable development, enhance community well-being, and contribute to Bangalore's broader climate action and adaptation strategies.

Given its wide-ranging impact, CSR has the potential to greatly support the city's climate initiatives. The Special Commissioner encouraged participants to partner with CAC and collectively develop effective, sustainable solutions to drive Bengaluru's transformation.

Towards a Resilient Bengaluru: Investment Priorities for Climate Proofing – Insights from WRI India

- WRI India provided an overview of the challenges and opportunities specific to climate action in Bengaluru, emphasising the importance of non-public financing and the potential role of CSR in funding climate action projects focused on research and innovation, awareness generation, and on-the-ground implementation.
- The importance of hyper-local data in assessing local vulnerability and informing targeted interventions was highlighted, as was the need to bridge the climate finance gap, particularly for adaptation projects, and the use of innovative financing mechanisms such as CSR to help fund environmental action in Bengaluru that is aligned with the BCAP.
- The importance of integrating climate considerations into corporate sustainability strategies was brought to the forefront, advocating for long-term commitments rather than short-term interventions.
- The discussion emphasized the significance of policy alignment and regulatory support to facilitate seamless collaboration between corporate entities, government agencies, and civil society in advancing climate action goals.

Analysis of Environment spends in Karnataka - Insights from Sattva Consulting:

- The presentation explored CSR trends and growth in India over the past decade, with a particular emphasis on the environmental sector. It also highlighted emerging CSR patterns in Karnataka, showcasing an increasing emphasis on sustainability and climate action initiatives.

Discussion with the CSR representatives and their opinions towards climate initiatives as part of CSR:

- A query was raised regarding the possibility of involving the central government in securing land permissions for CSR activities.
- A suggestion was made to develop a menu card of projects, allowing corporates to choose initiatives they wish to support.
- Questions were posed about whether specific geographies or wards have been prioritized by government departments for climate action, along with inquiries about potential pillar champions within BBMP for future collaboration.

M

- The **Special Commissioner highlighted** that CAC is in the process of identifying key priority projects, which will be shared in due course. In the meantime, stakeholders can refer to the BCAP's outlined short-, mid-, and long-term goals as a guiding framework. CSR representatives were encouraged to outline their focus areas and propose project ideas, with BBMP CAC supporting engagement with relevant government departments. CSR contributions could be both financial and technical, with CAC serving as a facilitator to streamline collaboration. Additionally, efforts are underway to compile a comprehensive document on CSR initiatives undertaken in partnership with the government.
- The Climate Action Cell (CAC) was asked to provide the 266 action points across 33 action tracks to assist CSR partners in aligning their priorities. Additionally, a summary of actions taken by various stakeholders could help minimize overlap and prevent repetitive investments.
- There was an inquiry about the possibility of receiving CSR support for mapping land parcels intended for afforestation projects.
- The Special Commissioner responded by referencing BBMP's Mapathon initiative, which collaborates with the local community to identify potential land parcels. Due to constraints on land availability within city limits, especially for greening purposes, the government is open to facilitating support if CSR partners can identify possible parcels.
- *Human wildlife conflicts, rescue and afforestation in the Karnataka and Bengaluru* is one of the initiatives lead by the CSR end.
- A CSR representative shared their experiences of collaborating with colleges across Karnataka on green skills and food waste reduction projects as part of climate action efforts.
- In response, the Special Commissioner encouraged CSR representatives to share their experiences and lessons learned from such initiatives, so the government can consider replicating and scaling these projects.

Initiatives from Government Departments:

Mr. Ramachandran R, IAS, MD BMTC

- The Shakti Scheme has been launched, aiming to enhance urban mobility through the deployment of 320 electric buses. BMTC is collaborating with WRI India and BMRCL to develop metro feeder services and plans to request an additional 7,000 vehicles for its fleet.
- 40 lakhs bus commuters and 6 lakhs metro feeder commuters are facilitated every day.

CSR Collaboration – Shri Tushar Girinath, IAS, Chief Commissioner's Vision towards CSR initiatives

- The key issue is not the absence of funds, the real challenge lies in developing innovative projects that effectively address problems and create lasting impact with monitoring.
- CSR initiatives should contribute towards innovative ideas and solutions that are not being dealt by BBMP.

M

- Discussion involved about how walkability and footpath could be enhanced to improve quality of walkability to citizens.
- The process would involve CSR submitting new, innovative proposals, outlining project costs and scope. BBMP will provide certification and ensure these solutions align with the city's goals.
- Potential areas for innovation include health, education, and climate adaptation projects.
- BBMP is not looking to directly accept CSR funds but is interested in partnering with CSR to create innovative solutions for issues beyond the government's reach, benefiting from private expertise and funding.

Priority areas that the CSR's mentioned and are interested in:

- Efforts are underway to conserve biodiversity, maintain forest lands, and promote green skills among youth, alongside supporting eco-friendly initiatives and solar power projects.
- A key focus is road safety, particularly for individuals with physical challenges, as emphasized by the Chief Commissioner.
- Initiatives to raise awareness about water conservation, soil restoration, and afforestation are also in progress.
- There are ongoing projects focused on lake rejuvenation beyond BBMP limits and last-mile metro connectivity through women-driven electric auto-rickshaws.
- Mental health professionals are being trained, and healthcare is being improved in urban slums, while underprivileged children are receiving sports training.
- The 3M India's CSR budget is being aligned with BCAP, which includes projects targeting road safety, stormwater management, and renewable energy initiatives in schools.
- The Chief Commissioner advocated for a collaborative effort with BBMP to promote gender inclusivity across various urban development programs, ensuring equal opportunities and representation.
- Additionally, the Chief Commissioner stressed the critical need to enhance the quality of early childcare and learning in BBMP-run schools, recognizing the long-term impact such improvements would have on the city's future generations.
- Regarding environmental concerns, the Chief Commissioner suggested prioritizing the rejuvenation of lakes situated outside BBMP limits as these lakes are also interconnected with lakes within BBMP. This approach would allow for more focused, manageable interventions.
- Meanwhile, the Special Commissioner proposed a comprehensive strategy for lakes within the city's scope, urging the development of lake periphery projects that include advanced water quality treatment systems.

Discussions and Inputs from the Organisations

- There has been a request for support in terms of both funding and land (30-50 sq. m.) to implement urban heat shelters. Each shelter is estimated to cost around 3-4 lakhs

M

- and will serve as a resting and hydration spot, particularly for vulnerable communities. This could support the street vendors and labours on everyday basis
- Additionally, solutions are being sought for rainwater harvesting (RWH) and the integration of shallow aquifers within school premises.

Key discussion points and initiatives that the Government departments mentioned:

BWSSB

- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) highlighted the urgent need for water conservation across Bengaluru.
- They proposed initiatives aimed at raising public awareness about the depletion of groundwater resources and encouraged companies to implement rainwater harvesting systems, particularly in areas like cooling towers and air conditioning units. Additionally, they recommended prioritizing the use of treated water.
- To facilitate better communication, it was suggested that a community group, perhaps through platforms like WhatsApp, be established to connect government officials and corporate leaders, allowing for the exchange of ideas and smoother collaboration.

BMTC

- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) raised concerns about the increasing levels of suspended particulate matter and air quality issues.
- It was also discussed that the adoption of electric vehicles could help mitigate some of these problems.
- They proposed offering electric buses with a subsidized cost of 35 lakhs per vehicle. Additionally, there is potential for a mini-bus service connecting metro stations.
- Given that BMTC operates on a negative margin, they highlighted that viability gap funding would be valuable to support the transition to electric vehicles. Furthermore, BMTC is willing to issue certificates for CSR compliance related to these initiatives.

General discussions and Call to Action

- **Collaboration between BBMP & CSR:** The focus should be on working together to create innovative solutions. CSR should direct its efforts towards areas where BBMP faces significant challenges, particularly in climate adaptation, health, and education.
- **Formal Agreements:** It is crucial to establish formal agreements between CSR and government bodies to ensure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of projects to have documentation of the process and results.
- **CSR's primary role** is to establish innovative solutions that cater to BBMP's initiatives. By aligning their strategies, both CSR and BBMP can drive impactful climate action that enhances Bengaluru's resilience and climate related initiatives.
- **Challenges in Long-Term Maintenance:** CSR representatives highlighted the difficulty in ensuring long-term operations and maintenance for infrastructure built through CSR efforts. As CSR generally covers the capital costs along with a fixed maintenance period, government leaders agreed that new strategies for ongoing maintenance and



upkeep need to be explored as a positive approach to hold the long quality of the project or initiatives.

- **Way Forward-Project ideation/Preparation:** The CAC Fellows can play a key role in transforming project ideas submitted by CSR representatives into actionable projects.


14/02

Special Commissioner
(Forest, Environment, Climate Change Management)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara palike

Copy submitted to: -

1. Hon'ble Administrator, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for kind information.
2. Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for kind information.

Copy to: -

1. M/s. Lakes Department
2. M/s. EMPRI
3. M/s. BWSSB
4. M/s. BMTC
5. M/s. BESCO
6. M/s. WRI, India
7. M/s. Sattva Consulting
8. M/s. CGI, India
9. M/s. Mercedes Benz
10. M/s. Nvidia
11. M/s. Bosch
12. M/s. HCL Tech
13. M/s. Salesforce
14. M/s. 3M India Limited
15. M/s. Akamai
16. M/s. Alstom
17. M/s. ATREE
18. M/s. Biome Environmental Trust
19. M/s. Rainmatter Foundation
20. M/s. Reap Benefit
21. M/s. Well Labs
22. M/s. CE Lakes
23. Office copy