

New Town: Roadmap to Future Green Cities of India

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Since the advent of Industrial Revolution in 1760, cities have been a hub for industries and other economic activities all around the globe and with the opening of Indian markets in 1991, India too began running swiftly in this globalization race. India and its cities evolved rapidly after 1991 causing heavy development. Environmental issues like global warming, increased green-house effect, atmospheric deposition, climate change etc. came along with the rapid development and the cities became most affected as they harbor majority of industries and human population. This led to development of Green Cities all around the world with focus on sustainable growth ensuring healthy lifestyle to the people residing in these cities as a remedy to the deteriorating urban ecosystem.

A recent example of a green city which is striving to achieve clean energy and sustainable methods of

development is New Town, Kolkata. New Town is the first city to receive a gold certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) which is part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) that rates buildings, schools, healthcare centres, cities on their eco-friendly quotient. New Town has successfully committed to United Nations 'Energy Compact' pledge battling against climate change and has also promised to ensure modern energy connection, using 2% renewable energy and exploring geothermal energy by 2030. The city produces 1.3 megawatt of peak solar power, and it comes under Central Government's solar city mission with an installed capacity of

TOWARDS AN ECO-FRIENDLY FUTURE

Criteria to become platinum-rated green city certification		
To score more than the green city certification rating of 160.	Points are allotted on how a city or township achieves energy, fuel, water and manages waste efficiently.	
To score maximum points in zero greenhouse emission.	Green city certification levels	
NKDA is encouraging vertical green buildings to get the platinum tag.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Points 120-139 Silver ➤ Points 140-159 Gold ➤ Points 160-200 Platinum

-Data from: Times of India

1252 KWp solar power plants and another 600 KWp power gets generated from a biomass converter unit of 5 TPD segregated wet waste. The land use planning of the city is

SOLAR CITY SETS HIGH STANDARDS

14,23,752sqm | Rooftop open space of non-government buildings available for solar plants.

19,97,650sqm | Open space available for ground-mounted solar power plants.

21,29,650sqm | Water body surface available for floating solar power plants.

600KWh power is being generated from one biomass convertor unit making use of segregated wet waste of **5 TPD.**



Installation and operation of **hydrogen fuel plant** is a major target in the West Bengal Electric Vehicle Policy.

Hence, introduction of hydrogen-fueled heavy vehicle in New Town has a bright prospect.

West Bengal State Electric Vehicle Policy has identified New Town as the pilot city of demonstration of innovative solutions.

New Town is a solar city with an installed capacity of **1,252KWp solar power plants**

-Data from: Times of India

really impressive with around 22% land being used for parks, playgrounds, city green cover and water bodies including parks like Eco Park, Swapno Bhor park etc. The central business area has 49% residential area which facilitates 'walk to work' model with offices, schools and markets saving both time and petrol. The transport facility around the city is facilitated by electric buses and e-rickshaws and focus is laid on cycling as the city provides separate lanes for cycles and has a cycle sharing app for promoting cycling among residents. The authorities of the city have a target of reducing motorization of intra city travel by 50%. A peculiar feature of every green city is effective water management and New Town also has a good water management system where many green buildings reuse their water to reduce consumption, and some have adopted rainwater harvesting too and the authorities have made roof-top rainwater harvesting compulsory for all plots larger than 2 acres. Apart from this,

some part of wastewater of the city is naturally treated while some are treated into sewage treatment plant with regular examination of treated water. The streetlights around the city are either LED street lights or solar powered. However, there have been criticisms about not having enough trees around the city which according to the authorities has been taken care of and planting of saplings is under process. A unique feature which however is observed in New Town is use of bamboo fences on road medians which is both eco-friendly and cost-effective.

All in all, its observed that decent efforts have been made by the city planners to add more and more eco-friendly features for ensuring sustainable growth and such little attempts can bring huge changes in restoring urban ecological balance. The city of New Town can and must be seen as an inspiration to build more green cities around the country so that India achieves its global promises of fighting against evils like global warming and climate change.