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Corp in door-to-door campaign for source segregation of waste

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Officials have been knocking on apartment doors across the city to make people aware of source segregation, urging them to practise it and carrying out demonstrations. On Monday, civic officials campaigned in more than 400 homes in Ambattur, asking residents to segregate wet waste from dry waste.

This is part of the ongoing efforts of the Greater Chennai Corporation to implement the mandate of the revised solid waste management rules released by the environment ministry in 2016 and the Swachh Bharat Mission.

TOI had first reported the initiative in March which had resulted in 3% of the total waste in the city being recycled. "It's important for us to rope in students for this initiative, so we are campaigning in schools and colleges apart from spreading awareness in slums and gated communities," said a senior health official of the corporation.

"After we cover our drive across the entire city, top officials may consider how to make this mandatory and maybe even impose penalties," the official added.

On an average, more than 5000 metric tonnes of garbage is

dumped every day in the landfills in Kodungaiyur and Perungudi. To reduce this load and eventually close these toxic dumping grounds, composting pits and biogas plants have come up across the city in the corporation's vacant lands, burial grounds and near Amma Canteens to contain garbage within neighbourhoods that are generating it and not let waste go to the landfills.

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The biodegradable waste is fed into compost yards to be converted into manure or in biogas plants which turns it into cooking gas for the budget canteens.

In this year's fiscal budget, the corporation has also allotted Rs 10 crore for the first phase of work on a modern solid waste management plant.