

## India gears up waste to energy initiative

India is all set to convert its trash to treasure as it gears up, albeit a bit slowly, to strengthen its waste-to-energy sector and boost recycling and reuse - with one expert estimating the annual earnings from biofuel alone at Rs 50,000 crore (\$11 billion).

Aiding India's transition to green technology are a host of European and American consultants with economically viable and eco-friendly solutions.

"There will be three-fold benefits in terms of environment protection, economy and optimising use of space," **Amiya Kumar Sahu**, president of the National Solid Waste Association of India, told IANS at the recently concluded IFAT here - India's leading trade fair for water, sewage, refuse and recycling.

As per a World Bank report, India generates 110,000 tonnes of MSW per day and the numbers are only increasing.

"This amount of MSW is equivalent to 30 million litres of diesel fuel per day. Therefore, per year it will be 10,000 million litres approximately. In rupee terms, at around Rs.50 per litre, gross earnings in sale of fuel to the central government would be approximately Rs.50,000 crores per year."

Although the Indian government has recognised the waste-to-energy sector as a renewable technology and has allocated nearly Rs 200 crore (\$44.5 million), it's still in the nascent stage but things are slowly picking up, Sahu pointed out.

"What countries like Germany did 10 to 20 years ago we are doing now. There is enormous potential in waste being converted to power to fulfil the energy deficit. Advanced technology from abroad has a big role to play in taking it forward in India. The Indian government also needs to push it more," he added.

October 30, 2013

**Reference:** The New Indian Express

**Link:** <http://money.newindianexpress.com/content/blog/news/india-gears-up-its-waste-to-energy-initiatives/>