

Carbon Neutral Communities Resource Centre

Together we co-create a carbon neutral, toxic-free, zero-waste planet

Carbon neutral communities aim at managing the regional anthropogenic carbon emissions through a series of environmental friendly methods and techniques for sustainable development. The idea of carbon neutrality refers to achieving net zero carbon emission by balancing the measured amount of carbon released into atmosphere due to human activities, with an equal amount sequestered in carbon pools/sink. It is crucial to restrict atmospheric concentrations of GHGs released from various socio-economic, developmental and life style patterns through biological or natural processes, so that it regulates the global temperature levels. Carbon neutral development thus designs developmental processes in a sustainable manner, through offsetting and mitigation measures in an effort to reduce GHG levels.

The Resource Centre

“A participatory approach respects local knowledge and facilitates local ownership and control of data generation and analysis.”

The concept of ‘Carbon Neutral Communities’ puts forth the notions of zero carbon development, nature conservation, food and energy self-sufficiency, economic well-being and regional development. Through the resource centre’s proposed activities, we aim to enable the Carbon Neutral Projects in:

Connect

- enhance participation (targeting a gender-diverse, youth-inclusive groups) and build alliances within the stakeholders of the region to accomplish project deliverables
- create a platform for the leaders of the project to share their success stories and learning through demonstration campaigns to connect with other societies

Collaborate

- strategic partnerships and networking to bring in best practices and appropriate technology, that aims to develop a standard at par with international peers in building a carbon neutral community
- document and develop the methodology of the project (as toolkits, resources etc.) to serve as a model to other communities through a resource center

Create

- food self-sufficiency through climate resilient agro ecological practices
- efficient energy management through innovative technology (subsidized)
- creation of green jobs and skilled workforces

The proposed resource centre for research and outreach is a support system for the Panchayat and future communities to dedicate their limited time and resources in innovative solutions.

Carbon Neutral Communities Resource Centre		
Activities	Outcome	Timeline
Baseline studies and feasibility		6 months – 8 months
Inception workshops for stakeholder consultation and participatory discussions	Committed and engaged community led intervention and establishment of working groups to proceed with the Phase 2 Tasks.	
Coordinate with technical partners to investigate and benchmark existing emission, land use and related project data.	Current carbon footprint for sectoral activities can be accounted and recorded as a project baseline for monitoring purposes.	
Awareness and Outreach		1 year
Knowledge trainings for various stakeholders (zero-waste, permaculture, agro-ecological innovations) Social preparation (stakeholder participation through tools like PRA) and targeted interventions for the various socio-economic groups through campaigns (e.g. campaign supporting the Kudumbashree and schools for community level work to create awareness)	Trained expert farmer groups of 100 members in agro-ecological farming techniques. Empowered Kudumbashree ¹ units operating in all 34 Anganwadi ² units for food self-sufficiency and nutrition. SOP and orientation for community sanitation workers to form a 'green' brigade. Citizen groups (for every Task) that will actively participate with the Panchayat and project agencies in Phase 2.	
Capacity building		1 to 3 years
Monitoring and documentation; thrust will be given to develop standards/evaluation mechanisms in the local context, equivalent to international counterparts through various local organizations/community participants. Participatory policy making and engaging in 'glocal' climate action.	Information and media repository Research resources and learning centre for the community Strategic partnerships formed across State and National level forming a 'Carbon Neutral Network', contributing to regulatory frameworks and policies	
Technical Support		1 to 3 years
Creating a resource-technology map as a model framework for transitioning into carbon neutral	Carbon neutral framework in the local context will be developed and shared for peer as well as	

¹ Women's self help group.

² A typical Anganwadi centre provides basic health care, especially for children, in Indian villages.

<p>communities. Community labs for diverse research and visiting researchers.</p>	<p>expert reviews. Increase in generation and use of climate information in decision-making.</p>	
<p>Innovation</p>		<p>1 to 3 years</p>
<p>Hub for students to innovate and experiment green technologies Solar powered mobile charging points at bus stand and Panchayat buildings Solar powered demonstration 3-wheeler for public awareness and engagement (especially with children), making 'carbon neutrality' an everyday term Introducing hybrid vehicles as mobile helper units for farmers/small vendors Power producing stationary bikes/playground equipment for school connected to LED lightings</p>	<p>Model space for demonstrating, prototyping and testing green practices such as solar powered systems, agro-ecological farming, aerobic digestion/composting (eg. Thumburmuzhi composting), green innovations (like EcoSan toilets) etc. Behaviour change in community</p>	