

MCD earns carbon credits worth Rs 5L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has earned carbon credits worth Rs 5 lakh against net carbon emission reduction (CER) achieved by making Okhla compost plant functional. This makes MCD the first civic agency in the country that has earned carbon credits.

An MCD official said, "The CERs achieved from the Okhla composting plant — as part of the clean development mechanism (CDM) project — would be the first for any municipal solid waste management project in the country and also the first for any municipal solid waste composting project in the world. The plant has been revived in public private partnership (PPP) between MCD and IL&FS wherein an agreement was signed to rehabilitate and upgrade the Okhla compost plant in May 2007 with carbon finance support. A total of 200 MT of waste would be processed in Okhla."

According to civic agency, 5127 CERs have been reported by IL&FS in its monitoring report and as per the concession agreement with MCD, 25% of the net CER earning (for the first 5 years) has to be shared with MCD.

Said an MCD official, "Waste processing projects avoid methane emissions caused due to anaerobic decomposition of municipal solid waste at a landfill site. Moreover, methane is a green house gas with high global warming potential and the Okhla composting plant is therefore eligible as a CDM project activity."

This annual process of monitoring and verification would continue for every year of plant operation wherein the annual performance would be monitored and credits would be issued in accordance with the performance of the plant in that year. "We hope to earn more carbon credits in years to come," said the official.