

1. ACTION PLAN (annexure A) –

SUMMARY - Our school, as the designated East Delhi Weather Control Centre, has undertaken an ambitious plan to reduce single-use plastic and improve waste management practices, with an aim to make a positive environmental impact by 2027. We executed this plan through a series of coordinated actions. For the execution of the Plan, we implemented a comprehensive ban on single-use plastics on campus and encouraged the use of biodegradable alternatives. Workshops on waste segregation and management were organized for students and staff, where waste segregation at source was emphasized. We implemented a strict ban on polybags and other single-use plastics (SUPs) on campus. Students were instructed to avoid plastic-based items, and our canteen replaced disposable cutlery with eco-friendly alternatives. Additionally, students were required to bring steel tiffins and water bottles, eliminating plastic from their daily routines. As a further initiative, students created and distributed paper bags in nearby markets to provide a sustainable alternative to plastic bags. A student-led campaign was launched to raise public awareness on reducing plastic consumption and the importance of sustainable choices. Additionally, we introduced environmental education into our curriculum to promote long-term behavioural changes.

2. Challenges Faced- Implementing these changes presented several challenges. Some students initially found it inconvenient to switch to steel containers, and there were occasional lapses in adherence to the no-plastic policy. Furthermore, it was difficult to maintain strict enforcement among all students and staff. We also encountered resistance from local vendors reluctant to use our paper bags, preferring cheaper plastic options. Waste segregation compliance was also low, and it took time to adapt to the new recycling practices.

3. Overcoming the Challenges - To overcome these issues, we organized regular workshops to raise awareness about plastic pollution and environmental impact. The school hosted sessions to educate students on the importance of sustainable practices and provided hands-on training for paper bag making. Continuous monitoring and counselling helped foster adherence to our policies. Workshops and regular clean-up drive increased awareness and commitment towards this cause. The student community played a pivotal role, promoting the initiative and encouraging consistent waste segregation. Through collective effort and ongoing education, our school is proud to contribute to New Delhi's plastic reduction goals while leading as East Delhi's Weather Control Centre, a unique position underscoring our environmental responsibility

4. The experts, institutions, or organisations with whom we worked on this project- Our school has been associated with Green Globecare for waste paper management, IIPA – Namami

Gange project, UNEP – for tide turners challenge, TERI, and some more prestigious organizations from where we collaborate for our activities related to environment.

5. Results of the project or learnings – Our key takeaways from this project are as follows –

- **Behavioral Change Takes Time:** Reducing single-use plastic usage requires consistent education and patience as individuals take time to adapt to new habits, such as waste segregation and sustainable consumption.
- **Collaboration is Essential:** Working with local vendors and other stakeholders fosters a sense of shared responsibility and ensures that the community adopts and sustains eco-friendly practices.
- **Student Leadership is Powerful:** Empowering students to lead awareness campaigns not only amplifies the message but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility amongst us.
- **Awareness and Education are Key:** Workshops and educational sessions on sustainability, waste management, and plastic reduction play a pivotal role in shaping long-term behavioral changes.
- **Tackling Resistance Requires Strategy:** Addressing resistance from vendors and initial non-compliance with waste segregation required a well-thought-out approach, including gradual education and positive reinforcement.

6. Any other highlights or additional information Environmental Leadership Inspires Change: Having a Weather Control Centre in the school positions it as an environmental leader, demonstrating that collective efforts can contribute meaningfully to broader city and regional sustainability goals.