

Greenolution *Digest*

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COVER STORY

Afforestation, and why we must pledge for it!

Going by its definition in Wikipedia, afforestation refers to the establishment of a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no forest. Reforestation is the reestablishment of forest cover, either naturally (by natural seeding, coppice, or root suckers) or artificially (by direct seeding or planting). Many governments and non-governmental organizations directly engage in programs of afforestation to create forests, increase carbon capture and sequestration, and help to anthropogenically improve biodiversity. Special tools, e.g. tree planting bar, are used to make planting of trees easier and faster.

India, after 1950 till 2006, has witnessed a minor increase in the percentage of the land area under forest cover. In 1950, around 40.48 million hectare area was under forest cover. In 1980, it increased to 67.47 million hectare and in 2006 it was found to be 69 million hectare. Out of the total land available, around 23% of land is under forest cover. According to biophysical criteria, the forests in India have been grouped into 5 major categories and 16 types. The distribution of these groups indicates 38.20% subtropical dry deciduous, 30.30% tropical moist deciduous, 6.7% subtropical thorn and 5.8% tropical wet evergreen forests. Other categories include subtropical pine (5%), tropical semi-evergreen forests (2.5%) and other smaller categories. Temperate and alpine areas cover about 10% of the forest areas. It is taken care that only local species are planted in an area. Trees bearing fruits are of higher choice in any geography.



Afforestation, and why we must pledge for it!



Afforestation is critical in today's scenario. In a natural forest or woodland, the trees are heterogeneous. Owing to the sensitivity to over usage and slow growths, these forests cannot be used continuously for commercial purposes like wood products. The process of planting trees in empty lands helps promote the fast propagation of specific types of trees for the wood industry.

With the increasing demand for wood fuels and building materials, this process helps to meet these demands

without cutting down the natural forests. Deforestation can lead to the depletion of trees in water catchments and riverside zones. Afforestation ensures trees and plants that hold the soil in these sensitive areas remain protected.

Many countries have introduced the practice of planting trees along with agricultural crops in croplands. The benefits of this practice, which is called agroforestry, are:

- It provides a supply of timber, fruit, and fodder for cattle apart from crop production
- It prevents soil erosion
- It enables better retention of water
- It shields crops from excessive wind and sun damage

In terms of the environmental benefits, planting trees is always beneficial whether it takes place in a barren land or is used as a method to regenerate a depleted forest. Trees help check atmospheric carbon dioxide; large scale afforestation can curb the problems caused due to burning of fossil fuels, industrialization and so forth.

Waste Management @Walmart!

Walmart, the popular American multinational retail corporation, aspires to achieve its goal of generating zero waste across its global operations. The company claims on its official site that in the US, over 81% of the materials flowing through their stores, clubs, and distribution centers are being directed away from landfills. Highest diversion rates in their operations (over 90%) can be witnessed in Walmart stores in Japan and in the UK, while Walmart Canada and Walmart Mexico divert more than 70%. As part of its initiative to contain waste, Walmart reduced plastic bag waste by more than 38% by the end of 2013, compared to their 2007 baseline, thereby displaying a reduction of 10 billion bags annually.

Responsible packaging

The company also believes in packing goods in a smart way, so much so that it has become the fourth angle in the otherwise 3 Rs of sustainability (reduce, reuse and recycle) – rethink.

Walmart claims to be in the process of developing product packaging solutions that cut unnecessary waste and save their customers money. These are a few recent examples:

- U.K.: In 2013, Walmart introduced a lighter version of its private-label Eden Falls water bottles. The new 500-milliliter and 2-liter water bottles are 6% and 13% lighter, respectively.
- Japan: By developing non-tray packaging for meats and seafood, and introducing a corn-based bio-plastic wrap for 37% of its packaged produce, Walmart Japan reduced the total weight of trays by 25.5% since 2007.



Waste Management @Walmart!

Electronics recycling

Walmart has provisioned to recycle the electronic goods it sells too. For this purpose, they have partnered with leading organizations to make proper recycling of used electronics as convenient as possible for their Walmart, Sam's Club and online customers in the U.S.

Smartphone and Tablet Trade-In Program

In 2013, Walmart began a smartphone trade-in program at more than 3,600 U.S. stores and Sam's Clubs. In partnership with CExchange, the trade-in program offers an immediate credit from \$50 to \$300 for more than 100 smartphones. This, they believe, will keep hundreds of thousands of smartphones out of landfills annually. They have also begun a tablet trade-in program. Customers looking to trade in electronics like MP3 players, video games, cameras, laptops and more can turn "gadgets to gift cards" on Walmart official site.



**GREEN
DIWALI**

Diwali Celebrations @ Tata Power



Innovative diyas - Idea sent by Pammy Gupta - Tiruldih



Green Rangoli @Bombay House

GREEN QUIZ

Quiz

1 Which animal can create the loudest sound among any living creature?

- A. Whale Shark
- B. Gibbon
- C. Humpback whales
- D. Howler Monkey

2 Which animal has no vocal cord?

- A. Lion
- B. Lion
- C. Dolphin
- D. Giraffes

3 Which animal can see both infrared and ultraviolet light?

- A. Viper snake
- B. Goldfish
- C. Greyhound Dog
- D. Butterfly

4 Which is the only continent where the Lama can be found?

- A. North America
- B. South America
- C. Europe
- D. Asia

To know the winner for last issue

visit www.greenolution.com



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DT 3,5-4,5 / 16-80 AZ



CP Bijukrishan, CENTEC



Debarghya Mitra, Bhira



Dhawal Pandya QA&IT



Tulshidas Chavan, Bhira