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Their Belief: Even A Few Individuals Can Make A Mammoth Difference. Their Appeal To All: Think, Act And Go Green

These young green heroes lead from front

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: Apart from canteen chat chats and college textbooks, their world also revolves around solving crucial environmental crisis like global warming and civic awareness. For many a debate on genetically modified brinjal is equally interesting as going to pubs and movies.

Meet these young eco heroes who believe even a few individuals can make a huge difference and they urge citizens to contribute in their own capacity.

Anirudh Bhuyan, a student of Christ University, organized a campaign in February 2010 to save electricity. Strength of community and entertainment with alternate sources of energy was what Batti Bandh Bangalore 'Dark Event' professed on February 13 at Jaaga, Shantinagar. The hour-long event witnessed the city switching off their regular appliances to switch to a more eco-friendly alternative. "I was inspired by Earth Hour and Batti Bandh Mumbai and the idea of this campaign was to save the environment in a fun way," says the 19-year-old.

Musical and theatre performances were held at the venue which runs completely on solar power and the performers gave tips on going green at the end of their acts.

John Paul, a masters student in Social Work at St Joseph's College of Arts and Science, has devised ways in which people can always think 'green'. A 25-member team of which he was a part of, encouraged the staff and students of their college to wear green clothes and slogan T-shirts pledging to save the environment. The BT brinjal campaign

EARTH DAY

The Jain University Centre of Management Studies' students are not far behind in keeping the city litter-free. A student driven organization Yuva has contributed to the environment through activities like 'clean Bangalore initiative', 'no-tobacco campaign' and 'say no to crackers campaign'

is the highlight of his environmental work.

John and his friends rallied against genetically modified brinjal as an unnatural food source. They painted their faces and marched in protest in the city. Says Sumantho Mandol who has begun a plastic-free initiative on campus: "We should not mess around with nature or the natural processes."

The Jain University Centre of Management Studies' students are not far behind in keeping the city litter-free. A student driven organization Yuva has contributed to the environment through activities like 'clean Bangalore initiative', 'no-tobacco campaign' and 'say no to crackers campaign'. On August 15 2009, Yuva with the help of 'Anonymous Indian', took part in 'Clean up Bangalore' and picked up garbage in Kumara Park, Sheshadripuram. The garbage was disposed in environment-friendly plastic bags into BBMP garbage vans.

—By Sumana Sri



EVERY BIT HELPS FOR GREEN CAUSE

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Organizations are doing their bit to show solidarity to the cause of environment. For example, Applied Materials India is donating a vehicle to Trees for Free Foundation to encourage its employees plant saplings. The foundation helps individuals and corporates identify a place to plant saplings to increase the tree population of the city.

The Cisco office in Bangalore will host awareness sessions on rain water harvesting with the session conducted by a team from Rain Water Harvesting Club, one on organic farming by L Narayana Reddy, and another on wildlife conversation by wildlife photographer Saptha Girish.

Ness Technologies will organize road shows and encourage employees to use public transport, cycle, walk or carpool to office. People who have followed it regularly will win prizes.

Yahoo! will have brainteasers about things people have always been curious about like — Why do ladybugs have spots? What causes lightning?, etc. It would also track the most popular green searches to know what environmental issues are on people's minds on Earth Day.

toallreporter@timesgroup.com

Buying an AC? Don't miss the star rating

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: How many of you actually check the star rating before purchasing an electrical appliance? Interestingly, it's the same rating that's key to saving your power bills.

So, this summer if you plan to invest in an air-conditioner, look out for the energy efficient, five-star rated model.

From January this year, one to five-star labelling, depending on the energy efficiency of the appliance, has been made mandatory for refrigerators, A/Cs and tubelights.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has started a national education programme on star labelling for A/Cs. They, along with Emerson Climate Technologies and International Copper Promotion Council of India, launched a programme on Wednesday to train 450 salesmen across 120 showrooms in Bangalore. They will be

trained by BEE on star-rated products. These salesmen will help customers choose energy-efficient A/Cs.

BEE will also provide 24 touch screen energy calculating kiosks for designated showrooms. The kiosks will help calculate the amount of money that can be saved on electricity bill, depending on which star-rated AC is chosen.

"Around 80 million refrigerators are sold every year and all of them are star rated. We have been very successful in implementing the rating procedure for refrigerators. Even in case of A/Cs, it is not just sold in huge numbers but used widely in India. Some three million A/Cs are sold every year and the sector has a growth rate of 30%," said Sandeep Garg, energy economist, BEE.

Window A/Cs have got up to three star rating and may soon get a four star too. However, other models have already got five star rating.

toallreporter@timesgroup.com

SAVE ENERGY

- In India, A/Cs run for eight hours a day and 252 days a year on an average
- The star labelling was made mandatory for refrigerators, A/Cs, tubular fluorescent lights and distribution transformers from January 2010. Colour TVs, ceiling fans, water heaters and LPG stoves are under voluntary phase
- Five-star AC consumes lowest energy. According to BEE, if one star AC has an electricity bill of Rs 100 then a five-star AC will cost Rs 69
- Calculate your energy expenditure at saveenergy.co.in

