

Number of vehicles going up by 8% per year; indoor pollution more harmful to health

Don't let the pretty pic fool you, city is really polluted

DNA Correspondent | BANGALORE (Published Date: Jun 23, 2012)

Air pollution in the city continues to rise due to vehicular emissions and dust from construction activities, according to the 'Environment Report Card of Bangalore 2012'.

It says the number of vehicles on the city roads have exceeded 3.7 million and there has been a consistent increase in the number vehicles at an average of 8% per year.

The Environment Report Card of Bangalore 2012, brought out by the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) in association with IBM, was released by chief secretary SV Ranganath on Friday.

"The report is an indicator of public perception on the problems that exist in the city. Now, it is our duty to look at low cost solutions. All the civic bodies have to prepare themselves to mitigate the problems of residents. We have to ensure that investors from other states or countries should not go back with negative feelings about Bangalore," Ranganath said.

The report found that health impact was more severe due to indoor pollution than limited exposure to outdoor pollution. "Detailed exposure movement studies have been conducted to understand how the human body is subject to various pollutants that are found within our homes, offices and even the long duration of time spent in travelling, which exposes us to pollutants within a vehicle," said Srinivas of Centre for Sustainable Development.

The survey reveals that over 98% of the general population use LPG for cooking. "But the fact that 87% of the slum-dwellers use LPG is a significant indicator of their income levels. Only three per cent of the slum-dwellers have reported using fire wood for heating," he said.

The survey was conducted in eight zones (three wards of each zone) of the BBMP, covering 1,675 households and 108 commercial establishments. The survey covered issues such as water, air, traffic, sanitation, health, waste management, awareness on environmental issues, rain water harvesting, open spaces and community participation.

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