



HELP-O

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SRI LANKA



[www.helpo-srilanka.org](http://www.helpo-srilanka.org)

# NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER

### 2023



# EDITORIAL

HELP-O is a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1992 by a team of professionals with commitment to making Sri Lanka a better, happier place to live in harmony with nature.

HELP-O has the following vision: "Equitable Economic Development, Social Justice, and a Safer Environment for All"

Its mission is "To identify the need of risks confronted by Sri Lankan communities and implement effective solutions through proven integrated approaches with the participation of stakeholders". The five strategies HELP-O adopts in achieving its mission include, empowering the marginalized community socially and economically, accepting the importance of community participation and leadership, dedicating for protect the environment through an integrated process, protecting human rights and justice, and ensuring sustainable development.

Mission related programs and projects launched by HELP-O focus on the following spheres:

They are Community empowerment, rehabilitation, relief assistance, and protecting human rights, community participation in local governance, community financing, livelihood development, economic resource mobilization, nurturing biodiversity, mitigating the impact of climate change, pollution prevention, waste management, and optimal utilization of marine resources and optimal utilization of forest products.

Overall, HELP-O is an organization dedicated to bringing about a sustainable positive impact on the environment and the lives of people in Sri Lanka through a series of interdependent activities.

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# WASTE MANAGEMENT



# Comprehensive Cost of Solid Waste Management Analysis (COSA): A Fundamental Pillar for Sustainable 3R Implementation in Galle Municipal Council



The COSA Data Validation workshop held on November 2nd, 2023, at the Hasara Hotel, involved key officials from the GMC (Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Engineer, Municipal Medical Health Officer, Municipal Accountant, Municipal Secretary, Chief Community Development Officer, Development Officers from other divisions, the Solid Waste Specialist of the CCBO program, and HELP-O staff). The workshop was organized as part of the CACG project, which is generously supported by a grant from USAID through CCBO

In the pursuit of sustainable and environmentally responsible waste management, the integration of the 3R principles (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) is paramount. The Comprehensive Cost of Solid Waste Management Analysis (COSA) emerges as a crucial tool for developing a robust and effective waste management program. Focused on the Galle Municipal Council (GMC) jurisdiction, the COSA serves as a cornerstone in understanding, assessing, and optimizing the costs associated with 3R/SWM services.

## Objectives of COSA:

### Assessing Present Expenses:

The primary aim of COSA is to comprehensively identify and analyze the current costs associated with 3R/SWM services. This includes all facets of waste management, from collection and transportation to recycling and disposal.

### Evaluating Effectiveness and Efficiency:

COSA plays a pivotal role in evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of existing 3R/SWM services. This involves assessing whether the services align with community needs in terms of waste collection, recycling, and disposal.



## Using COSA for the preparing annual budget :

By uncovering the current expenditure linked to 3R/SWM service delivery, COSA provides a solid foundation for budget planning. This information aids in setting realistic and sustainable budgets for future service delivery.

## Determining Appropriate User Fees:

In instances where services are financed via user fees, COSA assists in determining appropriate rates. This ensures the coverage of cost-of-service delivery while maintaining affordability for residents.

## Resource Allocation and Optimization:

COSA enables effective resource allocation by identifying areas for cost savings or improvements. This could involve optimizing collection vehicle routes or enhancing recycling efforts to reduce disposal costs.



## Establishing Performance Benchmarks:

The analysis sets benchmarks for future performance evaluations. By understanding current costs and service levels, GMC can set targets and measure progress over time.

## Supporting Decision-Making:

The insights derived from COSA support decision-making on waste management infrastructure investments, service enhancements, and policy changes. This data-driven approach ensures informed choices for sustainable waste management.



## Base for Long-Term Planning:

By projecting future costs and identifying trends, COSA establishes a Base for long-term planning. This includes anticipating factors such as population growth, changes in waste composition, and evolving regulations.

In conclusion, the Comprehensive Cost of Solid Waste Management Analysis serves as an indispensable tool for the Galle Municipal Council in its pursuit of sustainable and effective waste management. By addressing the outlined objectives, COSA not only optimizes existing services but also lays the groundwork for a future-ready waste management system that is responsive to the needs of the community and the environment. Through transparency, efficiency, and strategic planning, GMC can lead the way in fostering a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future for the Galle MC jurisdiction.

Written By - Lahiru Udumalagala



# "Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: A Transformative Educational Visit to the Eco Spindle and Cleantech MRF Plant"



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, students from Sacred Heart Convent, Vidyaloka College, and Dangedara Jayawardhana College embarked on an educational journey that transcended traditional classroom boundaries. This enlightening experience unfolded at Eco Spindle, a cutting-edge PET bottle recycling plant in the Horana BOI Zone, and the Clean Tech Material Recovery Facility (MRF) focusing on electronic waste. The visit not only unveiled the technological marvels behind PET recycling and e-waste management but also fostered a profound understanding of sustainable practices among the young minds.

## **Eco Spindle: Revolutionizing PET Recycling:**

Nestled in the heart of the Horana BOI Zone, Eco Spindle emerged as a beacon of technological innovation in PET bottle recycling. The students from pilot schools were guided through the facility's internal processes, revealing the intricate journey from discarded PET bottles to valuable resources.

## **Key Points Unveiled:**

**Collected Plastic Bottles:** The facility emphasized the importance of PET bottles in their operations, shedding light on the role PET plays in their recycling endeavors.



**Plastic Recycling Process:** The detailed process involved collecting PET bottles, preparing them by removing labels and dust, crushing them into manageable pieces, and employing a unique method for lid removal to ensure only pure materials proceed.

**Yarn Production:** The selected PET pieces were then transformed into polyester yarn for fabrics, showcasing the facility's commitment to sustainability in textile production.

**Diversified Product Range:** Beyond yarn production, Eco Spindle showcased its versatility by manufacturing eco-friendly products like brooms and cleaning equipment using different types of plastic bottles.

## **Educational Impact:**

The immersive experience at Eco Spindle not only educated students about the intricacies of PET bottle recycling but also sparked a passion for sustainable practices. Understanding the transformation from waste to valuable resources empowered these young minds to champion environmental conservation.



## Cleantech MRF Plant: Addressing the E-Waste Challenge:

In an era dominated by technology, electronic waste (E-waste) has become a pressing environmental concern. Cleantech Resource Recovery Services, a key player in the waste management industry, focuses on the recovery and recycling of e-waste, preventing hazardous materials from entering landfills and extracting valuable resources from discarded electronics.

### E-Waste Handling Process:

**Collection of E-Waste:** Cleantech collects e-waste, including outdated electronics and electronic components, from various sources.

**Removal of External Components:** Before crushing, external components such as casings, labels, and non-essential parts are meticulously removed.

**Preparation for Crushing:** E-waste is prepared for crushing, ensuring it is free from contaminants and extraneous materials.

**Mechanical Crushing:** Specialized machinery is employed to mechanically crush the e-waste into small pieces, ready to be transformed into raw materials for future use.

### Educational Awareness:

The visit to the Cleantech MRF Plant provided students with valuable insights into the handling of e-waste, fostering awareness about responsible disposal and recycling practices in an increasingly digital world.

The transformative educational visit to the Eco Spindle and Cleantech MRF Plant not only showcased the technological prowess behind PET recycling and e-waste management but also instilled a sense of responsibility and awareness among the students. Empowered with knowledge, these young minds are now poised to be the environmental stewards of tomorrow, driving sustainable practices and innovation in waste management.



Written By - Hansi Sandu Tharakla



We were thrilled to host the next generation of eco-champions! Our Cleantech Wattala yard welcomed enthusiastic young minds on a special field trip, which was organized by HELP-O and IGES, and sponsored by the Galle City Plastic Waste Free Project.



At Cleantech, we believe in nurturing a generation that values sustainability. This remarkable visit was a testament to fostering a deep-rooted commitment to environmental consciousness among our youth. Together, we're sowing the seeds for a brighter, greener future.



A heartfelt thank you to HELP-O, IGES, and Galle City Plastic Waste Free Project for making this unforgettable learning journey possible. Here's to empowering young changemakers and shaping a world where sustainability

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# "Galle Takes a Revolutionary Step Towards Waste Management: The Inaugural Waste Fair"



In a groundbreaking move towards sustainable waste management, Galle is set to host its first-ever Waste Fair, an initiative jointly spearheaded by the HELP-O and the Galle City Municipal Council. This innovative concept aims to transform the traditional approach to waste disposal by introducing a system where garbage becomes a valuable resource that can be purchased. The city envisions a cleaner, healthier environment while actively involving the community in this transformative process.

Preliminary Discussion and Stakeholder Engagement:

The seeds of this revolutionary idea were sown during a preliminary discussion held on November 27, 2023, at the Galle Municipal Council Auditorium. The event, led by the Municipal Commissioner, saw the active participation of various stakeholders, including government officials, representatives from non-governmental organizations, the Major General R.A.J.N. Ranasinghe RSP USP, ndc General Officer Commanding of 61 Infantry Division in Galle Boossa representing security forces, army and police officers, schools, hospitals, hotels, community-based societies, and waste collection agencies.

The broad representation of participants underscores the collaborative and inclusive nature of this initiative. It reflects a shared commitment among diverse entities to address the critical issue of waste management and environmental sustainability in Galle.



## Objectives of the Waste Fair:

The primary objectives of the Waste Fair are to keep Galle city free of waste, engage the community in contributing to this cause, and educate the public about effective waste disposal methods. The Help-O Institute and Galle Municipal Council, acting as driving forces behind the project, seek to foster a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship among the citizens.

## Generating Income and Health Benefits:

A key feature of the Waste Fair is its potential to generate income through the sale of waste. By recognizing the value in what was once considered mere refuse, the initiative not only contributes to waste reduction but also provides an avenue for economic empowerment. Waste collection agencies and individuals involved in waste management can now see their efforts translate into financial gain, thereby creating a sustainable model for waste disposal.

Written By - Anoja Jeewanthi



# CACG 4th Stakeholder Forum: Advancing Collaborative Action for a Cleaner Galle

On the auspicious occasion of its first anniversary, the Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle (CACG) project marked another milestone with its 4<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Forum. The event, funded by USAID CCBO and skillfully implemented by HELP-O in collaboration with the Galle Municipal Council (GMC), brought together key stakeholders at Jetwing Light House Hotel on November 30, 2023. This quarterly forum serves as a platform to update and engage all contributors in the CACG project, fostering collaboration for a cleaner and more sustainable Galle.



## Distinguished Participants:

The forum witnessed the active participation of esteemed individuals, including the Chief Secretary and Deputy Chief Secretary of the Southern Province, the Provincial Director of Education for the Southern Province, representatives from the Central Environmental Authority, Urban Development Authority, Coastal Conservation Department, Sri Lanka Army, INSEE, Community Organizations, and key representatives from the Galle Municipal Council.

## Purpose of the Forum:

The primary aim of the 4<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Forum was to provide a comprehensive update on the progress of the CACG project. Dr. Rohana Rathnayaka, a consultant for the CACG project, took the stage to present an overview of the project's advancements, including updates on pilot projects and the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMAP).





## ISWMAP Draft Goals and Funding Options:

A pivotal segment of the forum focused on the presentation of the draft goals, objectives, and strategies of the ISWMAP by Dr. Rathnayaka. This session aimed to gather valuable insights and suggestions from the diverse group of stakeholders present. Mr. Padmasiri Moonamale, another project consultant for CACG, delved into the funding options and the expense associated with the ISWMAP, shedding light on the financial aspects critical to the project's success.



## Interactive Group Work:

Following the informative presentations, participants engaged in group activities to review and refine the draft goals, objectives, and strategies proposed for the ISWMAP. This collaborative effort ensured that the perspectives of all stakeholders were considered, fostering a sense of shared ownership and commitment.

The culmination of the forum featured a speech by the Commissioner of the Galle Municipal Council, highlighting the paramount importance of the CACG project and outlining future plans for waste management in the city. The Commissioner's words emphasized the collective responsibility in ensuring the success of CACG, underscoring the significance of sustained collaboration among stakeholders.

As the CACG project celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary, the 4th Stakeholder Forum exemplified the power of collaborative efforts in driving positive change. With engaged participants from various sectors, the event showcased the commitment to a cleaner Galle through effective waste management strategies. The success of the CACG project lies not only in its initiatives but also in the collective determination of its stakeholders to create a lasting impact on the city's environment.

**Written By - Thakshala Witharanage**



# LOCAL

# GOVERNANCE





# SUCCESS STORIES OF E-SABHA



## Municipal Engineer Mr. K.M.S.R. Kumara

Mr. K.M.S.R. Kumara is the Chief Municipal Engineer of the Galle Municipal Council. Also, he is the head of the Solid Waste Management Unit of GMC. As the Chief Municipal Engineer of the Galle Municipal Council (GMC), Mr. K.M.S.R. Kumara plays a pivotal role in overseeing the city's infrastructure development and ensuring its efficient operation. His responsibilities encompass a wide spectrum of tasks, encompassing municipal road construction, development planning, administrative duties, and the management of the Solid Waste Management Unit.

Leveraging technology to enhance citizen engagement, the Galle Municipal Council has embraced the E-Sabha application as a platform for receiving public complaints and suggestions. The Community Development unit, acting as the chief administrative body of the app, meticulously reviews and categorizes incoming feedback. Upon receiving the Municipal Commissioner's approval, the unit efficiently routes these concerns to the relevant departments via email.

Today, we present the Municipal Engineer's ideas on the E-Sabha application in his words.



“As the Municipal Engineer of Galle Municipal Council, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of E-Sabha on our community. This innovative platform has provided a direct channel for citizens to voice their concerns, suggest improvements, and actively participate in shaping the future of our city.

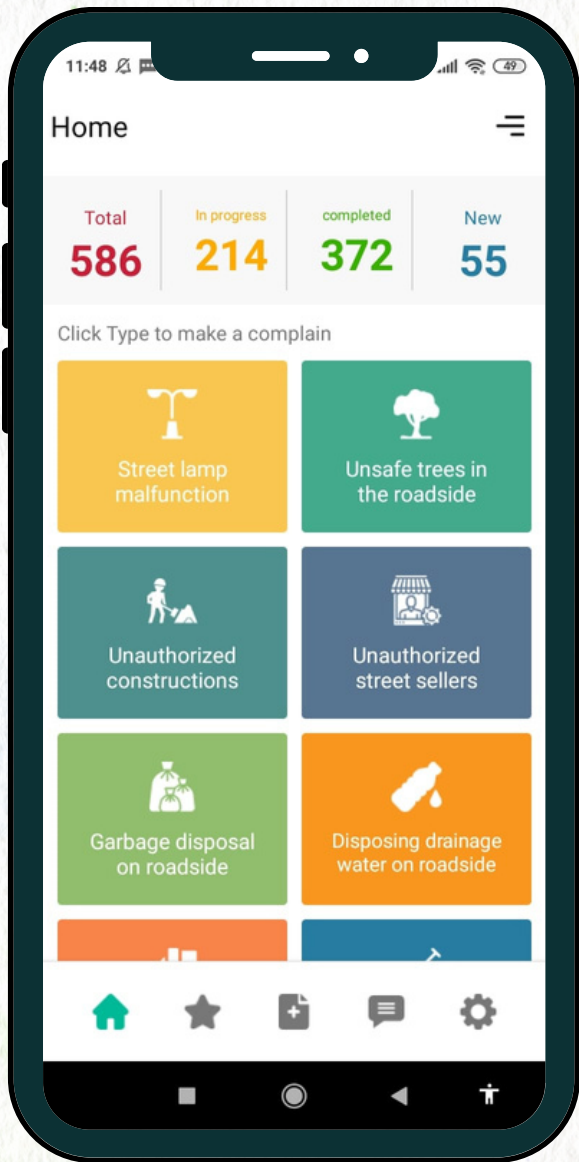
“Before E-Sabha, citizens often faced challenges in communicating their grievances to the council. They had to rely on traditional methods such as writing letters or visiting municipal offices, which were often time-consuming and inconvenient. E-Sabha has eliminated these barriers and made it easier than ever for citizens to connect with the administration. The E-Sabha application has also streamlined the grievance redressal process. Once a complaint is registered, it is immediately routed to the relevant department for prompt attention. This has significantly improved the efficiency of our operations and ensured that public issues are addressed promptly. Moreover, E-Sabha has fostered transparency and accountability within the council. All complaints and their status are readily accessible to the public, allowing citizens to track the progress of their concerns. This open approach has strengthened trust between the administration and the community.”

“In conclusion, the E-Sabha application has revolutionized the way we interact with our citizens. It has empowered them to become active participants in the development of our city, and it has enabled us to provide more responsive and effective services. I urge all citizens to embrace E-Sabha and utilize this powerful tool to make Galle a better place for all. Finally, I like to suggest new developments for the application. Public Announcement systems, and sharing complaints through email and dashboards for stakeholder organizations are our suggestions. I need to thank HELP-O for this work.



# E-SABHA

The e-Sabha mobile app is a Sri Lankan government initiative that allows citizens to send complaints, feedback, and information regarding public day-to-day issues to local government offices in the relevant area. It is a free app that is available for download on the Google Play





**ECO GREEN**

# Awareness Program and Site Visit for ANI Private Resorts – Dickewella

ANI Private Resorts, a five-star prestigious hotel located at Dickewella, reached out to our company as they were interested in implementing a biogas unit as a CSR (corporate social responsibility) project. They invited us to have a site visit to consult them, and as a result, a successful site visit was done on 23rd of September 2023, with the participation of Mr. Chathura Welivitiya (Chairman, Help-O Eco Green Ltd.), Mr. Chathura Rajitha (Project Coordinator, Help-O Eco Green Ltd.), Mr. Dinesh Gamage (General Manager of ANI Private Resorts), and the beneficiaries of the project. Then, they requested us to arrange an awareness program and a site visit to biogas units to get an idea about biogas and a biogas unit.

As requested, an awareness program and site visit for ANI Private Resorts staff were held on 15th of November 2023, with the participation of representatives from ANI Private Resorts,

Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, Mr. Chathura Rajitha, Mr. Chamoth Teran, and other stakeholders. The day started with an awareness program including a presentation presented by Mr. Chathura Welivitiya which was held at the Help-O head office, Dangedara. The program gave them a clear understanding of how a biogas unit works. After that, a site visit was done to a few biogas units constructed by our company around Galle.

Site visits to Sambodiya Homes, to the house of Mr. Themiya, to SOS Children's Village and to the house of Mr. Desapriya were carried out respectively, to see the biogas units physically and to possess an idea about the biogas unit. After a successful and informative awareness program and a site visit, the team from ANI Private Resorts thanked us for arranging the program according to their request. Also, as Help-O Eco Green Ltd. we would be very thankful to the ANI Private Resorts staff for their participation and to the stakeholders (Director of Sambodiya Homes, Director of SOS Children's Village, Mr. Themiya Wijesinhge, Mr. S. Desapriya) for giving us the opportunity to visit the biogas units on their premises.





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