Innovation at its best

An earlier presentation by the 'ReimagineWaste' team.

the team is to take innovation to the grassroot levels and improve livelihoods of waste pickers and other communities, incubate partners who are building environment management services that preserve the environment and help them become financially sustainable.

The event will be held at IISc from August 11 to 14 and is open to all.

Persistent in their efforts to reduce waste, the 'ReimagineWaste' team is back with another hackathon. This time, the focus is on street food vendors. The event will be held in collaboration with CPDM (Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing) IISc.

The 'ReimagineWaste' hackathon series identifies low-cost, high-impact, inclusive solutions for specific issues. The chosen solutions are then incubated, implemented and scaled. The best talents in the country are roped in to mentor economically challenged groups and steer them towards success.

The first hackathon, focussed on the waste picker, was conducted in partnership with CPDM, IISc in 2016. The response to the event surpassed expectations.

Two of the solutions that emerged from it are being implemented in pilot projects with the support of Social Venture Partners, Bengaluru. Each hacking team will have a street food vendor and a waste picker as members and the event will be catered to by the participant street food vendors themselves. The stress will be on food packaging waste and the event will be a zero-waste one.

The team's vision is to reduce waste dumped into landfills in India, create a more sustainable future for India's cities, and make economically challenged communities a part of India's growth story.

The approach taken by

Read Metrolife five days a week

App to drive garbage separation in Bangalore

Reimagining waste idea came from a social hackathon organised in April this year

Nirupama V | ET Bureau | December 15, 2016, 08:22 IST

https://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/technology/app-to-drive-garbage-separation-in-bangalore/55992096

Come January, 750 households in Domlurwill get a QR code and be geo-tagged on a central database. Pourakarmikas will record their attendance at every house by scanning the code with a mobile application and rate its level of waste segregation.

In addition to ensuring that no house is missed, this new technology will also identify households that do not segregate their garbage. At the citizen's end, the app helps track the local waste collector.

This pilot project is being implemented by a group that calls itself Waste Samaritans. They were the winning team at the `Reimagine Waste', a hackathon organised in April by Waste Impact and the Indian Institute of Science, among others.Unlike a regular hackathon, the teams -comprising techies, students and waste pickers -were encouraged to take up an ensuing 45 day challenge to further their ideas so as to bring them closer to implementation.

As futuristic as it may sound, [BBMP](#) bought into the idea of the mobile application and agreed for a pilot that will start in January . The team will receive financial backing from Social Venture Partners to conduct the pilot.

Team member Wisvesh BS, who works for Infosys, said, "The BBMP Joint Commissioner (for solid waste management) Sarfaraz Khan was very excited about the project as it will be easier to impose a fine on households that are not segregating." The application will also assist the impending cleanup marshals programme to locally identify and impose a fine on defaulters.

Another other idea born at the same hackathon and progressed to a working prototype is also going to be applied on the field. Called Prixie, it is a mechanical tool that separates plastic from metal in discarded wires. This will empower hundreds of households in slums around Bengaluru and engaged in manually (and unsafely) scraping plastic from wires.

Continuity is a challenge that often prevents such projects from seeing on-ground implementation, said Gayitri Handanahal, Director of Alliances, Waste Impact. " All ideas could be implemented. But the success lies in the willingness and commitment of the teams to sustain the project," she said.

While in the case of the Waste Samaritans, the idea moved forward with their involvement, in the case of Prixie, the team that came up with the idea is no longer a unit. The organizers of the hackathon themselves took the idea forward. With the first machine expected in ten days, they are all set to start work in the slums in Nayandahalli, off Mysuru Road. "We are exploring a community cooperative or self-help group model," Handanahal said.

The success of Reimagine Waste may signify the coming of age of social hackathons in the city.Engagement with all stakeholders including waste pickers, NGOs, funding agencies and the BBMP ensured that not all ideas went to die after the event.

Thrashing out waste-pickers' trash woes at hackathon
Bengaluru, Apr 03, 2016, DHNS, APR 03 2016, 01:26AM IST
UPDATED: APR 03 2016, 01:26AM IST

Read more at:

https://www.deccanherald.com/content/538268/thrashing-waste-pickers-trash-woes.html

Unlike their daily routine, Manjamma and Lakshmi, both waste-pickers in their mid-30s, were brainstorming in the spacious campus of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Saturday to find alternative ideas on waste management. In an attempt to impr...

Ideas to better waste pickers' livesRe-imagining waste, hackathon unleashes innovative solutions Rasheed Kappan

Bengaluru, Apr 04, 2016, DHNS, APR 04 2016, 01:27AM IST
UPDATED: APR 04 2016, 01:27AM IST

Figure Cost-effective baby bassinet for waste pickers.

Read more at:
https://www.deccanherald.com/content/538462/ideas-better-waste-pickers-lives.html

OPEN DAY @ IISc

Waste Samaritans Launch at IISc Open Day March 2017