

DOWN TOWN

Electronic items enter the scene



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Residents of neighbourhoods in and around Anna Nagar have started a community initiative for responsible disposal of e-waste

In every community-driven waste management initiative, the usual suspects (which include kitchen waste and plastics) would be in full attendance. Electronic waste (e-waste) would be conspicuously absent. Partly because of the complexity involved in handling and disposing of e-waste. Not anymore. E-waste is now beginning to put in an appearance.

In and around Anna Nagar, there is a community-driven drive to collect and dispose of discarded electronic goods in an environment-friendly manner.

Residents of these neighbourhoods are helped by non-governmental organisations as well as groups engaged in e-waste management.

For example, a few months ago, the Madras Spice Ladies Circle 133 (MSLC 133), a voluntary organisation, launched an e-waste collection drive, in association with Industrial Waste Management Association and Tess-Amm, an e-waste recycler. Sandhya Grover, a resident of Anna Nagar and a member of the Association, offered her front yard as a drop-off point.

They printed flyers and created awareness about the drive, online too. Special carton boxes with the Ladies Circle India tags were kept at the drop-off point. During the drive that lasted three weeks, residents in and around Anna Nagar deposited their e-waste in these boxes. It is remarkable that nine out every 10 people who brought their e-waste were senior citizens.

Discarded electronic items, including printers, UPS systems, computer monitors, cellphones, wires and cables, computer parts, music players, laptops, chargers, cameras, video game consoles, CDs and DVDs were collected.

Tes-Amm picked up the e-waste from the drop-off point.

“This ensured that all the e-waste collected were recycled as environment protection s, she adds. jasmine, a resident of Harrington Road, religiously segregates her waste, including unusable electronic items. As she was looking for a way to dispose of her e-waste in a responsible manner, she sought the help of Virogreen, an e-waste recycler.

“I was disappointed with the way the Corporation handled e-waste. That’s why I had to turn to organisations that exclusively managed e-waste,” she says.

She roped in other residents as well. “A couple of my neighbours, as well as the neighbours of my friend in another locality, deposited their discarded electronic items in my house.”

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