Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Zero Waste Village Initiative - Himalayas, India





Our Zero Waste Village Initiative creates a third option for Himalayan communities-moving beyond dumping waste in forests or burning it by building a community-led system for segregation, collection, recycling, and responsible waste management.

Challenge

Himalayan villages often have limited waste-management options, leaving communities with two harmful choices: dumping waste in forests or burning it. This affects village residents, wildlife, forests, water sources, and visitors, while increasing pollution and health risks. The problem is becoming more urgent as tourism, pilgrimage, and consumption increase waste generation in fragile Himalayan landscapes, where waste can directly threaten ecosystems and community well-being. Our solution addresses this gap by creating a third option: a community-led system for waste segregation, collection, recycling, and responsible disposal.

Solution

We are building a community-led Zero Waste Village model that gives Himalayan communities a third option for managing waste instead of dumping it in forests or burning it. The model works through household-level waste segregation, regular door-to-door collection, community awareness, volunteer and youth engagement, and linkages with recycling and recovery systems. We work with local communities, schools, village institutions, and local partners to create a practical waste-management system suited to remote Himalayan villages. What makes the approach distinct is its simple, low-cost, community-owned model that can be adapted and replicated across other Himalayan villages facing similar waste-management challenges.

Contact

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Website



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Impact

Since 2024, the Zero Waste Village Initiative has worked with Himalayan communities to build a community-led waste-management system. The initiative has covered 90 households, engaged 2 schools and 1 ashram, and collected approximately 10,000 kg of waste for recycling. More than 100 volunteers have participated in awareness, collection, and cleanliness activities. The model has also strengthened community awareness around waste segregation and provided an alternative to dumping waste in forests or burning it. These results demonstrate the potential of a low-cost, community-led approach to reduce waste pollution in fragile Himalayan landscapes and can be replicated in other villages.

Partners

- Canva: Design and communication support for developing awareness and outreach materials for the Zero Waste Village Initiative.
- UnLtd India: Incubation and capacity-building support for strengthening the social enterprise and scaling the Zero Waste Village model.

