



ABSTRACT

Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department – Announcement for the year 2023-2024 - Localising climate action – Making districts / cities as “Carbon Neutral Hubs” -Administrative sanction accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST (EC.4) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(D).No.248

Dated: 26.12.2023

**சோபகிருது, மார்கழி – 10
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு -2054**

Read:

From the Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, R.C.No.P4/938/2023, Dated. 04.08.2023.

ORDER:

The Government of Tamil Nadu has embarked on an ambitious plan to make Tamil Nadu a Climate Resilient State as announced by the Hon’ble Chief Minister during the Climate Summit and launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission in December 2022.

The initiative of "localizing climate action" is extremely timely, as the exposure of the State to detrimental climate impacts has been on the rise in the last few years, making it imperative to mainstream climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigating climate change into development plans for long sustainability.

With the focus of the State to accelerate carbon neutrality, the need for developing local actions is to ensure that such strategies integrate the concerns and issues of each of the administrative units and ensure the integration of climate resilience and adaptation measures into the approach of carbon neutrality.

2. In line with the Government’s vision to localize climate action, the Hon’ble Minister (Environment, Climate Change) during the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly budget session for the year 2023-2024 has made the following announcement ;-

“To Make Rajapalayam and Rameswaram Municipalities carbon free cities:-

Tamil Nadu continues to be a pioneer State in taking action to combat climate change. Following this, the Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a special program to make Rajapalayam and Rameswaram Municipalities carbon free.

(P.T.O)

Rajapalayam and Rameswaram municipalities will be developed as carbon free municipalities through various activities such as by taking innovative measures in energy use, creating awareness about low carbon emission lifestyle, setting up charging stations for electric vehicles, disposal of waste materials through biotechnology”.

3. The Director, Environment and Climate Change has sent a proposal for implementing the project of making certain districts as “Carbon Neutral Hubs” viz.

- i. Udagamandalam, Nilgiris District
- ii. Rameshwaram, Ramanathapuram District
- iii. Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar District
- iv. Coimbatore, Coimbatore District

4. The Government’s vision is to localize climate action with the help of local community, knowledge partner organizations / institution / agencies and also to provide technical and knowledge support to develop the Climate Smart City/District Action Plans for the districts/cities.

5. As hubs move towards carbon neutrality, it would lead to reducing emissions in key development sectors such as transport, waste, water, housing and infrastructure, energy, etc., but it is imperative to ensure that such transitions include measures that enhance the preparedness, coping and recovery mechanisms of communities and infrastructure to increasing floods, droughts and cyclones that many of the districts across Tamil Nadu are prone to and importantly are prepared for the transition, which could impact their livelihoods too.

The Carbon-neutral hubs aim to reduce and offset their carbon emissions, creating sustainable and promoting environmentally responsible practices. This involves adopting clean energy sources, enhancing energy efficiency and implementing eco-friendly practices in construction, transportation and waste management.

6. The proposed strategies to localize climate action, would be a people centric and community-led action plans to make the cities and districts climate smart, that would factor in various aspects that are very unique to every administrative unit.

The following initiatives are planned to make the hubs as carbon neutral.

- i. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory preparation : Sector wise Data collection and analysis across all the key sectors for both baseline assessments as well as CHG Inventory preparation.
- ii. Renewable Energy Adoption: Municipal Corporations can transition to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, or hydro power for their operations, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

- iii. Energy Efficiency: Implement energy-efficient technologies and practices in buildings, industries, infrastructure, practices in municipal facilities, street lighting to minimize energy consumption.
- iv. Sustainable transportation: Enhance public transportation infrastructure to reduce reliance on individual vehicles, thereby lowering emissions from the transportation sector and e-mobility adoption and creation of charging infrastructure for e-mobility.
- v. Waste Management and Recycling: Implement robust waste management and recycling programs to reduce landfill emissions and promote the reuse of materials. Bio-CNG plants for wet-waste processing, waste reduction and recycling, establishing materials recovery facilities to reduce ocean-bound plastic developing market-based incentive to achieve carbon neutrality.
- vi. Urban Green Spaces: Increase the number of green spaces within the city, promoting carbon sequestration and enhancing overall environmental quality.
- vii. Carbon Offset Programs: Invest in local carbon offset programs or projects, such as reforestation initiatives or sustainable agriculture, to compensate for unavoidable emissions.
- viii. Smart City Technologies: Utilize smart city technologies to optimize energy use, traffic flow, and overall resource management, contributing to carbon reduction.
- ix. Data Monitoring and Reporting: Establish systems to monitor and report carbon emissions regularly, fostering transparency and accountability in the pursuit of carbon neutrality.
- x. Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Promote organic farming and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers to minimize carbon emissions.
- xi. Climate literacy programs : Educate the local community about the importance of carbon neutrality and involve them in sustainable practices.

7. Following are the deliverables in making districts as carbon neutral hubs :-

- i. Improve Environment and Climate Sustainability of Cities.
- ii. Decarbonise the economy and pave the way for green transition in the State.
- iii. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dependency on fossil fuels.
- iv. Develop feasible climate smart technologies to implement in other cities.

- v. Promote job opportunities, Eco-tourism and livelihoods.
- vi. Community led participation to make it a peoples' movement.

8. The Government after careful examination, hereby accord administrative sanction for implementation of the project "Carbon Neutral Hubs" for the following districts / cities.

- i. Udagamandalam, Nilgiris District
- ii. Rameshwaram, Ramanathapuram District
- iii. Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar District
- iv. Coimbatore, Coimbatore District

This project will be funded from the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission.

9. The Director, Department of Environment Climate Change is directed to send a detailed proposal along with financial implications to Government early.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To:

The Director,
Department of Environment and Climate Change,
Chennai-15.

Copy to:

The Special/Senior Personal Assistant to
Hon'ble Minister (Environment, Climate Change), Chennai – 9.
The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Chennai-9.
The Private Secretary to Special Secretary (Environment, Climate Change),
Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department, Chennai-9.
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//FORWARDED // BY ORDER//

V. Jayaraman
SECTION OFFICER.
SJ