

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

From the outset, a high level of community consultation was determined to be appropriate for the development of the Strategies.

Table 1. lists the people who were interviewed as a part of the consultation process, from within the Auroville community and externally. The initial focus was on speaking with people who have undertaken waste management work in the past, or who are currently involved in aspects of solid waste management. Links were also made with people in the areas of urban planning, financial management, village development programs, and health care. Also, various industries producing larger quantities or potentially hazardous materials were interviewed and surveyed.

To ensure that all Aurovilians were aware of the Auroville Solid Waste Management Strategy development, an article was published in the Auroville News, explaining the project and inviting input from all interested persons (See end of this chapter for copies of articles).

Following the completion of the Draft Strategy, feedback and further input was invited. Further Auroville News articles advertised the release of the draft, and invited people to participate in the feedback process, either on a one to one basis or within a public forum. People were able to request a draft electronically, or could view it at the library.

Comments were collated and included in the final Strategy where appropriate.

## LIST OF PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

<b>Aurovilians and Friends of Auroville</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation / Community</b>	<b>Involvement in waste</b>
Amrit	Verite	General interest
Anbu	AVAG	Community and infrastructure development in villages
Anita	Pitchandikulam	General interest
Anupama	Aurofuture	Urban planning, Asia-Urbs project
Arumugam	Eco-Service	Collector / recycler
Assumpta	Health Centre	Medical Waste Management
Bala Baskar	Secretary to Auroville Foundation	General interest
Cristo	Consultant to Aurofuture	Waste water and sludge management
David	Udavi School	Waste education
Dr Assumpta	Auroville Health Centre	Medical waste management
Dr Debashish	AV Health Centre	Medical waste, village waste management and education
Gilles	Harvest	Sludge management

Gillian	Auroville Clean and Beautiful	Waste management in the villages
Govind	Aurofuture	Advising engineer. Planning, waste water and waste management
Jacques	Aurofuture	Urban planning
John	Matrimandir workshop	Hazardous waste management
Joseba	Aurofuture	Urban planning
Joss	Pitchandkulum	General interest
Jurgen	Palmyra	General interest
Jurgen Becker	Institute of Bio-Architecture	Environmental consultant
Krishnan Myer	Auroville Water Service	General interest
Lalit	Aurofuture	Urban planning, Asia-Urbs project
Lucas	Auro Annam	Organic waste, waste education, medical waste
Luigi	Aurofuture	Urban planning, Asia-Urbs
Manfred	Petite Ferme	Medical waste incinerator, waste avoidance
Margarita	Auro Annam	Effective Micro-organism technology, vermicomposting, waste management and waste water treatment
Mark	Aspiration	Canyon restoration, preventing impacts of waste in canyon system
Martina	Naturellement	Reuse of packaging
Moris	AVAG	Community and infrastructure development in villages
Mr Dattatri	Consultant to Aurofuture	Urban planning, AV Master Plan
Mukul	Eco-Service	Previous manager of Eco-Service. General interest in all aspects of waste management
Narayanan	Eco-Service	Collector / recycler
Njal	Centre Field	Waste avoidance, campaigning against plastic
Olivier	Mahasaraswati's Free Store	Reuse
Otto	AV Central Fund	Financial implications of waste management systems
Peter	AV Health Centre	Medical waste management
Stefano	Eco-Service	Waste collection and recycling. Instigator and current manager of Eco-Service
Sukrit	AV Roads	Construction and demolition waste recycling
Tency	CSR	Waste research and development, waste water
Tom	Harvest	Sludge management
Walter	Matrimandir workshop	Hazardous waste management
Youri	Aspiration	Preventing impacts from Kuilapalayam depot

<b>External Interviews</b>		
Sheela Rani	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Chairperson. Actively pursuing improved waste management
Rohit Kumar	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Hazardous and bio-medical waste expert
R Ramachandran	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Chief engineer
Mrs Padma Kalyanaraman	Exnora, Chennai	Convenor, Chromepet Exnora
Nirmal	Exnora, Chennai	Founder of Exnora
Sultan Ahmed Ismail	Institute of Research in Soil Biology and Biotechnology, New College Chennai	Vermi composting, organic waste management
TK Rankumar	Exnora, Chennai	Advocate for Exnora
Chitra Shah	Exnora, Pondicherry	Vice President, Exnora Innovators Club
Vasanth Kumar Reddy	Pondicherry Municipality	Special Officer. Active interest in improving waste management
Satish	Pondicherry Municipality	Municipal Health Officer. Responsible for waste management

## AUROVILLE NEWS ARTICLES

### Developing a Waste Management Strategy for Auroville

We are Sonia Chirgwin and Billy Willis, waste management specialists from Australia. Our background is in landfill management, recycling, composting, and waste strategy development for governments and communities. Over the next two months, we will be working in partnership with a number of people in Auroville to develop an Auroville Waste Management Strategy by the end of May. We are also meeting with solid waste legislators from Pondicherry and Chennai to ensure Auroville is working within the regional context.

The Strategy will define priorities and provide an achievable time frame for implementation. A staged approach will ensure the various components are developed in a logical manner. Waste management involves the contribution of every person in the community, so raising awareness is vital. The Strategy will have a planning horizon to 2005, although many components will extend well beyond this current decade.

#### Issues for consideration

- Establishment and growth of an Auroville Waste Management Service, developing pathways for implementation of the various stages of the Strategy
- Options for waste avoidance at the point of purchase, exchange or consumption.
- Minimising the waste produced at the level of individual households, community clusters and Auroville's business units.
- Treatment, storage and disposal of wastes which cannot be recycled.
- Strengthening existing collection and recycling systems
- Maximising the effective reuse of construction and demolition waste.
- Strategies for reducing the problems associated with dumping grounds adjacent to nearby villages.
- Reducing the dumping of contaminated organic waste on surrounding farms.
- Waste education for Aurovillians, village communities and guests/tourists.

#### Community Input:

We are interviewing a number of people who have been actively involved in waste management, or who have particular problems they would like resolved. However, there may be some interested people we have not met to date. We would like to hear from anyone who would like to discuss any aspect of solid waste management, and have input at this early stage. Emailing us is the most convenient. Once the Draft Plan has been completed, we will distribute it for comment and feedback. Copies will be made available in the library and will also be available electronically. During May, there will be a community forum to discuss the Strategy, and gain further feedback from Aurovillians. This will be advertised in the AV News. Following this process, it is envisaged that the Strategy will be finalised towards the end of May.



The Draft Auroville Waste Management Strategy will be discussed in a community forum on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of May**. The time and venue will be advised in AV news over closer to the time.

We encourage all those with an interest in sustainable waste management to contact us at any time by email, phone or in person to discuss Auroville's solid waste future.

Best Regards

Billy Willis and Sonia Chirgwin  
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## **AUROVILLE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

We are now in the final stages of completing Auroville's Draft Solid Waste Management Strategy which will be released on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. We would like to share with you all one of the basic findings of our study here in Auroville.

It became evident very early that there was a real need to increase the human resource capacity for co-ordinating solid waste management within Auroville. There have been many contributors to building Auroville's existing system, which is by Indian standards very advanced. It is important that the hard work of the preceding years provides the basis for a new era for solid waste management in Auroville.

A critical mass has now been reached where the majority of Aurovilians broadly agree that solid waste needs to be treated as one of the city's essential services. As an essential service it will need to be resourced accordingly. It is the human resource that is most needed at this time. A pre-requisite for ongoing development and management is the creation of a waste management co-ordinators position. This position should be funded internally through surplus earned by Eco-Service, business unit contributions, and through ongoing Central Fund contributions.

It is envisaged this person will work full time on the implementation of the Solid Waste Strategy and be supported by a task force of Aurovilians who have special interests in various components of solid waste management. The relationship between the task force and the solid waste management co-ordinator will be fully articulated in the Draft Strategy, which will be released on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. We look forward to your comments and feedback at this time.

**DRAFT PLAN RELEASED FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT – 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Visitor Centre

6:00 pm

(Discussion of Strategy and Development of Implementation Pathway).

***Auroville Solid Waste Management Strategy***

**Community Meeting**

**Monday 21st May**

**Visitor Information Centre  
6:00 pm**

**Purpose – Discussion of Strategy  
Formation of the Waste Management Task Force  
Commencement of Implementation Phase.**