

Church of South India



Green Protocol

Guidelines



Acknowledgements

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CSI Synod requests all the Dioceses to give publicity for the Green Protocol and encourage all to follow the Guidelines in all their activities.

Approved by
CSI Synod Executive
held on 20th and 21st November 2018
at CSI Synod Centre, Chennai.

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The Church of South India (hereafter CSI), the only Church in India which has mentioned Ecology as a mission in its Constitution and in its Mission statement, emphasizes the message that Christians have a duty to protect God's creation. In the life and ministry of the Church, the CSI would like to promote sustainable development practices and to build power for change. Hence, the CSI Synod publishes the '# GPGD 12 Points: Green Protocol for Green Discipleship - A Guideline of 12 Points for the CSI Dioceses to develop Green Congregations'. We hope and pray that all the parishes in the CSI would abide by this Green Protocol and would thus effectively participate in the 'Green-Discipleship' of our Church.

AS the CSI is committed to protect the integrity of the creation, we do believe that the Green protocol should reflect in the life and ministry of the Church. We do believe that the Church should respond prophetically or lament like Jeremiah when people exploit natural resources and consequently crucifying God's creation, the flora and the fauna. The CSI expresses her solidarity with our groaning creation, eagerly waiting for redemption. God the Creator designed the universe as interdependent and as a living organism and therefore her redemption is possible only by preserving (in some cases, retrieving) her dynamic and harmonious balance.



The CSI supports any development that fulfils the requirement of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. The CSI does believe that the present development paradigm promoted by the 'developed' countries is responsible for the global ecological crisis, and thus 'Climate Injustice'. We demand the 'developed' countries to change their present development paradigm which exploit the fossil fuels resulting in the Climate change.

Climate change

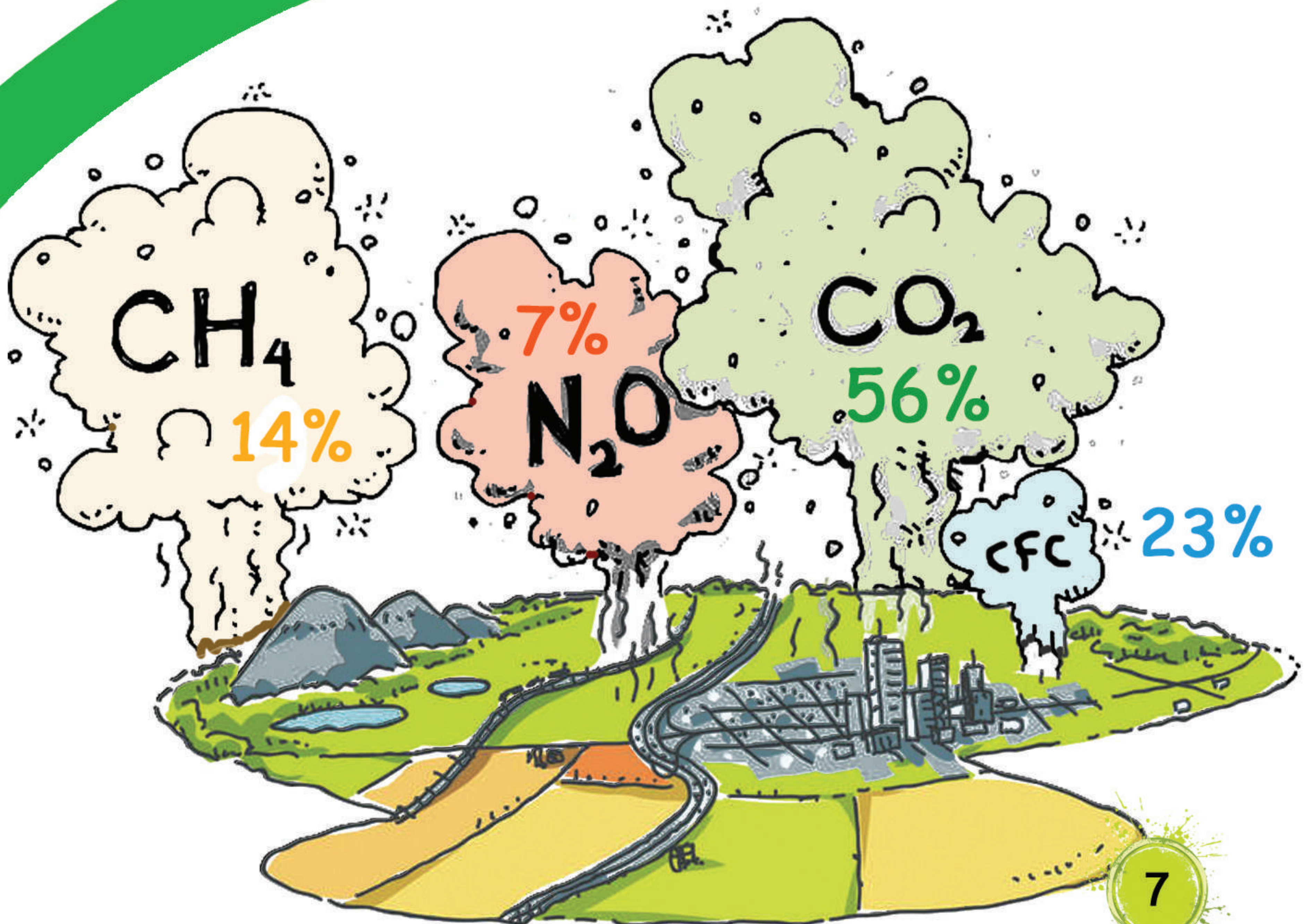
A number of natural and man-made mechanisms can affect the global energy balance and force changes in Earth's climate. Greenhouse gases are one such mechanism. Greenhouse gases absorb and emit some of the outgoing energy radiated from Earth's surface, causing that heat to be retained in the lower atmosphere



Green House Gases

There are four main types of forcing greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. The main feedback greenhouse gas is water vapor.

Greenhouse gas emissions trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, just as the glass of a greenhouse keeps warm air inside.



A stylized illustration on the left side of the page shows several orange smokestacks emitting thick, grey, swirling smoke that fills the top of the frame. In the bottom right, a black and white illustration of a worker wearing a conical hat is shown using a long-handled tool to shovel dark, clumpy material from a pile. The overall style is graphic and somewhat abstract.

List of countries by emissions

Green House Gases

United States	- 30.3%
Europe	- 27.7%
Russia	- 13.7%
South East Asia, India, China	- 12.2%
South America	- 3.8%
Japan	- 3.7%
Africa	- 2.5%
Canada	- 2.3%
Australia	- 1.1%
Others	- 2.6%

An Inconvenient Truth: by Al Gore

“The US is responsible for almost half of the increase in world CO₂ in the past decade. That increase is greater than the increase in China, India, Africa and the whole of Latin America”

- 20% of world's people are responsible for 80% of historic emissions
- They can 'adapt' to some Climate Change
- 80% of world's people are responsible for only 20% atmospheric damage
- They do not have the resources to handle even minor climate change effects
- A clear North-South divide

Rich Countries say

- Common problem. So, Let us work together
- Your emissions grow faster. So, take cuts in your emissions growth
- We will give some money to poor countries for adaptation

The Rest say

- Common problem alright, but differentiated responsibility. You are responsible for three quarters of atmospheric damage, leaving very little space for our development now.
- Your emissions still large. You have the resources. So, take deep cuts in your current emissions.
- Give us free technology and substantial money to control our emissions without affecting development.

Climate Injustice

The CSI demands the developed countries to change their present development models which exploit the fossil fuels and resulting with climate change

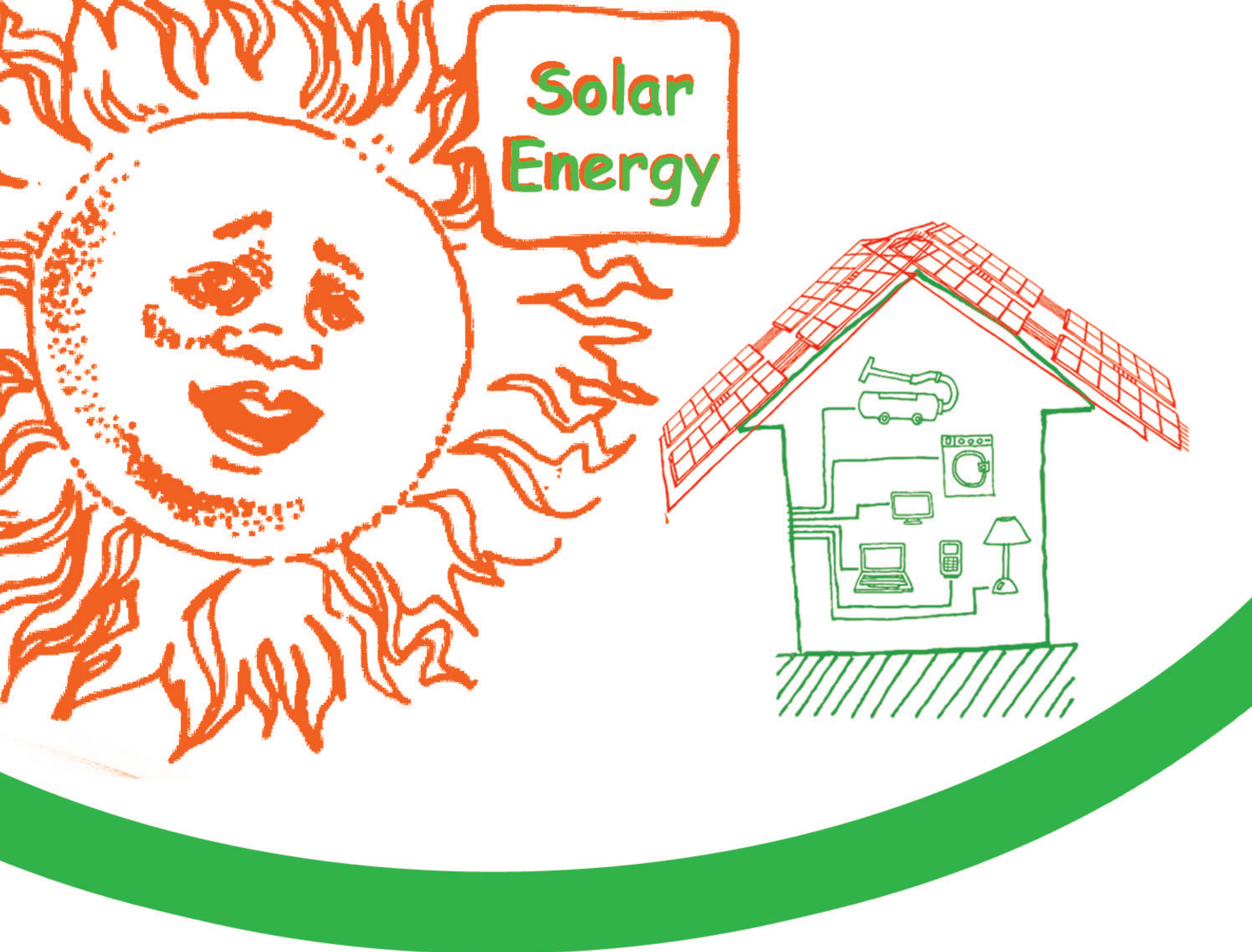


Energy Conservation

Energy conservation is a part of the concept of eco-sufficiency. Energy conservation reduces the need for energy services and can result in increased environmental quality, national security, personal financial security and higher savings.

Renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat





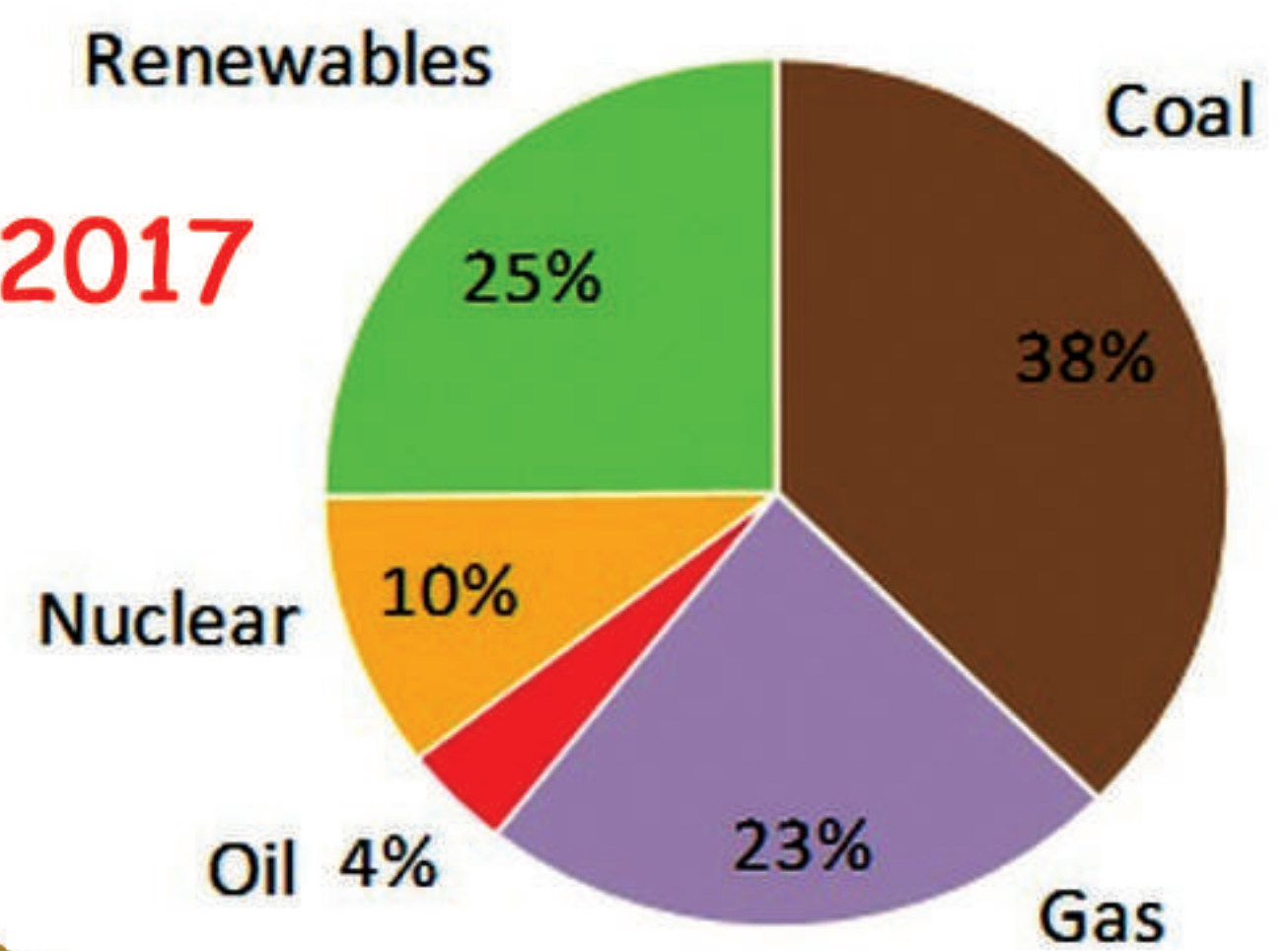
Most renewable energy comes either directly or indirectly from the sun. Sunlight, or solar energy, can be used directly for heating and lighting homes and other buildings, for generating electricity and for heating water, solar cooling, and a variety of commercial and industrial uses.

Biogas refers to a mixture of different gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen. Biogas can be produced from raw materials such as agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, green waste or food waste. Biogas is a renewable energy source.

Non-renewable energy comes from sources that will run out or will not be replenished in our lifetimes or even in many, many lifetimes. Most non-renewable energy sources are fossil fuels: coal, petroleum and natural gases. Carbon is the main element in fossil fuels

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) makes up the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions from the sector, but smaller amounts of methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) are also emitted. These gases are released during the combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, to produce electricity.

Electricity Generation in 2017



The current system of energy production depends upon the fossil fuels and other natural energy. It leads for the depletion of natural resources.

The CSI

***Promotes** the usage of renewable energy resources which includes, solar energy, wind energy and Bio mass energy etc.,

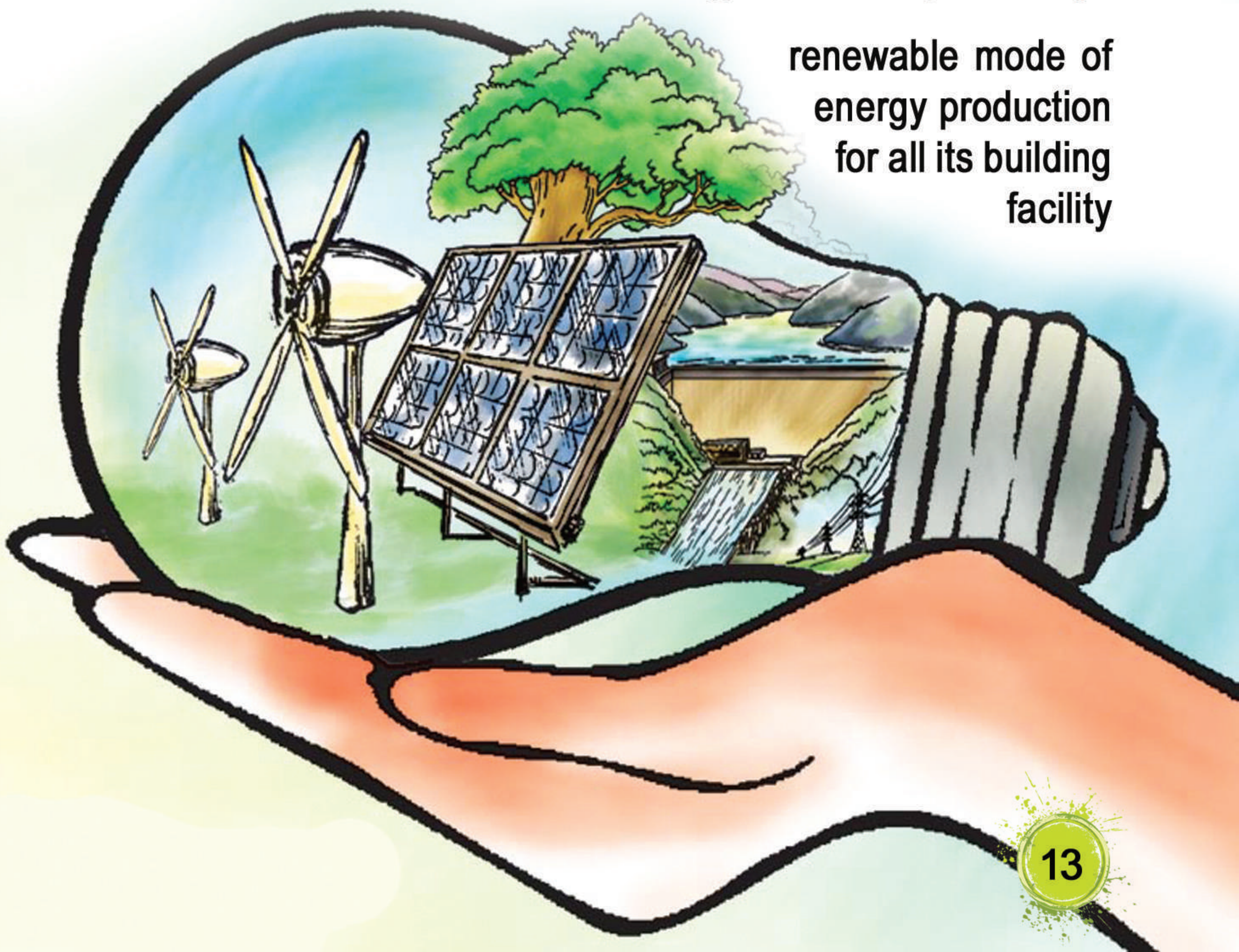
***Recommends** the installation of solar energy panels in all the church, hospital and academic institution premises.

***Encourages** the usage of less power consuming electricity goods.

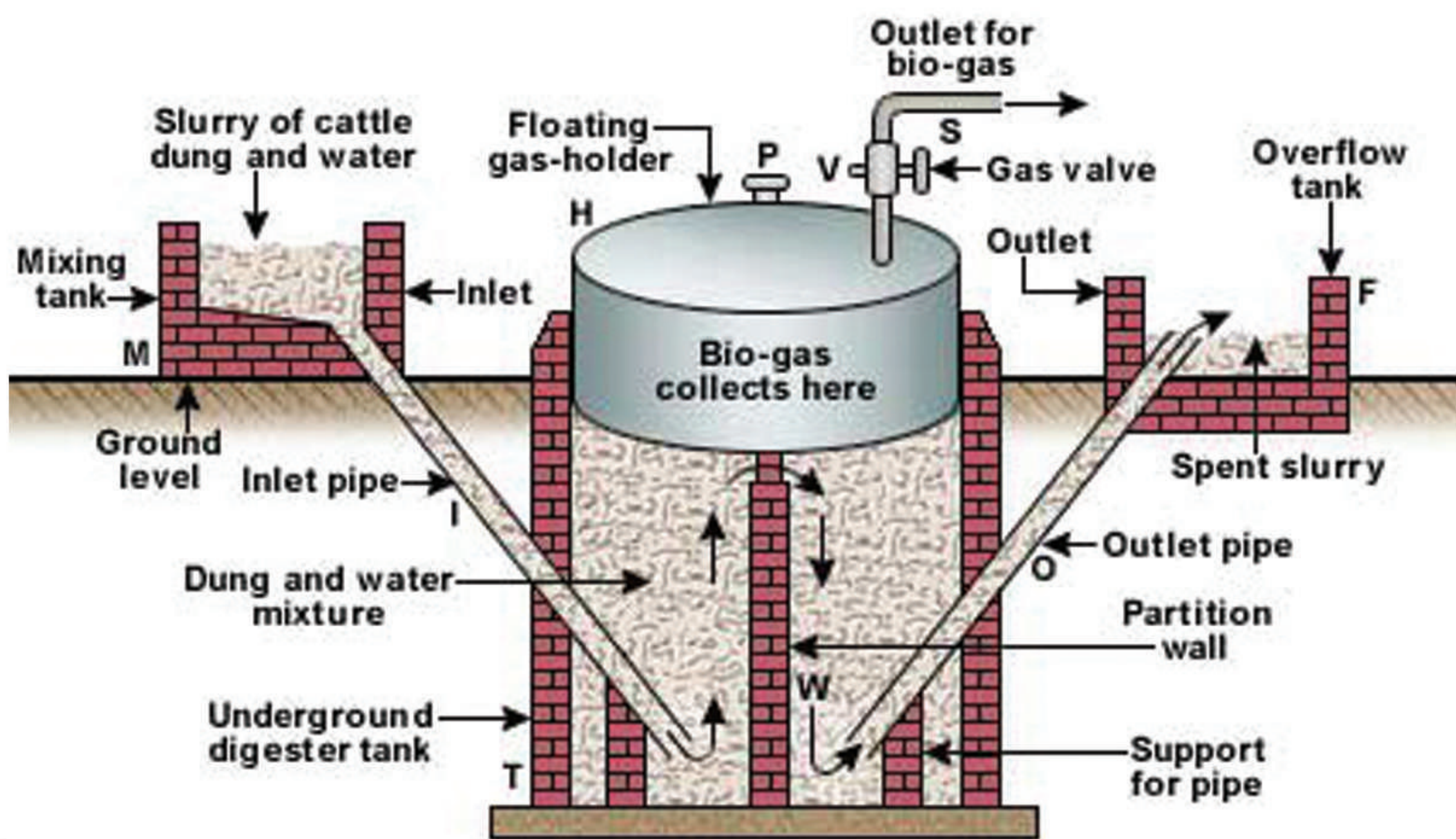
***Facilitates** the installation of Bio gas plant as an suitable alternate for the natural gas and energy source.

***Recommends** the energy efficiency through

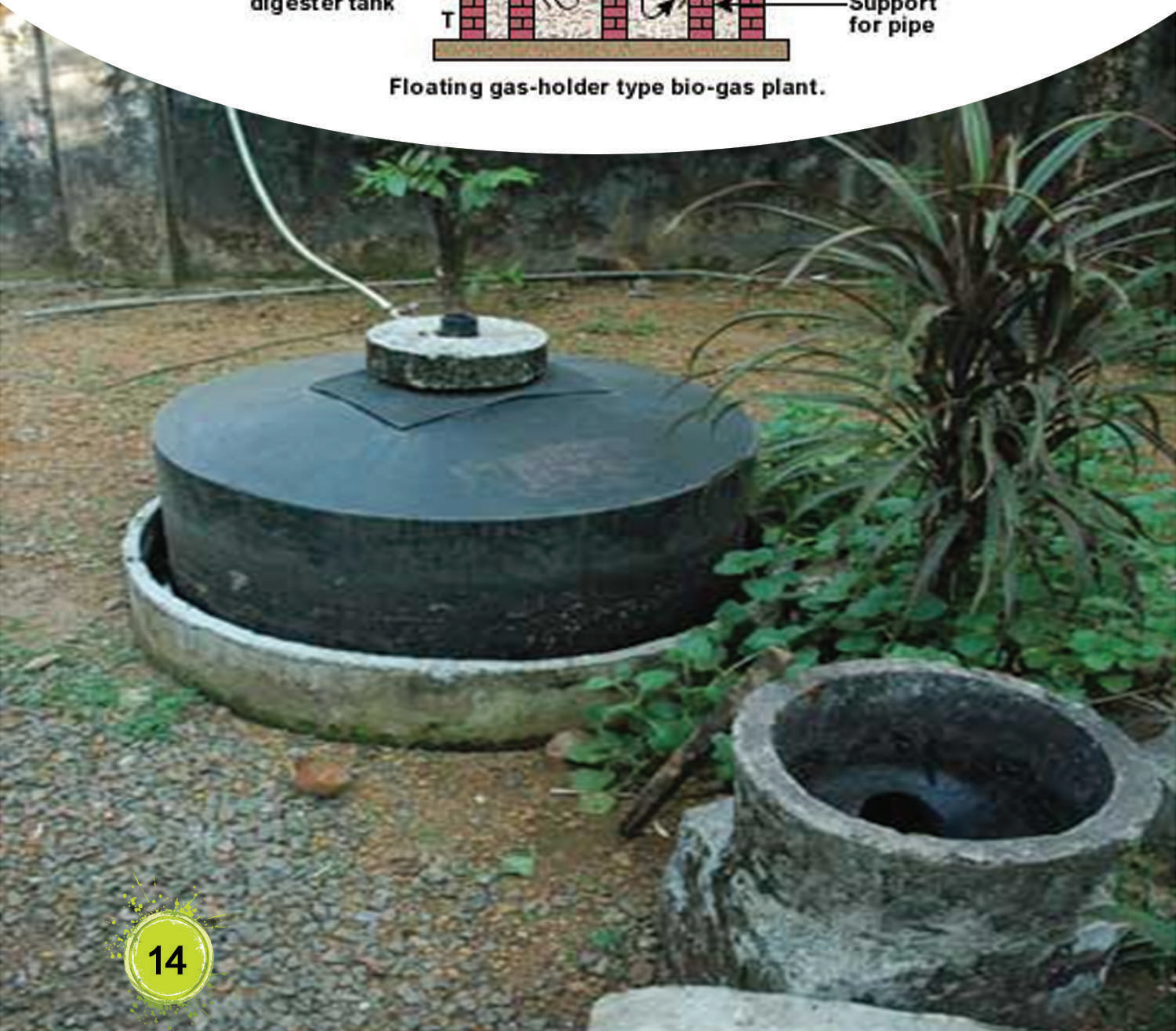
renewable mode of
energy production
for all its building
facility



Bio - Gas Plant

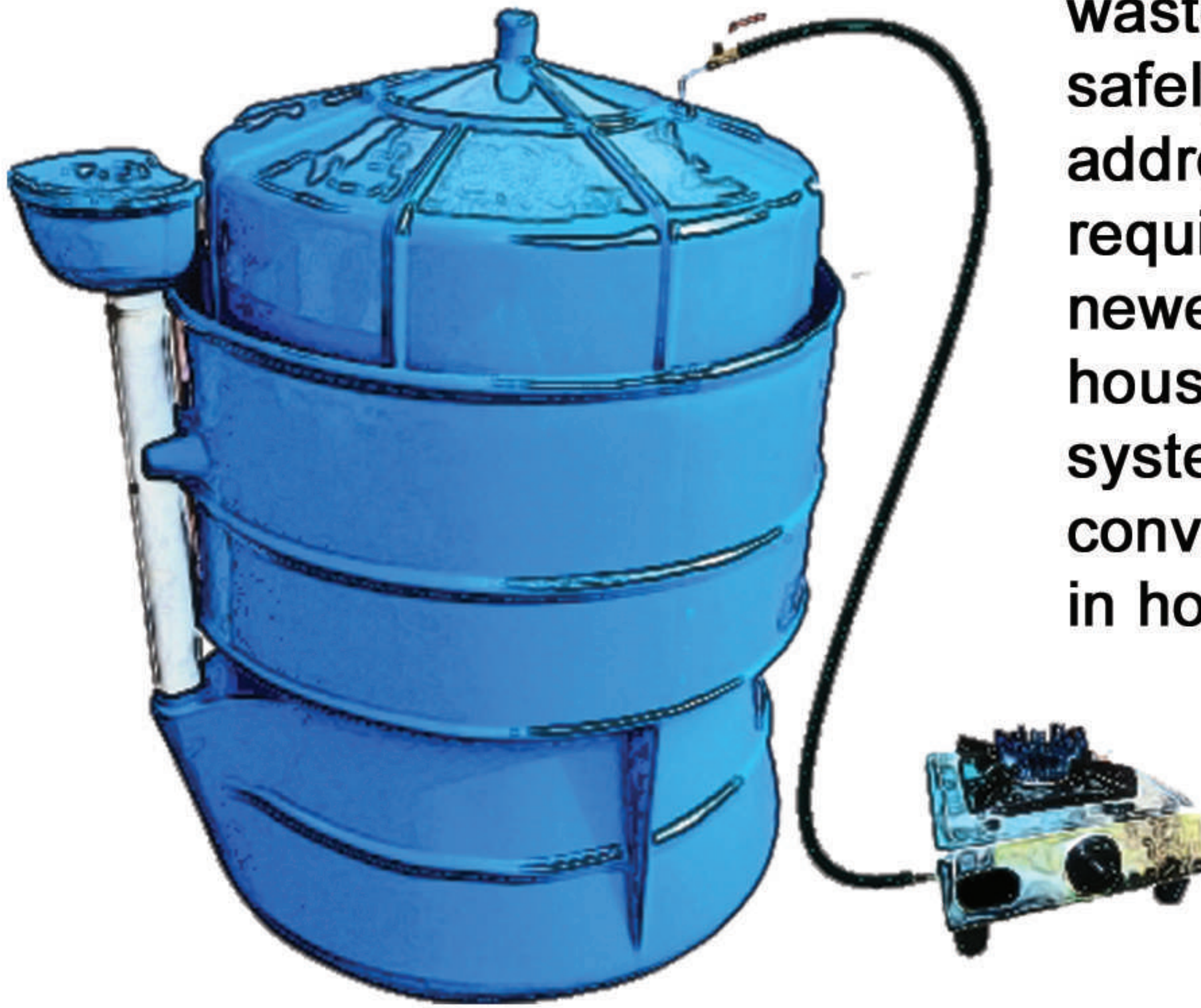


Floating gas-holder type bio-gas plant.



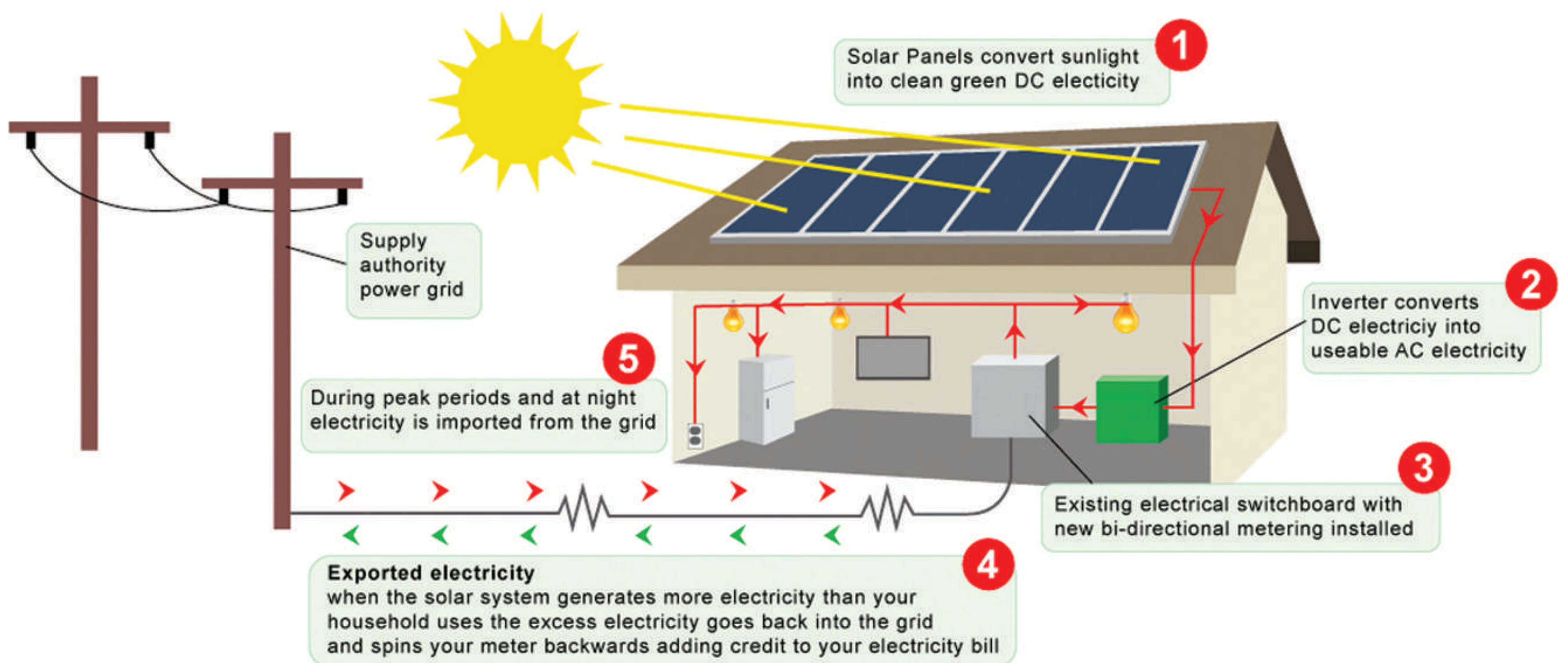
Portable Bio-gas Plant

Portable Biogas Plants or digestors not just fulfil the purpose of managing a family's waste hygienically and safely, but can also address their energy requirement. In the newest generation of household biogas systems, waste can be converted into energy in hours!



Solar Power Plant

The alternative Energy source

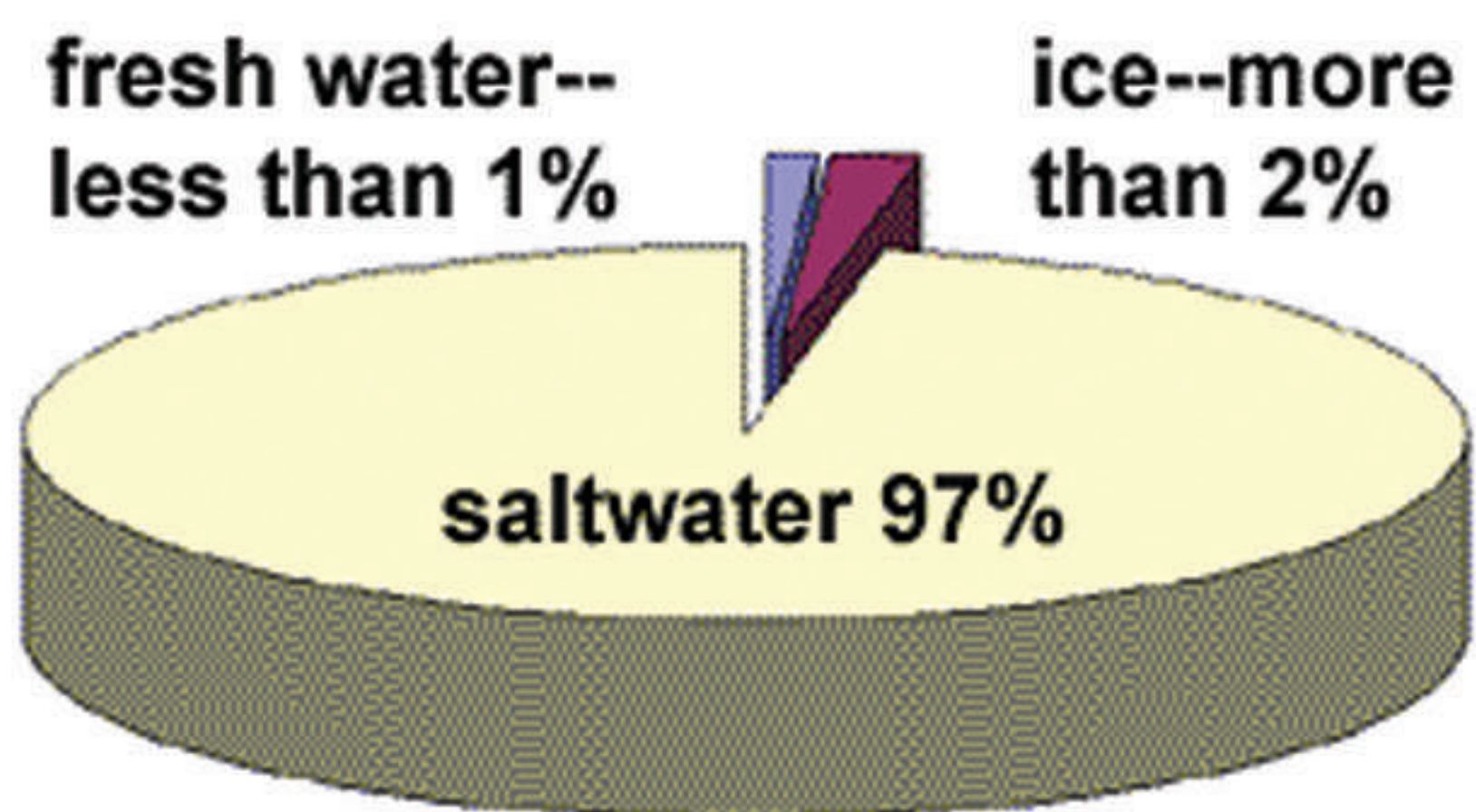




Water Conservation

Nature has gifted us some precious and valuable resources and water is one of them and is our basic need. All living beings need water for their survival and to carry out their vital life processes. Our Planet, Earth, has three –fourths of its surface area covered with water and only one-fourth has land masses. Life originates in water. Even today, millions of year later, water continues to be an essential requirement of life

Sources Of Water



Importance of Water

All plants, animals and human beings need water to stay alive. But human beings depend on water more than plants and animals. We need water for many other purposes such as:

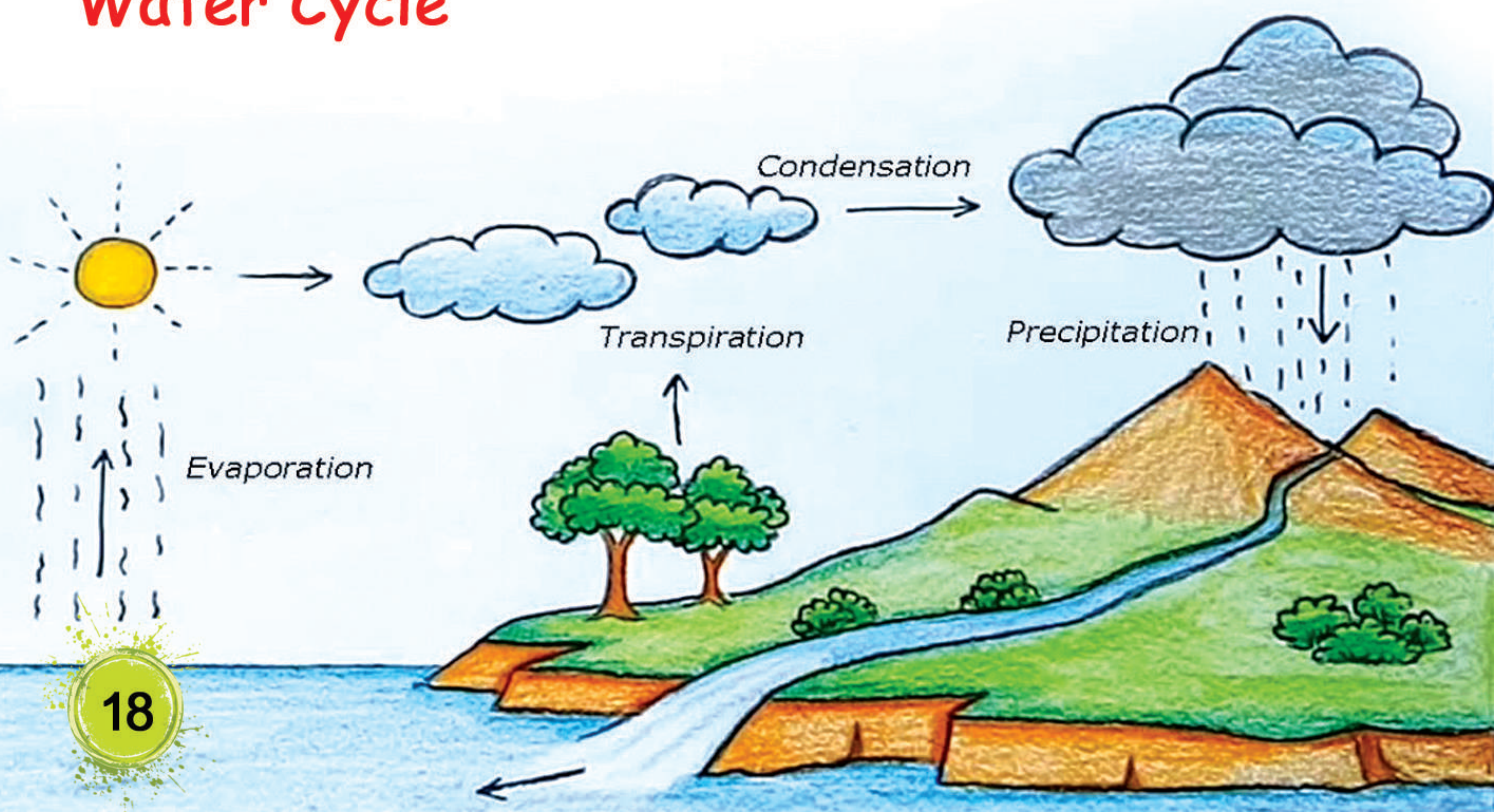
We need water for the day -to- day activities such as bathing, cleaning, drinking, washing, etc.

Water helps in the dispersal of seeds and fruits. It is highly essential behind all the life form

Water has properties of fluidity and solubility. These properties make it useful in the process of digestion, blood circulation and excretion.

Water also helps in regulation of our body temperature by the process of sweating.

Water Cycle



Scarcity of Water

Now the world is heading towards water crises due to the excessive and uneconomical use of water by the large human population. Human beings waste tons of water while brushing teeth, bathing, washing clothes, vehicles and utensils etc. Overuse of water has led to a decrease in the supply of water available for human use.



Polluting water, deforestation and overpopulation have also disturbed the water cycle which, in turn, the annual rainfall varies in different parts of our country. If efforts are not made for managing and saving water, we are going to have an acute water crisis.

Conservation of Water

Conservation of water means a careful and economical use of water. We should conserve water as it is a precious natural resource. Conservation of water can happen in the following ways.



Rain Water Harvesting

The CSI

a. **Promotes** rain water harvesting from roof top of all the churches and the buildings.

b. **Encourages** people to harvest rain water from their roof tops and make rain pits on the land, for water recharge.





water is
PRECIOUS
save it





c. **Recommends**

the monitoring process to avoid leakage of the water taps

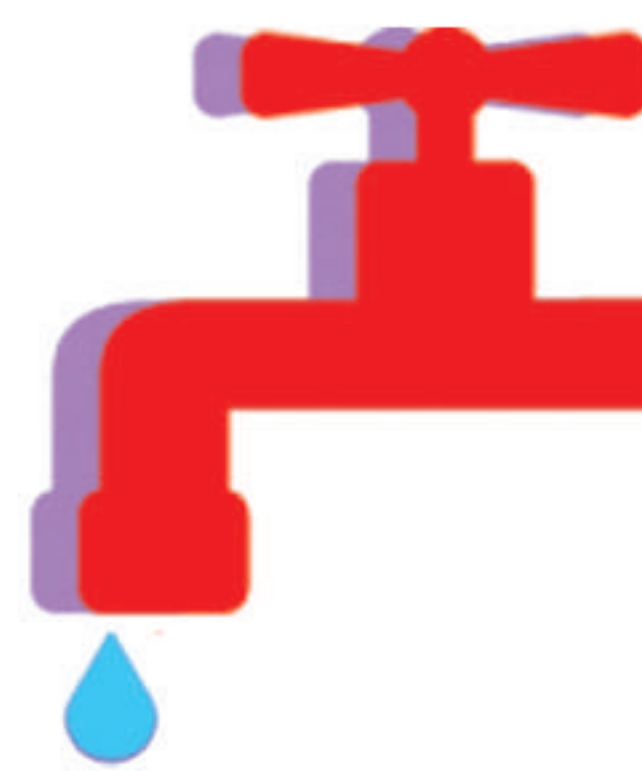
d. **Encourages**

the wise utilization of water through the advanced practices. Eg. Sensor based technologies & smart taps

e. **Insists**

the construction of waste water treatment plant for the proper utilization of water

f. **Supports** the drip irrigation practices in farming



360
million
litres

There are
360 Million Litters
of Water leakage
per Day is identified
in Bangaluru

Propagate

the Cultivation of Vetiver,

Increasing Ground water level

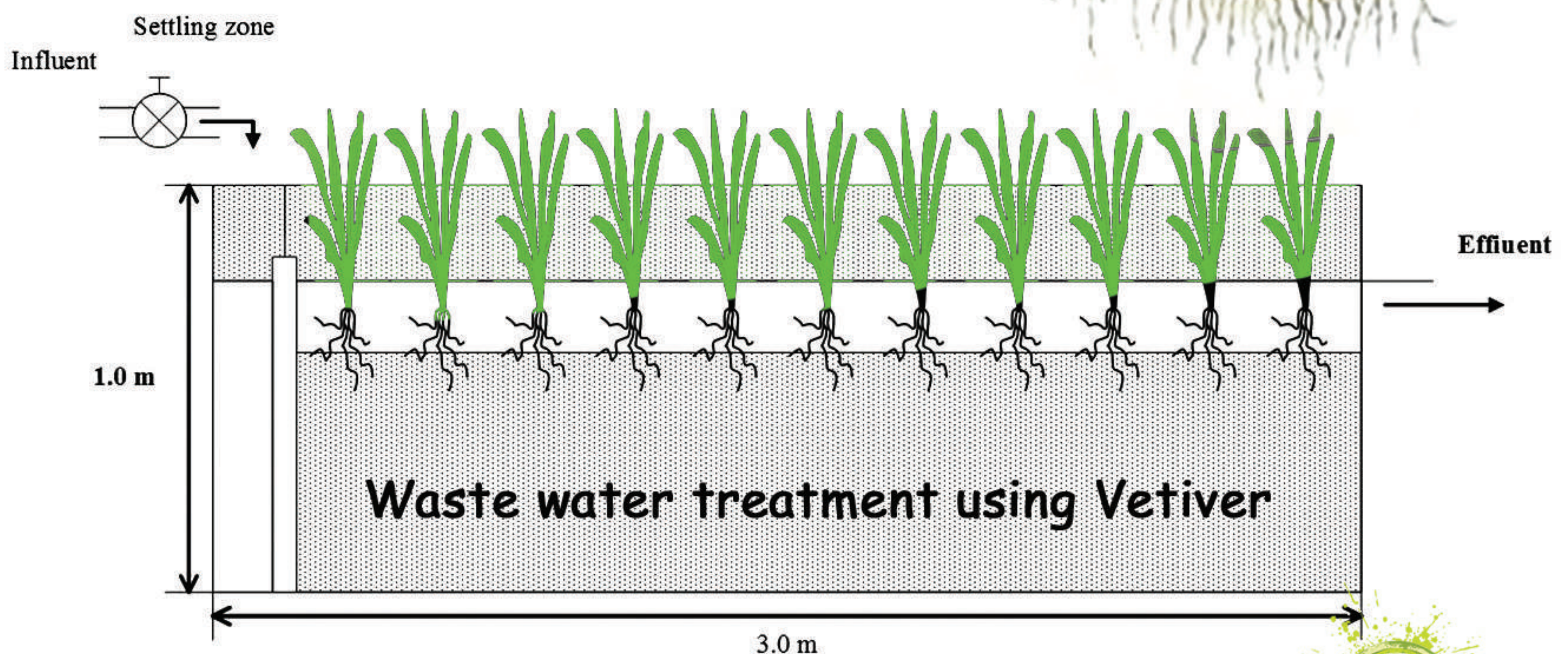
Prevent soil erosion

Stabilise river banks and roads

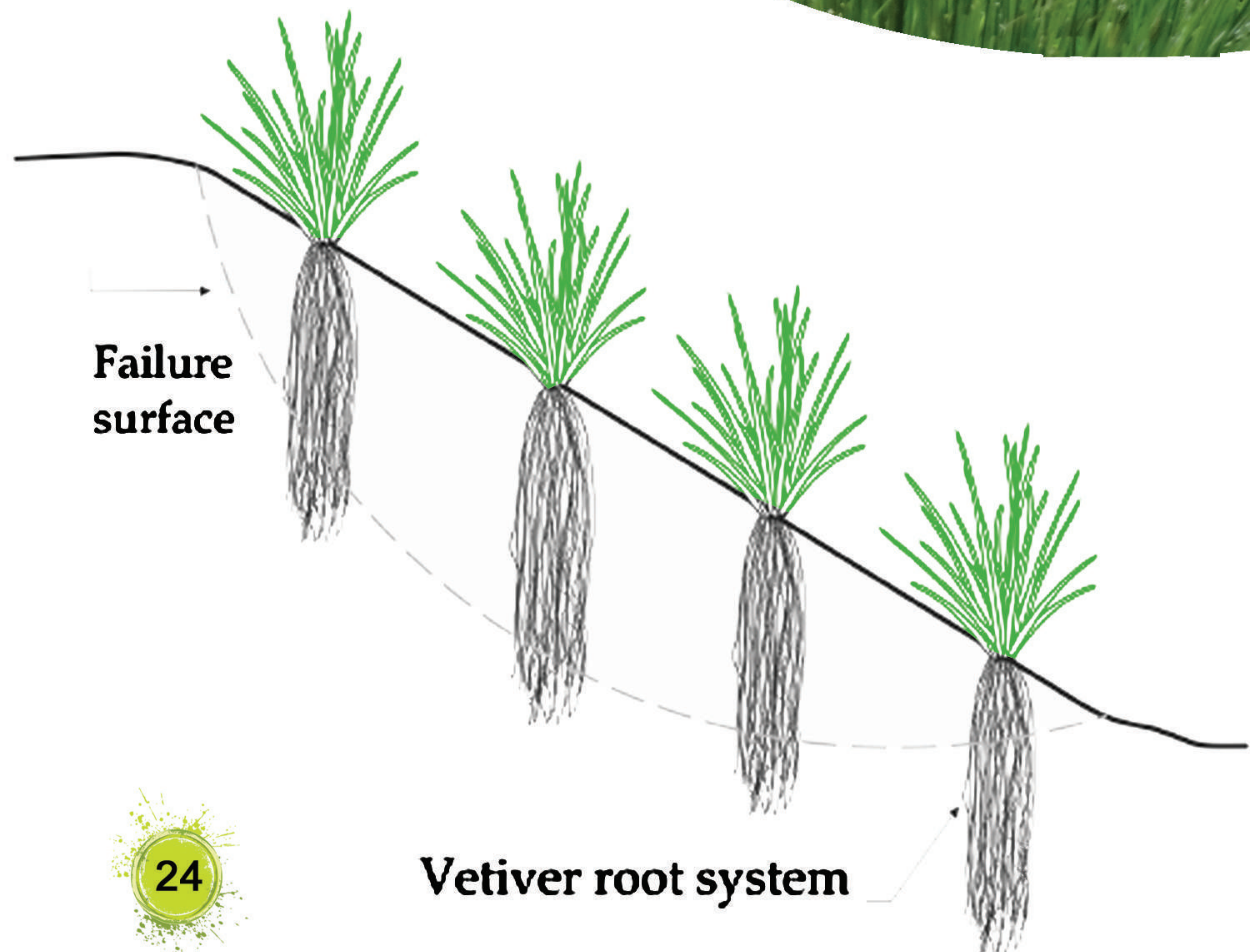
Reduce coliform bacterial load in water

Reduce global warming

Purify contaminated water



Vetiver **Controls** **The** **Soil Erosion**



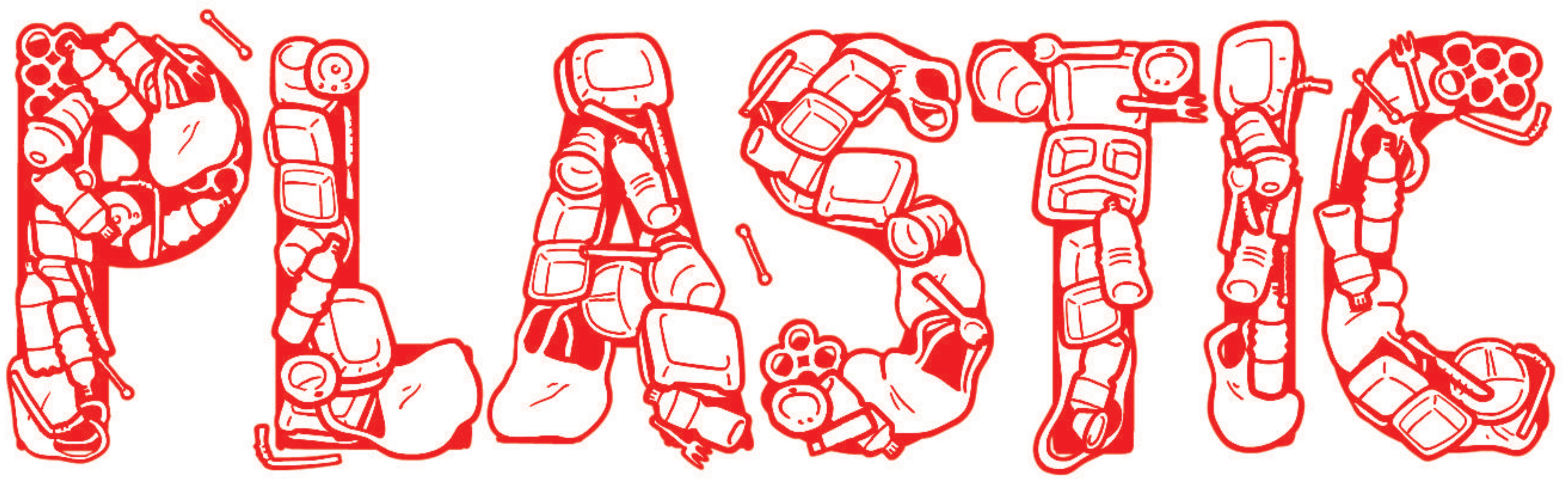


Do not throw away Plastic

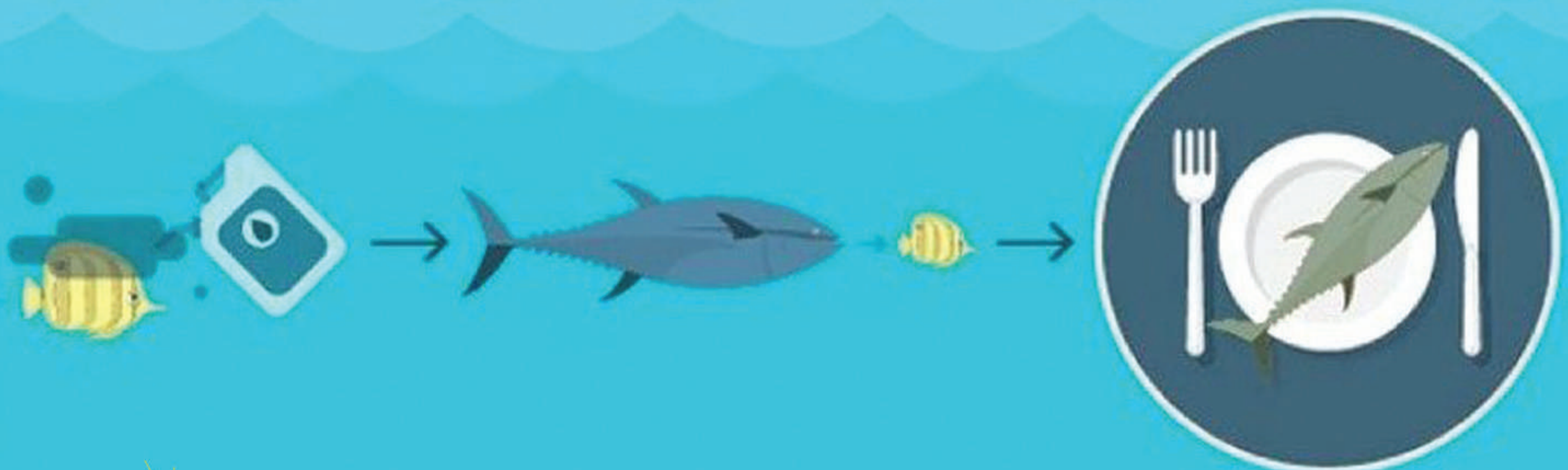
Plastics are simply chains of like molecules linked together. ... This is why many plastics begin with “poly,” such as polyethylene, polystyrene, and polypropylene. Polymers often are made of carbon and hydrogen and sometimes oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, chlorine, fluorine, phosphorous, or silicon

Do not
throw
away
Plastic





As these chemicals are ingested by animals in the ocean, this is not good for humans. We as humans ingest contaminated fish and mammals. Other types of toxic plastics are BPA or health-bisphenol-A, along with phthalates. Both of these are of great concern to human health



a. **Make** our churches plastic- free. Avoid throwing away polythene bags and other plastic material completely during the activities in the day today life of church.

b. **Use** steel tumblers and steel plates for Church functions. Serve food on banana leaves or Oil papers over the steel plates which will reduce the use of water and soap during cleaning it. Encourage the participants to clean their own plates after use.

c. **Arrange** discussions at local level on how to reduce the use of plastic in your locality.

d. **Always** carry a paper bag or a cloth bag, while going to buy provisions from a shop or a super market.





Say No To Plastic





a. **Plant** a sapling in the Church Campus during important functions. Also plant a sapling commemorating the visit of important personalities.

b. **Encourage** planting of fruit bearing plants in public places which will be used by other creatures of that area. The CSI has been promoting biodiversity. Our slogan is “Plant fruit bearing plants outside your boundaries and nurture it”, highlighting our spirituality of caring for all.

c. **Ensure** that the saplings planted are watered and manured well.





Planting

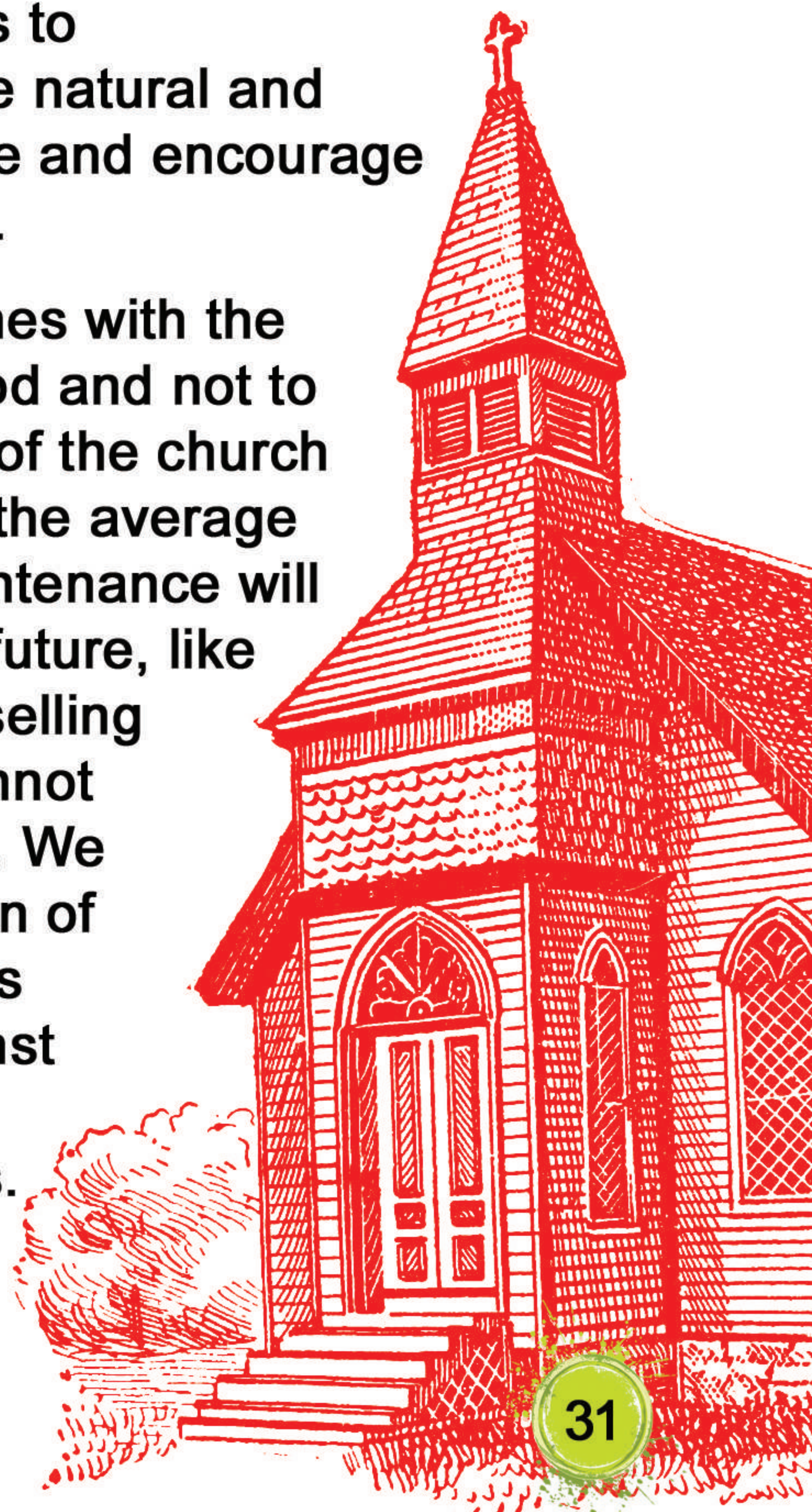




a. **Use** materials which are made in a sustainable way. Use locally-made goods wherever possible. Also take into account the lifetime costs of materials while repairing, altering or rebuilding premises.

b. **Utilise** opportunities to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment, promote and encourage eco friendly constructions.

c. **Construct** Churches with the right motive to worship God and not to show our glory. The size of the church should be proportional to the average Sunday worshippers. Maintenance will become a big problem in future, like the churches in the west selling their churches as they cannot maintain the big structure. We have to avoid the depletion of natural resources as far as possible. The CSI is against the construction of huge luxurious church buildings. Construct simple, environment-friendly



churches to accommodate the maximum expected number of people. Use minimum quantity of non-renewable resources

d.**Sharing** of Church buildings with other denominations is a good example not only for the sake of ecumenism but also for the sake of ecology, since that promotes effective and efficient utilization of resources.

e.**Conduct** necessary discussions before commencing any construction projects. Make sure that the construction is done in an eco-friendly manner.

CSI Eden Eco Spirituality Centre

(Model Eco Camp Centre)

Othera, Kerala



Merits

Energy, Water & Material efficient.

Waste reduction.

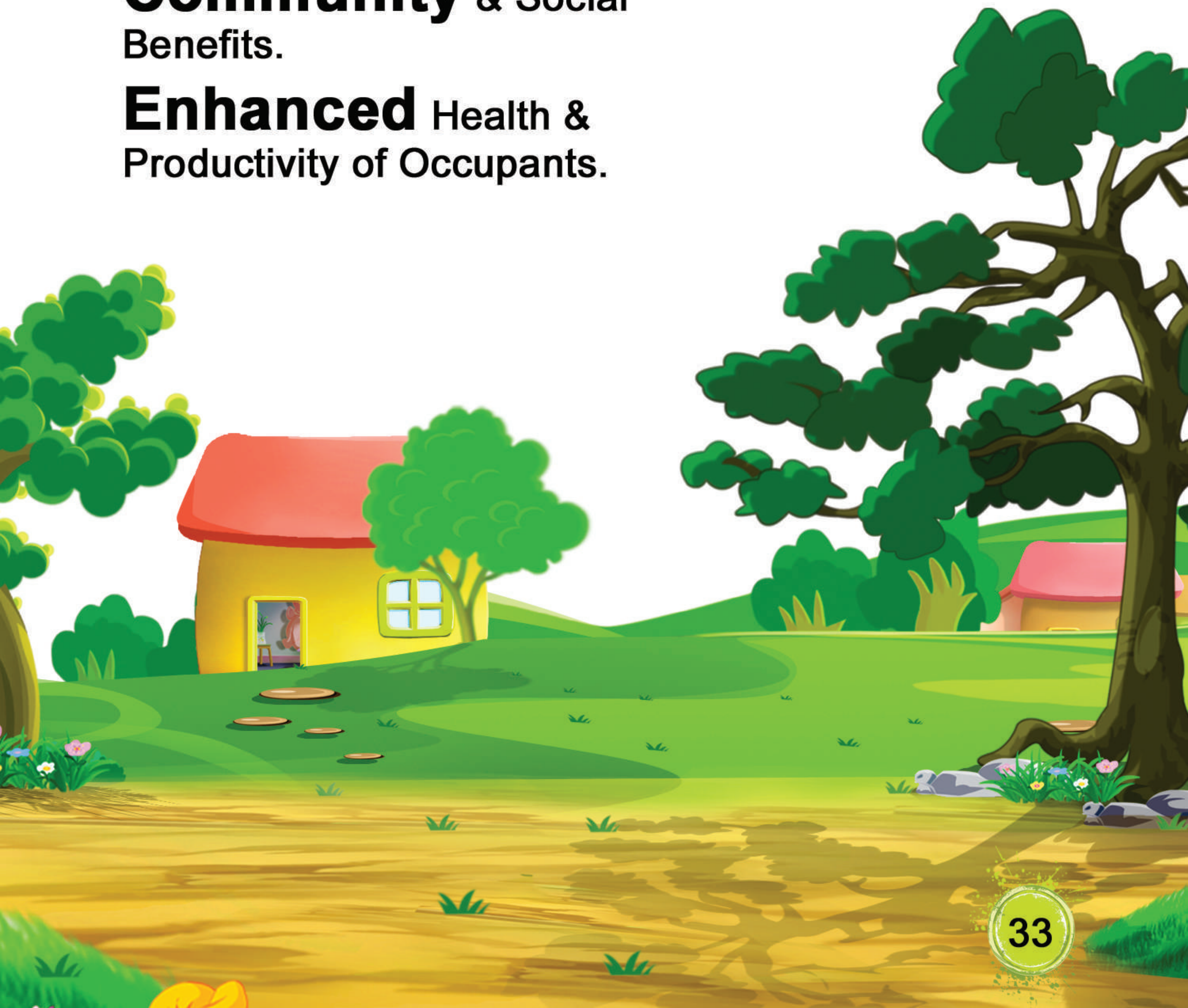
Cost Saving.

Minimize Impact on Environment.

Locally available material used so Low Transportation Cost.

Community & Social Benefits.

Enhanced Health & Productivity of Occupants.





Fellowship Lunch, Dinner & Tea

a. **Try** to arrange Lunch, Dinner & Tea by pooling the resources from the members instead of handing over to caterers. This will facilitate Christian value of sharing and a small initiative to counter the trends in globalisation.

Good Practices: An NGO, organises District and area level programmes by collecting lunch packets from the public. The volunteers visit the houses and tell the people residing near the venue of the meeting to give one or two vegetarian lunch packets for giving to their delegates. The volunteers visit the houses around 11am and collect all the lunch packets. The Vicar of a CSI Church arranged a district level conference. The vicar collected 60 lunch packets from the parish members and distributed to 60 delegates who attended the programme. The Vicar invited locally available experts. The vicar conducted an area level programme without spending any money of the Church. Everybody appreciated the programme.





Waste Management

a. **Our** slogan is “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse”. Therefore,

- i. **Reduce** the waste as far as possible.
- ii. **Reuse** waste by composting.
- iii. **Refuse** waste coming from corporate lobbies.
- iv. **Do not** receive second hand equipments coming from developed countries or corporate lobbies.

b. **Electronic** waste is a serious problem as it contains fatal ingredients; hence throwing it on land and in water will eventually reach our human body. There are recycling and processing unit in some areas, whose facilities could be used, with the help of government agencies.



c. **Do not** burn plastic materials which produce carcinogenic material called dioxin that can cause cancer and other serious health problems. Further, do not throw them on the land, water and forests, since that would cause environmental problems. Reduce the use. Do not mix it with other wastes.



d. **Facilitates** the proper disposal of degradable and non degradable waste including biomedical waste and hazardous waste materials.





Pipe Composting





a. Burial Services

- i. Encourage people to plant saplings in connection with memorial services.
- ii. Reduce the number of wreaths as far as possible. One wreath, representing all organisations, is sufficient.

b. Wedding

- i. Instead of giving plastic water bottles to individuals, make arrangements to serve water in glasses.
- ii. Encourage the newly wedded couple to jointly plant a sapling along with / instead of lighting the lamp. Make necessary arrangements to place it in a suitable place and nurture it.



c. Conventions & Meetings

- i. Use box type amplifiers to avoid noise pollutions
- ii. Never use flex and minimize decorations.
- iii. Welcome the guests not with bouquet or shawls, but with a sapling.

Welcoming Guest with sapling



The newly wedded couple to jointly plant a sapling





- a. **Do not** use any kind of Chemical Pesticides in the church campus
- b. **Make** use of the government policies that encourage agriculture. For example, avail insurances that are granted for agricultural crops. Promote farmers to save seeds from their own farms for the coming year.
- c. **Encourage** churches to set apart a Sunday to honour local farmers; Services giving importance to agriculture. Extend financial help to poor farmers during Christmas season



d. **Encourage** people to make vegetable gardens and give awareness about the farming methods using grow bags and also on the land.

e. **Kindly** note that our wrong agricultural practices are responsible for many diseases, malnutrition, poverty etc. The CSI promotes organic cultivation and is against the cultivation of Genetically Modified Crops and organisms

f. **Promotes** bee-keeping in the farms for facilitating better cross pollination and also a source of income.





Organic farming





Transportation

- a. **Encourage** the people to use public transportation for going to church, at least once in a month. Whenever possible, encourage people to accommodate another family in their private vehicles so as to reduce the use of private vehicles.
- b. **During** travel, we have to make every effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption.
- c. **Support** the expansion of good quality public transport, the provision of improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians





- a. **Publish** the church newsletter once in two months, rather than on all months.
- b. **Reuse** the plain side of printed notices and other papers.
- c. **Encourage** the use of reusable postal covers.
- d. **Use** cloth banners
- e. **Digital** media than print media to share news





ALLIANCE OF RELIGIONS AND
CONSERVATION

*On behalf of the partnership
between UNDP and ARC, and
as Secretary General of the
Alliance of Religions and
Conservation (ARC), it gives me
great pleasure to present this
award in celebration of your
Long Term Commitment to
protect the Living Planet.*

Martin Palmer

*Co-Chair of the joint ARC - UN
Programme*

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
in partnership with
the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC),
honours

The Church of South India

for its Long Term Commitment
to Protect the Living Planet



This Commitment was officially recognised at
Windsor Castle, England, on November 3rd, 2009,
This certificate was presented by
His Excellency Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the United Nations



*On behalf of the partnership
between UNDP and ARC, and
as Assistant Administrator of the
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP), a gives me
great pleasure to present this
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Long Term Commitment to
protect the Living Planet*

Olav Kjørven

*Co-Chair of the joint ARC - UN
Programme*

