



GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Solid Waste Management at Ward Level

From Segregation to Resource Recovery



The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 provide the framework for responsible management of solid waste. At the ward level, this translates into a simple but critical chain:



What do the 2026 Rules mean at the Ward Level?



Segregate waste at source

Households, shops, institutions and other waste generators need to separate waste at the point of generation.



Keep waste streams separate

Keep segregated waste separate during collection and transport to preserve its recovery value.



Process and recover waste

Waste should be directed towards appropriate processing, recycling and resource recovery pathways.



Manage residual waste scientifically

Only waste that cannot be appropriately recovered or processed should move towards scientific disposal.



Strengthen local implementation

Municipal systems, citizens, waste workers, establishments and community organisations all play a role in making the system work.

KNOW YOUR WASTE

A clean ward is not only about removing waste from streets. It is about ensuring that waste is managed responsibly from the point it is generated to its final treatment or disposal.

WET WASTE

Kitchen waste | Food waste | Vegetable & fruit waste | Garden waste



Treatment:
Composting / Bio-methanation

DRY WASTE

Paper | Cardboard | Plastic | Metal | Glass | Textile | Rubber | Wood



Treatment: Sorting / Material Recovery Facility / Recycling

HAZARDOUS & SANITARY WASTE

Diapers | Sanitary napkins | Bandages | Contaminated waste



Treatment: Separate handling and authorised disposal

SPECIAL CARE WASTE

Batteries | CFLs / Tube lights | Expired medicines | Mercury items



Treatment: Safe storage and authorised collection

The Ward Level Waste Management Chain

Household / Shops / Institutions



Segregation at Source



Separate Collection



Ward Level Monitoring / Transfer



Scientific Disposal

Only residual / reject waste



Local Processing & Resource Recovery

- Wet waste → Compost / Bio-methanation
- Dry waste → Sorting / Recycling



The objective is to minimise the quantity of waste ultimately requiring landfill or other final disposal. Scan the QR Code to read a complete handbook on Solid Waste Management.



GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

From Rules to Action | 5 Questions every urban leader must ask



Is your Ward segregating waste at the Source?

- Are households aware of the different waste streams?
- Are shops, institutions and bulk waste generators complying?
- Which areas have persistent non-compliance?



Is Segregated waste remaining segregated?

- Do collection vehicles have separate compartments or arrangements?
- Is waste being mixed during collection or transportation?
- Are collection routes and timings appropriate?



Where does the Ward's waste go?

Map the journey:

Ward → Collection → Transfer → Processing → Recovery → Disposal

A ward should know what happens to its waste after it leaves the household.



Does the Ward have adequate processing capacity?

- Is there capacity to process wet waste?
- Is there a facility for sorting dry waste?
- Is adequate space available?
- Who operates the facilities?
- What happens to recovered material?
- What happens to reject waste?

The ward-level strategy proposes Micro Composting Centres, Dry Waste Collection Centres and ward-level recovery facilities to enable decentralised processing.



Is performance being monitored at Ward level?

- % of waste segregated
- % collected separately
- % processed
- % recovered
- % sent for final disposal

Monitoring should consider not just waste collection amounts but its subsequent handling.

SWM at Ward Level

A ward-level Solid Waste Management Plan provides a clear framework for managing waste from source to final disposal. The plan should:

Map the ward: Identify households, commercial establishments, bulk waste generators, waste collection routes, garbage-vulnerable points and existing facilities.

Ensure segregation at source: Build awareness among households and establishments and establish systems for separate collection of different waste streams.

Strengthen collection: Ensure segregated waste is collected and transported without secondary mixing.

Enable decentralised processing: Establish or link the ward to appropriate facilities for wet-waste processing and dry-waste sorting and recovery.

Engage communities: Involve residents, SHGs, schools, waste workers, RWAs, NGOs and other local stakeholders.

Monitor and review: Track segregation, collection, processing, recovery and residual waste through regular ward-level reviews.

The ward-level strategy outlined involves a phased approach focusing on community mobilization, institutional coordination, infrastructure support, strengthening collection, and monitoring and evaluation to reduce landfill dependency.

THE GOAL

Segregate. Collect separately. Process. Recover. Monitor.

The objective is not simply to move waste out of the ward. It is to build a ward-level system that keeps waste segregated, enables resource recovery, reduces dependence on landfill and ensures responsible management of residual waste.

What can Cities learn?

AMBIKAPUR

Decentralised processing + women-led operations

- Resource Recovery Centres at ward level
- Women-led management
- Wet waste → composting
- Dry waste → sorting and sale
- Minimal reject waste



PUNE

Waste-picker integration + decentralised collection

- Door-to-door segregated collection
- Waste pickers integrated through a cooperative model
- Ward-level dry waste sorting
- Wet waste → decentralised composting



PANAJI

Ward-level sorting + enforcement

- Ward-level sorting sheds
- Decentralised composting
- Strong enforcement of segregation

