



# Project Mumbai's Zero Waste Schools



## A Small Step by Students, A Giant Leap for the Planet

Over the months of October and November, Project Mumbai's Zero Waste Schools programme continued to transform classrooms into action hubs for sustainability. From interactive learning sessions to hands-on waste collection and composting, students across Level 1 and Level 2 schools proved that when children lead, change follows. This report captures not just numbers – but stories, habits, and mindsets that are slowly reshaping how schools engage with waste.

### Konark Borkar

Senior Project Officer,  
Zero Waste Schools



# Level 1: Building the Foundation

## Learning Through Action

In Level 1 schools, students were introduced to the basics of waste segregation, plastic pollution, and responsible consumption through 12 activity-based sessions through each school, reaching approximately 1,346 students. Classrooms buzzed with curiosity as students asked questions, shared everyday waste challenges from home, and learned how small daily choices can protect the environment.

## Turning Awareness into Action

What followed learning was action. Through structured plastic and e-waste collection drives, Level 1 schools collectively diverted:

- **396.8 kg of Plastic Waste**
- **59 kg of E-Waste**

away from landfills — proving that awareness, when paired with systems, leads to real impact.

# Level 2: Deepening the Journey

## From Knowledge to Ownership

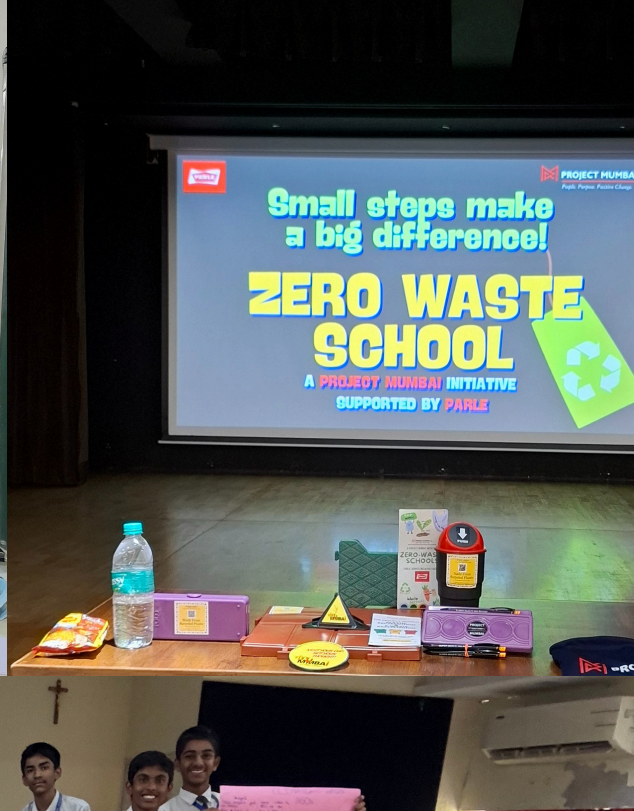
Level 2 schools took the sustainability journey a step further. With 9 activity sessions, around 567 students engaged in deeper conversations around waste reduction, composting, and community action. Students didn't just participate — they took ownership. Many became sustainability champions within their schools, ensuring segregation practices were followed daily.

## Collective Impact

These efforts resulted in the collection of:

- **178.8 kg of Plastic Waste**
- **44.5 kg of E-Waste**

showcasing how consistent practices can lead to sustained waste reduction.



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18/07/2025 01:09 PM GMT +05:30

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# From Talk to Action: Stories from the schools :)

## Composting Success: Waste Back to Earth

At Adarsh Vidyalaya, Goregaon, students learned directly from Ms. Sonal Desai, a home composting expert. The session sparked curiosity not just among students, but teachers too – many pledged to start composting at home.

One of the most powerful outcomes of the programme has been composting.

Across Level 1 and Level 2 schools (till November):

- 55 kg of solid compost
- 60 litres of liquid leachate

were harvested.

This compost now nourishes school gardens and green spaces – a full-circle moment where students witness food waste returning to the soil, reinforcing the idea that waste is a resource.



# From Talk to Action: Stories from the schools :)

## Schools Leading Neighbourhood Change

At St. Aloysius High School, Nallasopara and Matrubhoomi School, Kandivali, plastic and e-waste collection drives extended beyond school gates. Students mobilised their neighbourhood buildings, encouraging residents to responsibly dispose of waste – turning children into community change-makers.

## Cleaning Beaches, Celebrating Children

On 15th November (Children's Day special), over 115 students from 10 schools participated in a Beach Cleanup Drive across two beaches. Armed with gloves, enthusiasm, and purpose, students learned first-hand about marine pollution – many saying it was the first time they truly understood where their waste ends up.



# Get to Meet Our Facilitator: Saachi Sahasrabuddhe

That's Saachi,  
participating in  
a session with  
her Zero Waste  
School Kids.

Every movement is powered by people who believe in it — and for Zero Waste Schools, Saachi Sahasrabuddhe has been one such driving force. Saachi was one of the very first volunteers to come on board as a facilitator, stepping into classrooms with enthusiasm, patience, and a deep commitment to sustainability. From day one, she has played a key role in engaging students, simplifying complex environmental concepts, and turning learning sessions into meaningful conversations. What truly sets Saachi apart is that she doesn't just teach sustainability — she lives it.

In her own life, Saachi consciously practices waste segregation, promotes mindful consumption, supports plastic-free alternatives, and actively advocates composting and reuse. These everyday green practices naturally flow into her sessions, making her interactions authentic and relatable for students. Students often resonate with her approach — one that is warm, encouraging, and action-oriented.

Whether it's guiding children through waste segregation activities, supporting collection drives, or inspiring them to take small green steps at home, Saachi has helped bridge the gap between awareness and action. Her journey from being an early volunteer to becoming a trusted facilitator reflects the spirit of the Zero Waste Schools programme — young changemakers leading by example and creating ripple effects of impact. We are grateful to have Saachi as part of this journey, inspiring students to believe that sustainability isn't a subject — it's a way of life.





# At a Glance: October– November Impact

- Total Students Impacted: **~1,913**
- Activity Sessions Conducted: **21**
- Plastic Waste Diverted: **575.6 kg**
- E-Waste Responsibly Collected: **103.5 kg**
- Compost Harvested: **55 kg solid + 60 litres liquid**

## Looking Ahead

The Zero Waste Schools programme continues to prove that sustainability education works best when it is interactive, local, and action-oriented. As we move forward, our focus remains on strengthening school systems, empowering student leaders, and scaling impact across more classrooms and communities. Because today's students are not just learners – they are tomorrow's environmental leaders. Together, we are building schools that don't just teach sustainability – they live it.



# Together, we're building Mumbai's first Zero Waste Generation

