



TNPCB Certification of Chennai High Schools as 'ECOMmute' Schools

Details about the Scheme

i. Background–

- Air pollution level in Chennai is high and the city faces considerable traffic congestion.
- The planet is facing serious impacts of climate change due the large scale emission of greenhouse gases and Chennai is very vulnerable to cyclones, floods and drinking water scarcity.
- Due to school students being dropped & picked up by cars, scooters and motorcycles on a large scale, there is severe traffic congestion on several roads especially near the school entrances.
- The local air pollution and noise pollution near the schools is also very high due to large number of vehicles crowding near the school gate. The idling of engines also releases the highly poisonous carbon monoxide. Several children suffer severe exposure to air pollution as they wait at the gate to be picked up by vehicles.
- The local air pollution around the school persists for a long time causing health impacts to the students, teachers and other staff of the schools.

Hence there is a need to create awareness amongst schools, parents and students about the problems and take steps to tackle the problem.

ii. Scheme –

- a. All High schools in Chennai can participate.
- b. Students of 8th, 9th and 10th standard will only be considered as they are capable of easily adopting ECOMmute means and are also in the receptive age category.
- c. **Criteria for certification as ECOMmute School** –The school shall collect details from all High school students in the prescribed format. The school should then submit to TNPCB the names of high school students who ECOMmute to school i.e., generally



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commute between home and school by either walk, cycle, public transport, E-cycle, E-vehicle, School bus or private van.

Criteria

(I) **The number of such students should be at least 90 % of the total strength of High school students and**

(II) **No personal motor vehicle to drop any High school student within 100 metres from the school gate.**

- d. The Schools are requested to encourage their students to adopt above 'ECOMmute' means and if they meet the above criteria, they can apply for ECOMmute certification in the form prescribed by TNPCB by 31.12.2021. The form as well as the guidelines to fill the form will be available in the TNPCB website (www.tnpcb.gov.in) on or before 10.12.2021.

Out of enthusiasm or curiosity no students should be compelled to get involved in this process. It should be purely voluntary basis.

- e. The entire application process will be online and eco-friendly without the use of any paper.
- f. TNPCB will examine the details submitted by schools, it will conduct necessary verification and surprise checks in the schools and decide if the schools meet the required criteria. The verification process by TNPCB will be completed by 28.02.2022 and the names of the schools will be announced in the Press. This certification will be valid upto 31.03.2023. If any school is found to violate the criteria before the end of validity, the certification for the school will be cancelled.
- g. **Certificates:** The schools meeting the criteria will be awarded an '**ECOMmute School**' Certificate and the school will also be encouraged to erect a publicity board to that effect with the ECOMmute logo. All the students who undertake 'ECOMmute' in the certified 'ECOMmute' schools will also be awarded a very attractive '**Friend of the Environment**' certificate (E certificate and on recycled paper) by TNPCB. This

No. 76, MOUNT SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Tel : 22353134, 22353135, 22353136, 22353137, 22353138, 22353139, 22343140, 22353141

Fax : 044 - 22353068

Email : tnpcb@md3.vsnl.net.in Web : www.tnpcb.gov.in



certificate will be a valuable addition to the student's profile/portfolio/Curriculum Vitae.

- h. The overall reduction in the **carbon footprint** achieved by the school due to this initiative will also be calculated and informed to the school.
- i. **Awards:** For the 20 best ECommute high schools in Chennai (with the highest percentage of ECommute students), award of sports equipment worth Rs.25,000/- will be provided to the school. 10 awards will be reserved for Government schools and 10 will be reserved for Government aided and private schools. The awards and certificates to the Schools will be distributed by the Hon. Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Youth Welfare and Sports Development.

iii. Expected outcome -

- a. The schools will encourage the students to adopt 'ECommute' means.
- b. The number of motorized two, three and four wheelers dropping school students will reduce paving way for reduced traffic load and air pollution. There are close to 200 High schools in Chennai and a significant reduction in local air pollution and traffic congestion can be expected.
- a. The air and noise pollution levels near the schools will also be reduced making it safer for the students, teachers and staff of schools.
- b. The school students will be made aware of air pollution, greenhouse gases, global warming and its impacts, carbon footprint and the benefits of adopting eco-friendly means of transport.
- c. Public transportation will be encouraged.
- d. The confidence levels of ECommute students to face the daily world will rise. Students switching to walk or cycling as a means will have the added benefits of adequate physical exercise and related health benefits.



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- e. The schools in the future in the long run would encourage admissions primarily to nearby residents to easily attain ECommute certification and thereby contribute greatly to reduction in pollution and carbon footprint.

THE WORLD BELONGS TO CHILDREN.

SAFE AND ECOFRIENDLY COMMUTE TO SCHOOL IS THEIR RIGHT

Any Further Details – TNPCC Contact No.: 95000 76438



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Prescribed format of Collection of Details from Students of High schools

(Schools can provide their name, address etc at the top. Schools can collect any additional details as appropriate)

Details of students required for preparation of proposal for TNPCB Certification of ECOMmute schools

- i. Names of the student :
- ii. Class and Section :
- iii. Male/Female :
- iv. Name of Parent :
- v. Mobile number of Parent :
- vi. Home Address :

vii. Approximate Distance from school :

viii. Mode of commute before 30.11.2021 (tick one of the following):

Walk/ cycle/public transport/E-cycle/E-vehicle/School bus/private van/scooter
drop/motorcycle drop/car drop/auto drop

ix. Mode of commute as on date (tick one of the following)

Walk/ cycle/public transport/E-cycle/E-vehicle/School bus/private van/scooter
drop/motorcycle drop/car drop/auto drop

Signature of Parent

Date: