



### **'ECOmmute School' – Certificate Programme**

Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. Vehicular pollution from use of fossil fuels is a major contributor for air pollution in cities. The emissions also contribute directly to Climate Change phenomenon making wild as well as human dominated ecosystems very vulnerable to disasters.

Considering the importance of environment protection from air pollution, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) have initiated a '**Weekly Pollution-Free Office Commute Day**' (**ECOmmute Day**) and commenced it from 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021, a Wednesday. Accordingly, every Wednesday, the employees and all staff of TNPCB in all the offices of State avoid personal motorized vehicles and reach the office premises by either public transport or walk or cycle or electric cycles/vehicles. Following the initiative of TNPCB, several District Collectors across the country and the Administration of Lakshwadeep have also implemented the ECOmmute Day. Several industries are also implementing ECOmmute. An exclusive logo has been released to mark the 'ECOmmute'.

In order to extend the ECOmmute concept to school students, the TNPCB have launched a programme titled '**ECOmmute School**'. The objective of the programme is to encourage high school students to adopt '**ECOmmute**' mode to commute to school. This was initiated to encourage students to adopt green modes of transport like walk or use cycle or public transport to attend school and also reduce the local air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

As per the programme, the schools wherein 90% and above students adopt ECOmmute mode will be awarded with certificate of '**ECOmmute School**' and the students will be presented with '**Friend of Environment**' certificate. In addition, the top 10 Government schools and top 10 Govt aided/private school will be awarded with sports articles worth of Rs.25,000/- each.

As a first phase the TNPCB introduced the 'ECOmmute School' programme to the Schools in Chennai District in the year 2021-22. The students in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>

and 10<sup>th</sup> Standards are covered in this programme. TNPCB has addressed all the Government, Government Aided and Private Schools in Chennai district to participate in this programme. The schools are informed that ECOmmute is a voluntary programme. No student is compelled to participate in this programme. They shall participate in the programme with the concurrence of their parents. In this regard, circular instructions were also issued from the Chief Education Officer, Chennai District. The TNPCB has also addressed the Commissioner Greater Chennai Corporation to make the roads and foot paths near the school are safe for commute by the students. The TNPCB has also addressed the Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai Police for declaration of one hour in morning and evening as 'Student Hour' in road traffic and also to provide barricades near the schools.

The TNPCB has developed an online portal ([https://tnpcb.gov.in/ecommute\\_org/](https://tnpcb.gov.in/ecommute_org/)) for registration to participate in the programme. This software, itself calculate the percentage of the students adopted ECOmmute mode. [% of ECOmmute = (X/Y) x 100. Where X = Total number of students in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Std adopted in ECOmmute mode, Y = Total students strength in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Std].

The Board has provided hands-on training to all the schools on how to register through the e.portal. 242 schools have attended the training programme. In the above program, 99 schools with student strength of 24627 in Chennai city have registered and participated. Out of which, 37 schools (21 Govt + 16 Govt aided& Pvt) with student strength of 6373 have achieved 90% and above ECOmmute mode.

During 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forest, Government of India have conducted two days Workshop on National Clean Air Programme at Chennai. The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Forest, Government of India. In order to publicize the ECOmmute at the National level, best performed six schools (3 Govt + 3 Govt aided & Pvt) were invited and presented with 'ECOmmute School' certificate in the above inaugural function. The remaining 31 schools were presented with certificate and the top 20 schools were awarded sports equipments by the Hon'ble Minister For Environment Climate Change and Youth Welfare and Sports Development during the World Environment Day celebration held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The students were presented with '**Friend of Environment**' certificate.



**Release of 'ECOmmute Logo' by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment  
Forests and Climate Change Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**



**Training Programme to School Teachers regarding ECOmmute**



**'ECOMMUTE SCHOOL' Certificate Distribution by the Hon'ble for Environment, Climate Change and Forest, Government of India**



**Sports Equipments presented to 'ECOMMUTE Schools' by the Minister for Environment Climate Change and Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Government of Tamil Nadu**