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**NOTHING WASTED: Waste management at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, near Coimbatore. - Photo: M. Periasamy**

Coimbatore: While Coimbatore gropes for a solution to problems of waste management, the [Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham](#) has found it. A systematic planting of trees and plants, a wastewater management system that recycles every drop of grey water and a solid-waste management process has made it an area of rich biodiversity.

Six thousand people live on a 400-acre campus and there is not a shred of garbage lying around. What is more, it is a zero-chemical campus. One lakh trees are planted, conserved, protected, labelled and documented here.

There are plants (150 species) that would be the envy of any Botanical Garden. A medicinal plant garden is carefully nurtured on the premises. Three tonnes of leaf litter and grass are generated monthly and all of it is recycled and used for vermicomposting. The campus generates six lakh litres of sullage or wastewater everyday (from the hostel, residences, canteens, kitchens, etc). And every drop is recycled. It is led to a collection tank where solid wastes are filtered out. Four to five balls of Effective Microbes (EM is a liquid concentrate produced from over 80 strains of bacteria.) Bokashi is added to approximately 2,50,000 litres of water. It is then led into the aeration tank where atmospheric oxygen is dissolved into the water.

A retention time of 24 to 32 hours is given for the aeration and the microbes to act on the sullage. The EM treated water then goes into a settling tank. The sludge that settles down is removed and used for coconut farming. For more details contact: [The Centre for](#)

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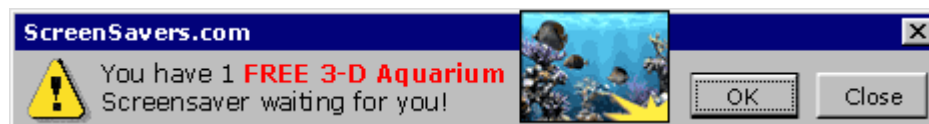
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