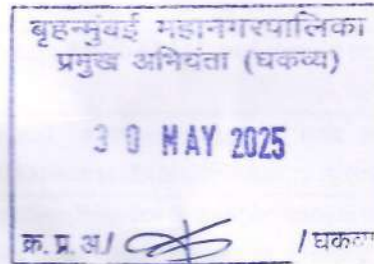




## Advocacy - Governance - Renewal

To,  
Chief Engineer (Solid Waste Management)  
3rd Floor, Municipal Khatav Market Building,  
Opposite Avishkar Building  
Khatavwadi, Sleater Road  
Grant Road (West), Mumbai 400007.



30 May 2025

**Subject: Suggestions Objections to BMC's Solid Waste (Management & Handling), Cleanliness and Sanitation Byelaws, 2025**

This is with reference to the Draft SWM Byelaws published on the MCGM portal, dated February 2025 which has invited suggestions and objections from citizens. Having gone through the document published on the MCGM website, we would like to place on record the following suggestions and objections:

Byelaw	Suggestions/objection
Definitions	
4.14: Bulk waste generator	The byelaws should be presented for each type of building/ establishments so it is easier for each such party to understand their duties for different kind of waste they generate.
4.35: Dry Waste Sorting Center	<b>Dry waste sorting centres should not be located in public open spaces or natural areas listed in DP2034.</b>
	Hawking zone should be included and clearly defined.
Chapter III (5) Littering, other nuisance and ensuring clean areas	
In addition to prevention measures, the chapter should also focus on addressing the issues that lead to littering (for example: Lack of segregated dustbin, irregularities in waste pickups) specifically in the public spaces.	
5.1 – 5.5	Define enforcement mechanisms. BMC's responsibilities should be clearly stated.
5.3 and 5.5	<b>Reference all public open space categories as per DP2034. (all categories of Public Open Spaces and Natural Areas)</b>
Chapter IV (6) (7) Segregation, Storage and Delivery of Municipal Solid Waste	
There are several categories of waste, each requiring specific segregation. <b>Door-to-door awareness drives</b> have proven effective in improving waste segregation at source. <b>We recommend to empanel NGOs or train volunteers to conduct these campaigns</b> regularly and systematically to boost public awareness and compliance.	





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6.2 - 6.5	These actions should be mandatory for the BMC and should not be addressed as an option.
6.6	Establish multiple neighbourhood centres instead of one ward level centre; improve helpline linkage and awareness through these centres.
7.3	Onsite composting is often unfeasible for small households or buildings or economically weaker societies and slums due to limited space and cost constraints. We recommend to outline a <b>clear plan for decentralized ward-level composting centres and allow for optional collection of biodegradable waste from smaller units. It is necessary to define "onsite processing" and include tailor-made solutions for space-constrained areas.</b>
7.6	Details of all registered places should be provided in advance, for the next 3/6 months, with specifications of collection agency plus related officer of BMC assigned with contact details.
	The byelaws should address how households in slum areas will be equipped or assisted in segregation.
	Segregation guidelines, colour codes for segregation should be defined and publicized properly in all local languages.
	There should be mechanisms for positive reinforcements. Implement incentive-based systems for zero-waste certification and community composting.
Chapter V Responsibilities and Duties	
8.1 – 8.2	Clearly outline the roles of BMC and the staff appointed. Mandate training and certification for the staff.
10.2	The byelaw should <b>explicitly address waste management infrastructure within authorized vending zones</b> to ensure clarity and effective implementation. Instead of treating vendors as a general category, the byelaw should specify provisions for officially designated hawking areas. Common waste management infrastructure must be provided in these zones to support vendors in complying with waste segregation norms.
Chapter VI Solid Waste, Biomedical Waste, E-Waste, C&D Waste	
There needs to be mechanism in the byelaws for People-Public-Private coordination.	
<b>Burning of garden or horticultural waste should be strictly prohibited in all Public Spaces (POS and natural areas) as defined under the Development Plan-2034.</b>	
Chapter X: Bulk garden and Horticultural Waste	
Define "bulk" waste more precisely. Clarify responsibility for small generators. Transparent collection fee structure is needed.	
Public Open Spaces (POS) should be equipped with decentralized composting units, determined by the size of the space, volume of waste generated, and location-specific factors. The bye-laws should include detailed guidelines and provide technical assistance for planning, setting up, and maintaining these composting facilities.	





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### Key Suggestions:

#### 1. Institutional Clarity and Enforcement

The byelaws should clearly assign responsibilities to BMC departments and officers using mandatory language such as "shall" instead of "may." Roles, responsibilities, and penalties for non-compliance must be detailed in each functional area of collection, segregation, processing, and disposal.

#### 2. Protection of Open Spaces

No waste-related infrastructure should be permitted in areas demarcated as public open spaces and natural areas in DP2034. These must remain ecologically preserved.

#### 3. People-Public-Private Model Collaboration

Include a framework within the byelaws for establishing partnerships that include community groups, non-profits, and private enterprises in co-creating and managing equitable waste management systems for all.

#### 4. Positive Reinforcement and Awareness

Introduce community-led incentives, multilingual information campaigns, and recognition programs to encourage waste segregation, composting, and recycling.

#### 5. Equity and Accessibility

The byelaws must explicitly address the needs of vulnerable populations such as economically weaker sections, street vendors, the elderly, and differently abled to ensure just access.

### About NAGAR:

NAGAR is a not-for-profit organization established in 2000, born out of the passion of several citizens with a goal to improve life in the city of Mumbai. NAGAR's former constituents are CitiSpace, CLEAN-Air, CLEAN-Sweep. NAGAR continues to work in the areas of preservation of public open spaces, solid waste management, improvement in air quality, preservation of water bodies, beaches, mangroves, built and natural heritage features, efficient road space management, and water conservation. The organization is committed to advocating for better enforcement of existing laws, recommending policy changes for improved governance on civic matters, and contributing to urban renewal efforts. NAGAR has a broad network of citizens across the city and collaborates with other civic NGOs to address specific issues.

NAGAR has worked in the field of SWM since 2001. Studies we have undertaken for reference are:

1. [Cuffe Parade Pilot Project](#) in A-ward on segregation & collection of domestic waste in Cuffe Parade area. This was in partnership with MCGM & ICPE.
2. Report on [People-Public-Private Partnership](#)



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We, at NAGAR, respectfully submit our suggestions for incorporation in the final draft of the SWM byelaws. These inputs are informed by our extensive field experience, community interaction, and policy research in urban sanitation and waste management.

We sincerely hope that these suggestions will be duly considered and incorporated into the final draft of the bye-laws. We welcome the opportunity to engage further through consultations or workshops with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, and we look forward to participating in the hearings on these suggestions and objections.

Thank you  
Yours sincerely,

**Nayana Kathpalia**  
Trustee

On behalf of Trustees

Atul Kumar D M Sukthankar Dinesh Ahir Kunti Oza  
Meher Rafaat Nayana Kathpalia Neera Punj Parul Kumtha