

Green report card says city in the red

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Water problems and increasing air pollution are some of the major concerns. These were some of the main problems highlighted in the Environment Report Card (ERC) of Bangalore 2012. (File photo)

For every new entrant into the state, Bangalore is the eyes, to look at Karnataka. The city's bustling population which is nearly 8.5 million, is growing at the rate of 46 per cent. Water problems and increasing air pollution are some of the major concerns. These were some of the main problems highlighted in the Environment Report Card (ERC) of Bangalore 2012. Jointly prepared by the Centre for Sustainable Development and IBM, the report highlights the areas where the city has failed and has lauded the officials for the areas where they scored better.

The frame of reference in the report was similar to the one prepared in 2005, highlighting the problems faced by the city then. S V Ranganath, Chief Secretary, R Sridharan, Principal Secretary Forest, Environment and Ecology, along with A S Sadashivaiah, Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Amit Sharma, VP and GM, IBM India released the report, in the presence of Shankarlinga Gowda, Commissioner, BBMP and Gaurav Gupta, MD, BWSSB.

Explaining the three-pronged approach used to conduct the report, R Srinivas, executive director, Centre for Sustainable Development said, "Volunteers have evaluated the baseline information on the existing environment, citizens' perception of the environment and finally the government's efforts to mitigate the environmental problems."

The multi-stage stratified sampling was carried out to cover different economic stratas. Volunteers conducted a door-to-door survey involving 1,657 households and 108 commercial establishments. Officials highlighted that such co-ordinated efforts to work on the failures and increase the success rate will help the city.