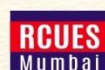
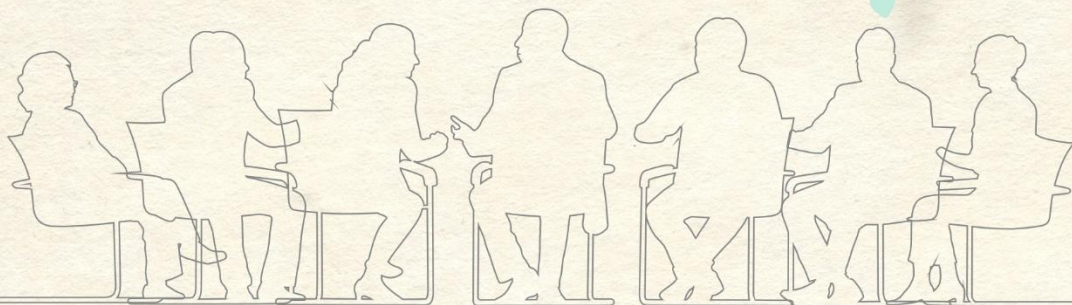
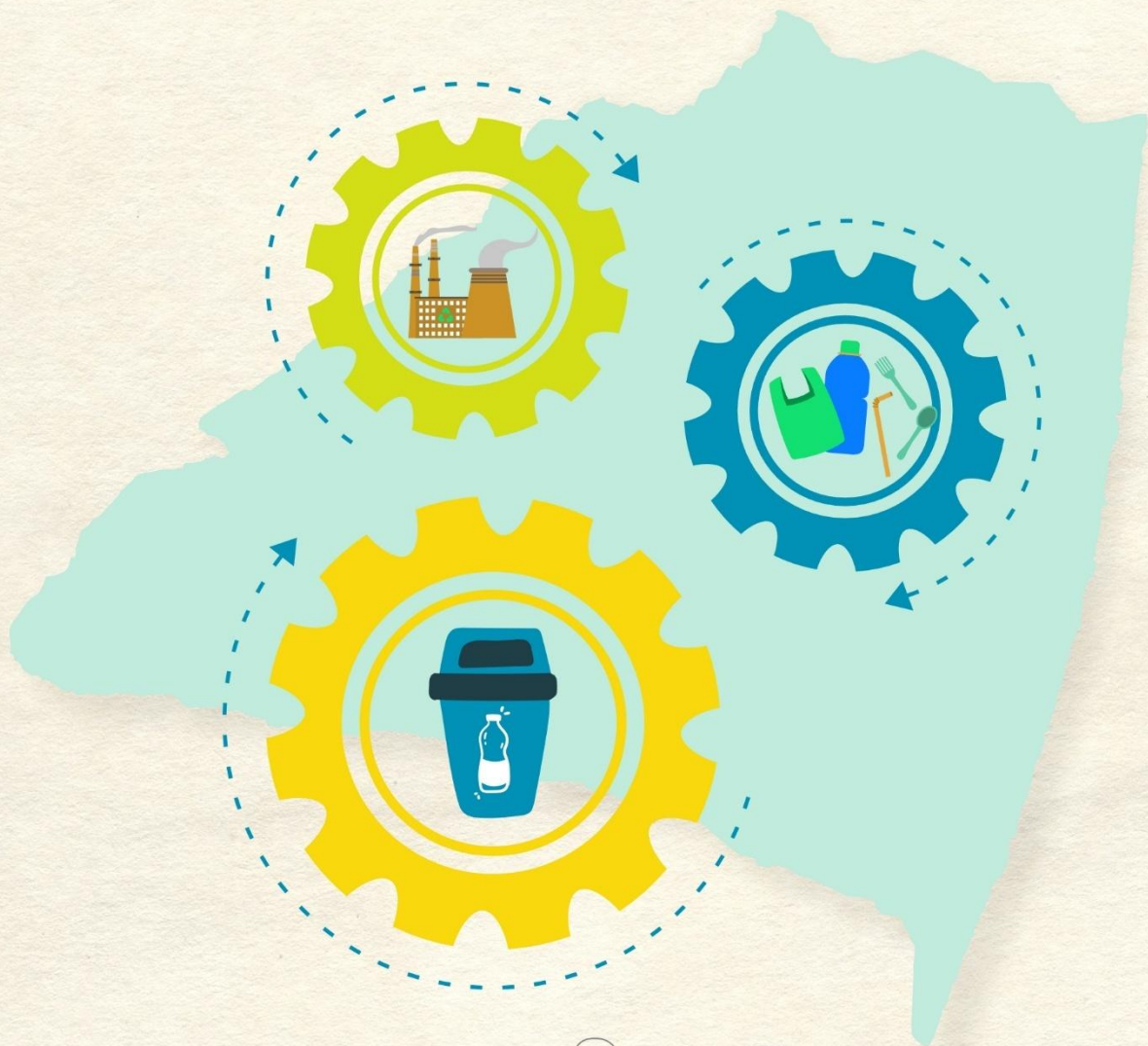


# Localizing Plastic Action through Communities (L-PAC)

*Achieving Plastic Circularity through Youth,  
Children and Communities as Agents of Change*

## City Visioning Workshop in Satara Municipal Council







## Workshop Overview

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Auditorium, Satara Municipal Council, AILSG Mumbai with support from UNICEF Mumbai Office, in partnership with Satara Municipal Council, held the City Visioning Workshop as part of the ongoing Localizing Plastic Action through Communities (L-PAC) initiative. The workshop brought together over 60 participants, including ULB officials, local NGOs, CSOs, citizen groups, educational institutions, youth, SHGs, and sanitation workers, for an inclusive half-day session focused on facilitating and implementing plastic circularity in the city through community-centric models.

### What is Localizing Plastic Action through Communities (L-PAC)?

Localizing Plastic Action through Communities (L-PAC) project anchored by AILSG Mumbai with support from UNICEF Mumbai Office aims to achieve plastic circularity by empowering youth, children, and community members as active change agents within their local communities. Focusing on Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation and Satara Municipal Council, L-PAC is dedicated to promoting sustainable waste management practices by integrating community-driven approaches, fostering local partnerships, and supporting circular economy models.



(l-r: Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi, Senior Executive Director, AILSG Mumbai, and Mr. Yusuf Kabir, WASH Focal Point, UNICEF Mumbai, present a memento to Ms. Aishwarya Naik, Additional Commissioner, Satara Municipal Council, in recognition of SMC's continued support and partnership in the project. Over 60 participants actively engage in the workshop discussions, contributing valuable insights toward shaping Satara's circular plastic waste management strategy.)

## Why Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration is Key to Advancing Plastic Circularity?

This workshop brought together stakeholders from the sector to discuss and develop a shared vision for advancing plastic waste circularity in Satara Municipal Council (SMC) under the L-PAC project. Stakeholders from the urban local body and key partners explored practical strategies for implementing sustainable plastic waste management practices. Many organizations and individuals are increasingly prioritizing circular economy approaches in response to regulatory changes, environmental concerns, and the economic potential of waste valorization. By fostering collaboration and aligning diverse perspectives, the workshop aimed to harness local insights, encourage active stakeholder engagement, and co-create impactful solutions for plastic circularity.

### Workshop Participants

The city visioning workshop witnessed the participation of over *60 individuals representing a diverse range of stakeholders* committed to advancing plastic circularity in Satara. Attendees included officials from the Satara Municipal Council, AILSG Mumbai team, **representatives from Satara District Office, UNICEF Mumbai, local NGOs, CSOs, SHGs, sanitation workers, youth groups, academic institutions, and citizen collectives**. This diverse gathering fostered inclusive dialogue and collaborative thinking, ensuring that the strategies developed reflect the perspectives and aspirations of the broader community.

### Themes

During the first session of the workshop, the RCUES of AILSG team presented their observations about the plastic waste management value chain in Satara city based on the year-long interactions with various stakeholders in the city in addition to a dedicated baseline assessment and waste audit. Key challenges identified across the plastic waste value chain in Satara City include:

#### **a. The city is on the precipice of urbanization with increasing plastic pollution**

The AILSG Mumbai team presented an overview of Satara Municipal Council to contextualize the urgent need for implementing circularity in post-consumer plastic waste management. As the oldest municipal council in Pune division, Satara spans 26.22 sq. km and plays a critical administrative and educational role, strategically located along the Pune-Bangalore highway with strong connectivity and proximity to industrial estates that are fueling rapid urban expansion. With increasing development beyond current municipal limits—especially near industrial zones and peripheral villages—there is a pressing need to adopt circular waste management systems to ensure sustainable service delivery and resilient urban growth.

#### **b. Limited Waste Management Infrastructure and Challenges at the Municipal Waste Processing Site**

The Songaon Dump Site, located 8 km from Satara city on the route to the ecologically sensitive Kaas Plateau, has been in operation since 1985 and remains the sole facility for solid waste disposal, with 7.62 hectares still available for MSW processing and legacy waste management—sufficient to meet the city's needs for the next two decades. However, the continued practice of open dumping poses

significant environmental and public health risks, and hinders Satara's efforts toward sustainable waste management.

### **c. Segregation levels of household waste remains low**

A week-long waste audit conducted in Satara revealed that solid waste generation averages around 0.54 kg per capita per day, with variations across income groups and a projected increase over time. The audit also highlighted low levels of source segregation—due to either single-bin disposal or mixing during transport—which significantly hampers the recovery of dry plastic waste such as soft plastics and MLPs, most of which are currently diverted to cement kilns for co-processing, leading to higher emissions.

### **d. Empowering Children, Youth, and Communities to Drive Plastic Waste Circularity**

Household and commercial waste are the primary sources of waste generation in Satara, and improper disposal practices have significantly limited the city's processing potential. To address this challenge, the team proposed a community-centric strategy that engages children, youth, and residents as key enablers of sustainable waste management through targeted IEC campaigns, school-based collection drives, and improved household-level segregation into dry, wet, and plastic waste streams.

### **e. Empowering SHGs and Sanitation Workers Through Plastic Waste Processing for Livelihood Generation**

Satara Municipal Council, with support from its well-established DAY-NULM department, is integrating Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and sanitation workers into the city's plastic waste management ecosystem to promote alternative livelihoods and micro-entrepreneurship. As part of this effort, AILSG Mumbai has presented a strategy to engage these groups in processing plastic waste into value-added products, which can be marketed and sustained through the City Livelihood Centre under the federation model.

### **f. Empowering Youth for Clean Air Advocacy and Sustainable Waste**

Open burning of plastic waste significantly contributes to air pollution, adversely affecting the city's Air Quality Index (AQI). This initiative aims to empower youth as environmental stewards through experiential learning on air pollution monitoring using real-time sensors, coupled with capacity-building on relevant policies, culminating in the development of a youth-led **Clean Air Manifesto** to advocate for upstream policy action and reduced plastic waste in landfills.





*(from l-r: Eco-club students from KBP College of Engineering, Satara felicitated for their efforts during the Waste Audit exercise. Active engagement of youth, SHGs, and sanitation workers for developing strategies to promote sustainable plastic waste management in SMC.)*

## Local Stakeholders Committed to Advancing Waste Management in Satara

Following the AIILSG Mumbai team's presentation, which outlined the project's objectives and strategic approach, the second segment of the workshop featured an open discussion with key local stakeholders. Representatives from local NGOs, CSOs, and educational institutions actively engaged in waste management efforts in Satara shared insights and pledged their support for the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the L-PAC initiative.

**Satara Municipal Council** – As the city implementation partner, the team is actively working in partnership with the Satara Municipal Council to enhance municipal dry waste management systems and demonstrate circularity in plastic waste, particularly in post-consumer soft plastics and multi-layered plastics (MLPs).

**SagarMitra Abhiyan** – A youth-led initiative focused on procuring clean, dry plastic waste through dedicated collection drives, SagarMitra Abhiyan has successfully promoted behavior change across 10+ schools and 20,000+ students through IEC campaigns, awareness programs, and capacity-building sessions. They have pledged to expand these collection drives to more schools and residential areas, further empowering children, youth, and communities as key agents of change.

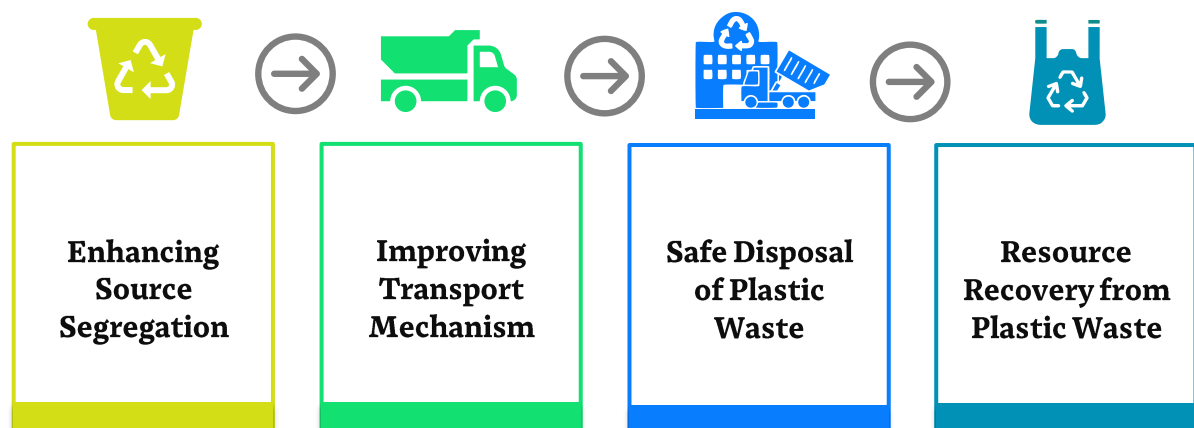
**Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil (KBP) College of Engineering, Satara** – A leading environmentally conscious institution, KBP College operates an active eco-club and a decentralized waste management system on its campus. Wet waste is composted, while dry waste is processed into eco-bricks for use in the college garden. The institution is encouraging students to explore technological solutions for plastic waste processing and has pledged to engage its eco-club and students across all aspects of the project’s initiatives.

**Harit Satara** – A citizen-driven reform initiative aimed at improving service delivery in the city, Harit Satara regularly organizes marathons and plogathons to raise awareness of key environmental issues such as plastic pollution. The organization has pledged to support community-centric initiatives and awareness campaigns, including mobilizing residents and leveraging their digital platforms to promote waste management efforts, particularly around significant events such as World Environment Day.

**Avni Foundation** – Avni is dedicated to transforming waste into green business opportunities and currently works with 506 waste pickers from self-help groups (SHGs) across Kolhapur, Sangli, and Satara. Their approach focuses on implementing effective recycling mechanisms such as shredding, advocating for cooperative models for SHGs to strengthen enforcement against street littering, and promoting biogas production from wet waste. Avni also shared a successful model from Karad, where waste pickers were organized into SHGs and charged the gram panchayat for waste collection services, resulting in cleaner streets and reduced plastic pollution.

## Roadmap for Advancing Plastic Waste Management and Demonstrating Circularity of Plastic Waste in Satara Municipal Council

Presenting this roadmap for strengthening plastic waste management and advancing plastic circularity in Satara Municipal Council (SMC) is rooted in the belief that sustainable urban waste systems require active participation from children, youth, and the broader community. Their engagement is essential for fostering shared ownership, enhancing service delivery, and embedding long-term environmental responsibility in municipal dry waste management practices. The roadmap outlined below highlights the specific roles of organizations that pledged their support during the City Visioning Workshop, positioning them across the plastic waste value chain. The project team will serve as facilitators, working closely with the ULB and local stakeholders to institutionalize the roadmap and ensure its long-term sustainability and lasting impact.



Stakeholder Group	Contribution to the SMC's Plastic Waste Management Value Chain			
	Enhancing Source Segregation	Improving Transport Mechanism	Safe Disposal of Plastic Waste	Resource Recovery from Plastic Waste
<b>SBM (Health Dept), Satara Municipal Council</b>	Drives public awareness campaigns, IEC activities, and household-level outreach on segregation norms	Oversees door-to-door collection, fleet monitoring and route optimization	Implementing safe disposal through decentralized collection sites and improving the processing site	Coordinates with MRF operators, startups, organizations for improving resource recovery of plastics
<b>DAY-NULM, Satara Municipal Council</b>	Mobilizes SHGs to support household awareness and segregation drives.	Engages SHG members in waste collection and route-level coordination.	Supports livelihoods tied to formal disposal and processing.	Skilling and onboarding SHGs for recycling and upcycling enterprises.
<b>Satara District Collector Office</b>	Facilitates convergence of nearby villages with SMC's waste management and IEC outreach.	Coordination for integrated transport plans.	Ensures regulatory and policy compliance	Enables innovation pilots and PPP models.
<b>Schools &amp; Colleges</b>	Promote behavior change through classroom activities, collection drives, eco-clubs, and student-led campaigns.	Coordinate transport for student collection drives or competitions	Promote safe disposal practices on campus.	Promote research on plastic waste, eco-product development, conduct competitions
<b>Local NGOs and CSOs</b>	Implement community-level IEC, capacity building, and handholding for households.	Identify and resolve transport gaps in informal settlements, villages, etc.	Report and support enforcement on illegal dumping and open burning of waste	Manage decentralized waste management centres, develop recycling hubs and build networks with informal workers.
<b>Citizen Collectives (SHGs, youth clubs, etc.)</b>	Lead local outreach on waste segregation practices and neighborhood drives.	Provide feedback for collection and transport efficacy	Organize local cleanliness drives and monitor decentralized disposal spots.	Engage in upcycling, zero-waste businesses, and linking with recyclers.
<b>AIILSG Mumbai (Technical Partner)</b>	Develops IEC content, school curriculum, and training tools to promote segregation.	Supports route planning, MIS tracking, and performance improvement.	Provides technical guidance on scientific disposal and infrastructure use.	Promotes circularity models and connects ULB with the private sector for resource recovery innovation.

In addition to the organizations identified during the workshop, the project team will actively engage with entities working beyond Satara to improve resource recovery from soft plastics and multi-layered packaging (MLPs). Collaborations with enterprises such as Ecokaari, Ashaya, and Shakti Plastics will be explored to transform collected waste into value-added products. These partnerships aim to create alternate livelihood opportunities for self-help group (SHG) members, sanitation workers, and informal waste workers, strengthening both the circular economy and social inclusion dimensions of the initiative.



## Testimonials from the Workshop Participants



The city is rapidly urbanizing, and with growing waste and climate challenges, the council is committed to working with the project team and citizens of SMC to build shared responsibility models and showcase circular economy solutions using post-consumer waste.

**- Ms. Aishwarya Naik, Additional CO, Satara Municipal Council**



Children are the cornerstone of social change, and as seen in SagarMitra Abhiyan's efforts in Satara, their inclusive engagement in waste management is key to driving the city-wide awareness and lasting impact we need.

**- Mr. Soham Kulkarni, Manager, SagarMitra Abhiyan, Satara**



Engaging youth in scientific research, beyond collection and awareness drives, empowers their career and entrepreneurial journey while driving holistic, community-based solutions for plastic waste management.

**- Mr. Vijay Nimbalkar, Professor, KBP College of Engineering, Satara**



Inclusion of SHGs and informal waste workers is essential not only to uphold their safety and dignity, but also to build their capacities to handle waste as a valuable resource, enabling them to participate meaningfully in circular economy models and unlock entrepreneurship opportunities rooted in equity and community empowerment.

**- Ms. Anuradha Bhosle, Avni Foundation**



# Key Takeaways

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01

## Enhancing Source Segregation to Improve Plastic Circularity

Increasing the rate of source segregation for household waste is essential for ensuring the collection of clean, dry plastic, thereby maximizing resource recovery and recycling potential. To effectively demonstrate plastic waste circularity, community-centric models must be implemented to promote the segregation of household waste into dry, wet, and plastic fractions. Active engagement of children, youth, and local communities across the waste value chain is crucial to minimizing landfill waste and fostering a circular economy.

02

## Integrating Nearby Villages into the City's Waste Management System

With the rapid expansion of urban boundaries and the Songaon landfill being the only disposal site, it is imperative to formally integrate nearby villages into the city's waste management infrastructure. This integration will help meet increasing waste management demands while promoting plastic circularity and reducing the burden on the city's waste management system.

03

## Leveraging Existing Infrastructure and Market Networks for Sustainability

Institutionalizing and sustaining improved waste management interventions require the strategic use of existing infrastructure and market networks established by the city government. Strengthening partnerships with the Urban Local Body (ULB) and other stakeholders will enable the identification of key players who can support long-term plastic circularity efforts, ensuring that interventions remain viable beyond the project's duration.

04

## Empowering Youth and Children as Agents of Change

Engaging youth and children as active participants in information, education, and communication (IEC) initiatives, awareness campaigns, and waste collection activities fosters social behavioral change and a sense of responsibility for post-consumer waste management. Additionally, planned policy advocacy activities will provide young participants with opportunities to contribute to urban governance processes, nurturing their holistic development while advocating for cleaner air and reduced plastic waste disposal in landfills.

# Way Forward:

## Advancing Plastic Waste Management in Satara



Through the recently held City Visioning Workshop, the Satara Municipal Council, in collaboration with its technical and community partners, has taken a pivotal step toward co-developing sustainable and inclusive strategies for plastic waste management. The workshop enabled alignment of local insights with implementable solutions, laying the groundwork for improving waste segregation, infrastructure, and long-term community stewardship.

Building on this momentum, AILSG Mumbai, as a technical partner has identified a forward-looking action agenda that focuses on partnerships, innovation, and citizen engagement to strengthen the plastic waste management value chain..

### Strategic Action Areas Post-Workshop

Focus Area	Strategic Action	Key Partners
<b>Livelihood &amp; Circular Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Skill SHG members to create value-added products from plastic waste</li> <li>- Develop micro-enterprises led by women for local recycling and upcycling initiatives</li> </ul>	Develop micro-enterprises led by women for local recycling and upcycling initiatives
<b>Youth &amp; Educational Institution Engagement</b>	- Scale SagarMitra Abhiyan to 20+ schools, reaching over 10,000 students	SagarMitra Abhiyan team, Education Department, NGOs
	- Launch poster & abstract competitions across colleges to deepen youth participation	Colleges, NSS/NCC Units, AILSG Mumbai
	- Promote app-based gamification and digital dashboards to incentivize student participation and behavior change	Local startups, Academic Institutions, AILSG Mumbai
	- Facilitate ward-level adoption by colleges for implementation of segregation and resource recovery practices	Municipal Council, Eco-Clubs, Youth Initiatives
<b>Community Awareness &amp; Behavior Change</b>	- Organize <b>World Environment Day 2025</b> as a city-wide celebration spotlighting citizen champions and student-led innovations	Schools, Colleges, SHGs, NGOs, District Administration
	- Leverage local festivals, campaigns, marathons etc. to promote zero-waste activities	CSOs, Resident Welfare Associations, Youth Networks



<b>Innovation &amp; Data-Driven Advocacy</b>	- Deploy <b>real-time air quality monitoring sensors</b> across Satara for youth-led environmental awareness and advocacy	Respirer Living Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Schools, AILSG
	- Integrate sensor data into educational programs and local action plans to advocate for upstream plastic reduction and better disposal habits	Academic Institutions, Youth Networks, SMC
<b>Policy Integration &amp; Technical Facilitation</b>	- <b>Convene a roundtable</b> with selected partners to initiate a city-level roadmap for a circular plastic economy	Satara Municipal Council, Technical Experts, Private Sector, AILSG
	- <b>Continue technical support through the L-PAC Project</b> for capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and replication of successful models in other cities	AILSG Mumbai, Development Partners, DoECC, District Office, SMC

The **Localizing Plastic Action through Communities (L-PAC)** project will remain instrumental in *facilitating capacity-building* of SHGs, *development of IEC and behavior change tools* catering to the local context, *enabling cross-sectoral partnerships* and knowledge exchange and showcasing *scalable, inclusive models* for circular plastic economy adoption. This initiative reinforces Satara's commitment to becoming a cleaner, more resilient city by integrating *behavior change, innovation, and community participation* into their plastic waste management efforts.

