

State moves to reduce carbon emission on a regional scale

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KOLKATA: The state pollution control board has planned a three-pronged strategy to fight back against climate change at the local level as has been suggested in the last assessment report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"We have come up with projects on three fronts - renewable energy, afforestation and rainwater harvesting - which would help us to bring down our carbon emission and join the global fight against climate change," said Kalyan Rudra, state pollution control board chairman.

He was speaking at a workshop organised in Kolkata on Monday where scientists shared findings of the last assessment report of the IPCC. The fifth assessment report, the last in the series, is a clear and up-to-date view of the current state of scientific knowledge relevant to climate change.

Rudra said solar panels would be installed in 70 schools and 80 across the state.

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KALYAN RUDRA, Chairman, WBPCB

They are likely to be inaugurated on March 12. This would bring down the use of electricity which is mostly generated from coal in thermal power plants there by reducing carbon emission.

"We have also tied up with the state forest department and have allotted a budget of R10 crore for undertaking a massive afforestation programme in the districts of Jangalmahal (West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia)," he said.

The pollution control board is also working with a number of civic bodies including the Kolkata Municipal Corporation to restore and resuscitate nearly 200 water bodies across the state. These would in turn help to harvest the rain water and recharge the ground water.

The Kolkata-workshop organised by the Global Change Programme of Jadavpur University is the second regional workshop organised in South Asia to discuss the AR-5. The first one was held in Lahore a week ago and the third one would be held in Dehradun on Tuesday.

The assessment reports mainly deal with climate change problems at the global level. But these dissemination workshops are being organised to identify and discuss local issues with local stakeholders. "Adaptation will not suffice. Mitigation efforts must be kicked off at the local level. Everyone must know how it'll affect an individual or local economic activity" said Joyashree Roy, coordinator of Global Change Programme.