BANGALORE APARTMENTS' FEDERATION

BeST CLUSTER
BENGALURU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (BeST) CLUSTER

an initiative by
Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India
Science and Technology Cluster

"The Science for Sustainable Urban Living"

Public Talk Series 2026

Overview: "The Science of Sustainable Urban Living" is a **Public Talk Series** organized jointly by the Bengaluru Science & Technology (BeST) Cluster and the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) from **Jan 2026 to Jun 2026**. The series aims to empower Bengaluru's apartment communities and citizens with practical, science-based knowledge and solutions that can be directly applied to everyday urban living to improving quality of life, urban resilience and sustainability.
The series will run monthly consisting of 6 episodes, focusing on pressing urban issues relevant for the residential communities and citizens.

Format of each episode:

- In-person sessions at various venues across the city with online streaming.
- Moderated 60-min panel discussion followed by 30-min Q&A.
- Speakers: Representatives from Academia, Government and Non-profits/civil societies that work closely with communities
- Primary Audience: Apartment Residents and General Public
- Secondary Audience: Urban Policy Experts, Local Government Officials, Innovators with solutions for civic issues, NGOs and CSR representatives interested in science & society.

Thematic Focus: Six Episodes each focusing on a critical urban pillar.

1. Waste Management (31st Jan 2026)
2. Water Security (28th Feb 2026)
3. Sustainable Mobility (28th Mar 2026)
4. Sustainable Energy (25th Apr 2026)
5. Urban Farming (30th May 2026)
6. Urban Health (27th Jun 2026)

Expected Outcome: Apart from empowering communities with science, driving sustainable practices, and strengthening BAF's evidence-based city advocacy, a tangible output of this six-episode program is the creation of **"Science to Society: Handbook for Sustainable Urban Living"**, compiling all lecture insights and practical takeaways into a resource for all citizens.

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"The Science for Sustainable Urban Living"

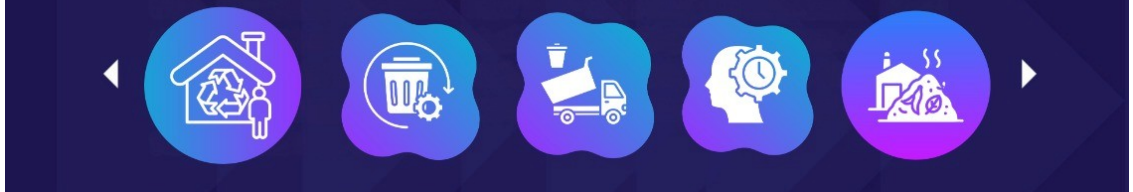
Public Talk Series 2026

EPISODE 1

Panel Discussion on Waste Management: Segregation to Zero Waste Living

31st January 2026, 3.00 PM - 6.00 PM, Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru

For more details & Registration
Click the link
https://forms.gle/n2iZPZ7UgzKqw6vUA
or Scan the QR code →



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Concept Notes

Concept Note on

"The Science for Sustainable Urban Living"

This concept note proposes the launch of a **joint Public Talk Series by Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF**) and **the Bengaluru Science & Technology (BeST) Cluster**. The series, titled "The Science of Sustainable Urban Living," aims to empower Bengaluru's apartment communities and citizens with practical, science-based knowledge and solutions that can be directly applied to everyday urban living to improve quality of life, urban resilience and sustainability.

Motivation:

Bengaluru is defined by its rapid urbanization and reliance on organized residential communities (apartments). These communities function as micro-cities, grappling with critical issues in managing water, waste, energy, health, environment and mobility. At the same time, scientific research and technological innovations are rapidly generating solutions to these challenges. Yet, many of these solutions remain confined to laboratories, reports, or policy discussions, without reaching the citizens who need them most.

- **Research-to-reality Gap:** There is a significant gap between the technical solutions developed by research institutions and their practical adoption by apartment communities.
- **Need for Knowledge:** Communities require easily digestible, credible, and context-specific knowledge to make informed decisions regarding technology implementation and sustainable practices.
- **Policy Advocacy:** The series will generate science-driven discussions that can be channelled through BAF to influence local governance and urban policy.

Objectives:

The primary objectives of the lecture series are to:

1. **Educate & Empower:** Disseminate scientific best practices and scalable technological solutions related to urban sustainability directly to the community.
2. **Facilitate Dialogue:** Create a robust platform for interaction between community and scientists, urban planners & policy advocates.
3. **Promote Adoption:** Encourage the adoption of science-backed, sustainable technologies and management practices across BAF's network of apartment complexes.

Proposed format & themes of discussion:

The series will run **monthly consisting of 6 episodes**, focusing on pressing urban issues relevant for the residential communities and citizens.

The topics decided together by BeST and BAF are:

2. Waste Management: Segregation to Zero Waste Living

Why it matters: Segregation at source is the foundation of a cleaner Bengaluru.

Topics to cover:

- Segregation Made Simple: Tools, training, and community engagement
- Composting in Apartments: Models, costs, and maintenance
- Dry Waste to Value: Partnering with recyclers and upcyclers
- E-waste, Sanitary Waste & Bulky Waste: What goes where, and how

Rules & Citizen Rights: Understanding your responsibilities and support systems

2. Water Security in Apartments: Reuse, Recharge, Resilience

Why it matters: With Bengaluru's water stress, apartments play a key role in conserving and reusing water.

Topics to cover:

- Greywater Reuse at Scale: How apartments can treat and reuse water for flushing and gardening
- STP Optimization: Making your sewage treatment plants work better and cost-effectively
- Rainwater Harvesting & Recharge: Going beyond storage to groundwater revival; new technologies for rainwater harvesting
- Policy & Incentives: BWSSB norms, KSPCB compliance, and subsidy schemes
- Success Stories: Apartment communities leading the way in water circularity

3. Mobility Matters: Smarter, Cleaner Commutes

Why it matters: Bengaluru's traffic woes need citizen-led shifts in how we move.

Topics to cover:

- EVs in Apartments: Charging infra, policies, and shared models
- Public Transport Access: First/last-mile solutions and BMTC integration
- Carpooling & MaaS Platforms: Digital tools for shared mobility
- Safe Streets for All: Pedestrian safety, cycling, and inclusive design
- Citizen Action: How RWAs can influence mobility planning

4. Sustainable Energy: Solar for Apartments

Why it matters: Rooftop solar can cut bills and carbon footprints—but adoption needs clarity and support.

Topics to cover:

- Rooftop Solar Basics: Feasibility, sizing, and savings
- Financing Models: CAPEX vs RESCO, subsidies, and payback periods
- Maintenance & Monitoring: Ensuring long-term performance
- Net Metering & BESCOM Processes: What RWAs need to know
- Case Studies: Apartments that made solar work

5. Urban Farming: Grow What You Eat, Together

Why it matters: Rooftop and terrace gardens can boost nutrition, biodiversity, and community bonding.

Topics to cover:

- Getting Started: Soil vs hydroponics, crop choices, and layout
- Community Farming Models: Shared spaces and collective care
- Compost & pesticides: Closing the loop with kitchen waste, minimizing usage of pesticides
- Health & Nutrition: Growing greens for your family
- Support Systems: Training, seeds, and city-level initiatives

6. Healthy Cities & Healthy Communities: Urban Health for All

Why it matters: Our built environment affects physical and mental health—especially in dense urban settings.

Topics to cover:

- Environmental quality: Tackle indoor and outdoor pollution (air, water, noise, heat) to reduce respiratory, cardiovascular, and mental health burdens.
- Active planning and design: Prioritize walkability, green space, and safe non-motorized transport to prevent sedentary lifestyles and curb NCDs.
- One Health and vector control: Integrate human, animal, and environmental actions to prevent vector-borne diseases (dengue, malaria, etc) and zoonoses (rabies, leptospirosis, flu, etc)
- Preventive health: Awareness about vaccines and screening programs
- Health Equity: Supporting vulnerable residents (elderly, children, domestic workers)
- Emergency Preparedness: First aid, fire safety, and health helplines

Duration: 6 months – Monthly one lecture (4th Saturday of every month starting from Jan 2026)

Venues: Seating Capacity of 200, possible venues include

1. IISc Bengaluru
2. Science Gallery Bengaluru
3. JN Planetarium
4. Visvesvaraya Museum Auditorium
5. Town Hall
6. Bangalore International Convention Centre

Format: In-person sessions combined with high-quality online streaming.

Structure: Moderated 40-min presentation or panel discussion followed by 30-min Q&A.

Primary Audience: BAF Members and Residents and General Public (Responsibility: BAF)

Secondary Audience: Urban Policy Experts, Local Government Officials, Start-ups with solutions for civic issues, NGOs and CSR representatives interested in science & society.

Speakers:

Relevant speakers will be identified by BeST from its stakeholder network. BAF could also suggest speakers and the final decision will be based on mutual agreement.

Expected Outputs:

1. The ultimate, tangible output of this six-episode program is the creation of **"Science to Society: Handbook for Sustainable Urban Living,"** compiling all lecture insights and practical takeaways into a resource for the general public.
2. Six recorded lectures as permanent learning resources for the general public.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Improved scientific literacy and technical confidence to enable the communities to make informed decisions.
2. Foster adoption of new technologies and scientific practices by the communities that could lead to improved sustainability metrics.
3. Strengthen BAF's evidence-based policy advocacy efforts with city governance.