

New environment policy on the cards

Special Correspondent

BANGALORE: When the larger metropolitan area of Greater Bangalore comes into being, along with a larger population may come more work for pollution control officials.

A problem already felt and may get replicated in several new townships may be of residential zones getting commercialised, with or without the permission of the authorities. The phenomenon of makeshift automobile repair

garages and "lathe shops" coming up in areas such as Shantinagar in the city may create new problems for the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

There may be an answer at hand with the board, along with other civic agencies, expected to come out with a broad Greater Environment Policy soon.

Drafting policy

There will be a policy-making team comprising experts

from the areas of environment and ecology, heads of civic agencies, public utilities and senior bureaucrats.

The team is likely to be headed by Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Board and former Chief Secretary A. Ravindra. A framework for the new policy is being finalised and it will be drafted by the board. It will take final shape after individual team members submit their reports, listing out the city's environmental risks and

possible remedies. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board and its counterpart Greater Bangalore Water Supply Board have shown keen interest in being involved as the major stake-holders.

The new comprehensive pollution control policy is also expected to help enforcement agencies exercise more control over polluters in residential areas converted into commercial areas, with or without official sanction.