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DC | Amit S. Upadhye | 22nd Apr 2013



Visitors at an exhibition on the eve of Earth Day organised by Green Path Foundation at Dollars Colony in Bengaluru on Sunday. —KPN

Bengaluru: Increased electricity consumption and unplanned development of Namma Bengaluru could be the reason for high temperatures in the city in recent years, reveals a report by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The report 'Spatial patterns of Greenhouse Gas emissions due to domestic energy consumption in Greater Bangalore' shows that about 24 wards in Bengaluru are consuming 100% more than the average electricity consumption in the rest of the city. This is mainly due to high-rise buildings and unplanned development which is concentrated in a few areas.

The report includes an understanding of household energy consumption patterns and corresponding carbon dioxide emissions due to different household activities. It maps trends in CO2 emission in the urban household sector of different wards of Greater Bengaluru.

"An average Bengalurean consumes roughly about 350-400 units of electricity per year. But about 24 wards have recorded consumption of 4,000 units per year/person due to increased number of glass buildings which do not suit the climate of Bengaluru. In fact, these buildings are contributing most to increased green houses gases (GHG)," said Dr T V Ramachandra, head of the Energy and Wetland Research Group, IISc, who headed the survey.

"Carbon dioxide (accounting for nearly 77% of total global CO2 equivalent) is the dominant GHG causing global warming. Energy consumption constitutes one of the important sources of carbon dioxide emission and requires understanding of consumption patterns to mitigate emissions. A total of 1,967 households reflecting diverse socio-economic patterns were surveyed from different wards to understand the electricity consumption in the city," Dr Ramachandra added.

"The domestic sector is major consumer and contributes large extent to the total energy use. Bengaluru has abundant solar energy available for almost 11 months of the year and this needs to be trapped.

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Using clean energy for low-end energy inefficient activities, necessitates energy auditing in the household sector," Dr Ramachandra added.

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