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## UK Malayalis ready to clean up Kerala's mess

M K Sunil Kumar, TNN Apr 2, 2012, 06:35AM IST

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KOCHI: The UK Kerala Business Forum, based in [London](#), has offered to set up plants in the state to convert waste into bioethanol, which can be used for various commercial needs including power generation.

The Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs) are ready to shell out around Rs 1200 crore, which is between 80 to 90% of the project cost. "The UK Kerala Forum has submitted a proposal to the government. We have handed it over to the department concerned," chief minister [Oommen Chandy](#) confirmed to TOI.

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According to the Forum, the project will convert around 360,000 tonnes of solid waste, collected from various parts of the state, into 97,200,000 litres of bioethanol a year so as to garner an annual revenue of around Rs 388 crore.

Besides allotting land for the Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) project, the state government should pump in the remaining 10 to 20% of the total cost. The project is also expecting an additional income of around Rs 90 crore from the sale of byproducts such as carbon dioxide for industrial purposes and other recycled material.

Once the state government gives its nod for the project, project can be implemented within 24 months.

"We are planning to pump in around Rs 1,129 crore for the project. It can be a single centralised plant in Kochi or Thiruvananthapuram which can cater to the needs of the entire state. It can be decentralised plants in every district as well. It is up to the state government to take a decision on such matters," said Sujit S Nair, chief coordinator of the Forum. At a cost of Rs 1,055 crore, a pair of Vantage Waste Processors (VWPs) will be set up. Unsorted, unsegregated waste will be put into VWPs and treated at an elevated temperature using saturated steam in a continuous, rotating drum incorporating a helix screw, contained within an insulated chamber. Then plastic and metal wastes will be segregated from the biomass. In the final stage sugar will be distilled to produce ethanol fuel. Ethanol can be used for generating electricity.

"The plant will be designed to incorporate ten high speed electricity gas turbines which will be powered by the bio ethanol produced from the processed biomass utilizing state-of-the-art technology," Nair explained.

The project is expected to become profitable within six and a half years after repaying the capital investment and interest on it. On completion of the BOOT period of 25 years, the plants will be handed over to the state government. UK Trade and Investment, the official trade promotion agency of the British government, is also supporting this endeavor.

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**Readers' opinions (110)**Sort by: [Newest](#) | [Oldest](#)**K.V. Chandran** (Mumbai)

03 Apr, 2012 05:52 PM

What a pity!! The Keralites are living on foreign money and the present life style and living condition (boosted as best among the country) is all due to the Keralites working outside Kerala and abroad . Now the Keralites want NRK (a new term for people working abroad ??) to help garbage disposal also? what's Oommen chandy and Achu.. doing? Can't they not sweep the street ? or they are sitting there to enjoy the hard earned money of Keralites pouring from outside Kerala.

**Jose T** (Kochi)

02 Apr, 2012 04:28 PM

Keralal government do not have the vision or will to do such community beneficial projects. This should be sanctioned and land allocated and handed over to the the UK group exclusively for the proposed waste managemnt purpose only. Similarly, trust some group with fund will come up for water management. Harvest water during rainy season and distribute same to all after due purification. Use all exsiting tanks, ponds; build check dams every 2 kilometres, build micro turbines to produce electricity at village level for distribution within that area. Self help by villagers and municipality will make kerala an excess power state if political direction is provided. Empower production and distribution of electricity to all who can and let KSEB make and distribute what they produce. Remove the monopoly from KSEB

**Peter** (Singapore)

02 Apr, 2012 01:14 PM

Here's wishing this project a speedy completion. Hope the political spectrum will keep their hands off the project, pave the way for some development in real terms (remember the waste treatment plant erected in Cochin just a few years ago and never managed to treat even 1 kg of waste, instead the Mayor and a bunch of rogues toured the globe on its account and still has been taken to task for their inactions), hope the business community will co-operate to ensure its success (remember how one individual managed to almost derail the metro project in Cochin. The whole state is now a garbage dump, so a project like this will be THE solution for more than half of the state's problems.

**Wellwisher** (India)

02 Apr, 2012 12:24 PM

After reading so many views, I appreciate the uk kearalities for their initiative and wish their idea to be a grand success. And for those who want to encourage regionalism and castism, please dont use such public sites to promote your ideas. No matter which language we speak or which state we belong to, or which religion we follow. We are Indians and we must be proud of it. Because united we stand, divided we fall.

**Anand Shreekar** (USA)

02 Apr, 2012 10:58 AM

I am not sure why there are so many negative comments on such a nice proposal. Let us not spit our personal frustration by blogging on TOI. If anybody has better ideas they should submit a proposal with funding. Otherwise let some good work be done. Do you think everybody on this earth is corrupt except the people blogging on TOI?

**gurdeep kour venu** (Trivandrum) replies to K.V. Chandran

05 Apr, 2012 01:33 PM

how can u be so rudely speaking , being a malayalee urself

**Anonymous** (London) replies to Peter

02 Apr, 2012 02:39 PM

Has anybody EVER given a thought on HOW such waste is generated in the first place. Stop using PLASTICS. Stop using fertilizers which are ripping the land of all its nutrients. Stop creating products which are not bio-degradable or create obnoxious by-products. AND finally stop living in bird-nests (flats)! Once we have these in place, cleaning up the waste created can be taken up as a one off exercise.

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