



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Entrepreneurs - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to introduce a kaleidoscope of circular enterprises in this edition of the EkoCalendar. These enterprises have discovered businesses that have struck a balance between social impact and profitability. Entrepreneurship frequently plays a pivotal role in diminishing economic inequalities and fostering a cohesive social tapestry within the implicated local communities. Therefore, when inclusive, circular entrepreneurship makes a huge difference in addressing the sustainability challenges we face today.

Circular businesses prioritise reuse, repurposing, recycling, refurbishing and remanufacturing, thereby promoting responsible consumption. In the realm of such businesses, enterprises often grapple with multifaceted challenges, including carving their idea into a sustainable business model and communicating the positive impact they are creating to society. Convincing the investors is yet another challenge. Entrepreneurs leading these businesses, therefore, need careful mentoring and handholding in their journey and guidance in navigating the complexities of sustainability, innovation, and market dynamics. This is precisely where the synergy between the Environmental Management Centre's (EMC) practice experience and Ekonnnect's commitment to capacity-building becomes pivotal. EMC's expertise in providing circular and sustainable solutions through multi-stakeholder engagement seamlessly flows into Ekonnnect, where the intent to build and enhance capacities converges, ultimately nurturing enterprises to realise their aspirations and actualise their dreams.

Within the EkoCalendar's pages, meet 12 enterprises that pioneered circular and socially impacting solutions that received Ekonnnect's mentorship and hand-holding. However, remember that these enterprises are not the undisputed best or exclusive; they are only a vibrant showcase of possibilities of circular businesses. Each enterprise tells a story, and within their narratives lies the inspiration for a sustainable and inclusive future.

May this EkoCalendar inspire and plant seeds for a more circular, sustainable and equitable tomorrow. Challenge us, work with us and help us in our journey to promote eco-entrepreneurship globally.

We wish you a year filled with hope and positivity. Let us all make a difference.

Dr. Prasad Modak

Managing Director, Environmental Management Centre Pvt. Ltd.
Director, Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 01 - Global Family Day
- 04 - EMC's 28th Birthday
- 16 - National Startup Day
- 26 - Republic Day & International Environmental Education Day



Upcycled in India

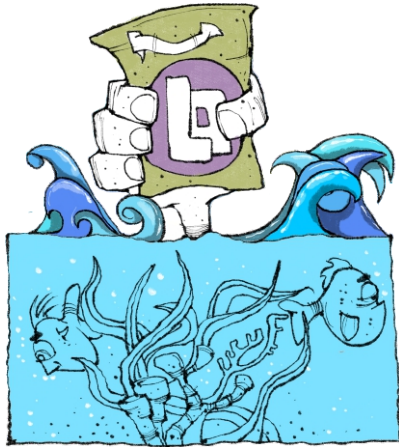


Dwij, translating to 'second life' in Sanskrit, envisions delivering ethically crafted, low-waste, upcycled denim products to every household. As a proud "upcycled in India" brand, it rescues post-consumer jeans from landfills to make utility accessories such as bags, totes, handmade toys, handmade jewellery, home decor, etc. Since 2018, Dwij has upcycled 8,000+ pairs of jeans, 1,800 metre of post-industrial denim, and 500 metre of recycled PET felt fabric. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

- 02 - World Wetlands Day
- 20 - World Day of Social Justice
- 27 - World Sustainable Energy Day

 zerocircle Ocean-safe materials for a plastic-free future

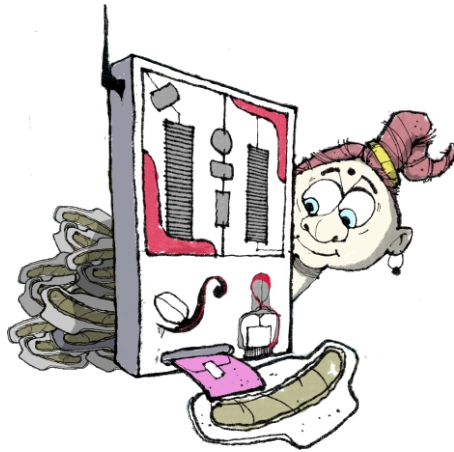


'Zerocircle Alternatives' manufactures ocean-safe, bio-digestible and 100% home-compostable alternatives for traditional plastic. This innovation is considered 'Ocean Positive' because it uses seaweed that sequesters carbon, and its use employs coastal communities that are vulnerable to climate change. Besides, Zerocircle uses 'green and clean chemistry' to make the products bio-degradable. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

08 - International Women's Day

14 - International Day of Action for Rivers

18 - Global Recycling Day

22 - World Water Day | Leveraging Water for Peace

 **padcare** Transforming lives, one pad at a time.



Pioneering change, PadCare transforms lives with the world's first sanitary napkin recycling technology. Padcare aims to deliver sustainable menstrual hygiene solutions to every menstruator in societies, institutions, and corporates. Each kilogram of recycled pads saves 20 Ltr of landfill waste and 2.14 Kg of CO2 equivalent. So far, it has helped over 100,000 girls and women and recycled 50 MT of sanitary waste. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

05 - Walk to Work Day

22 - Earth Day

28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work



Live Like Local; Travel to Impact



NotOnMap links the travel industry with marginalised Indian villages, leveraging skill development and productising untapped cultural heritage to empower locals and minimise migration. This tech-enabled initiative connects communities with researchers, explorers, and travellers, contributing to community development. Impacting 50K+ lives across 15+ Indian states, it revives old houses, traditional cuisines, and arts, fostering a cultural renaissance. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 14 - World Fairtrade Day
- 17 - Endangered Species Day
- 22 - International Day for Biodiversity

 **recycleX** Decarbonizing Construction

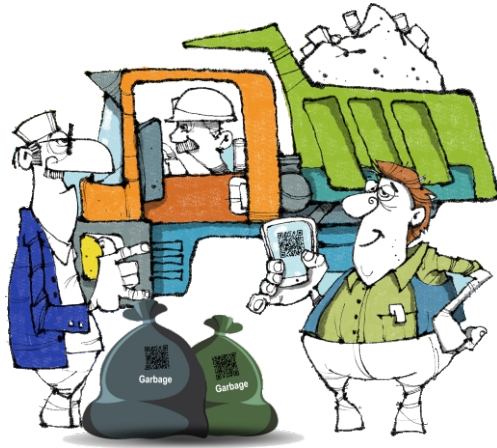


RecycleX is a groundbreaking initiative that repurposes plastic waste to eradicate cement from concrete. RecycleX's versatile Eco-Concrete has 80% less carbon footprint than traditional concrete and recycles plastic waste simultaneously. Every recycled brick saves about 0.3 Kg of CO2 and 0.09 sq. mt. of fertile soil land. These bricks are being utilised in affordable housing projects, effectively reducing construction costs by up to 5% while meeting the required standards. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- 03 - World Bicycle Day
- 05 - World Environment Day
- 08 - World Ocean's Day
- 15 - Global Wind Day



No Waste Shall Go Wasted



Bintix Waste Research is a waste-tech company advancing towards a 'zero waste to landfill' future by maximising waste value through technology. Ensuring compliance with waste segregation at source, waste traceability, and value creation from data analytics, it has reached 30K+ households, collected ~2.5 Mn Kgs of waste, averting ~8.5 Mn Kg CO2e emissions, and generated 140 jobs. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 03 - International Plastic Bag Free Day
- 12 - World Paper Bag Day
- 28 - World Nature Conservation Day

WITHOUT. Reimagining waste and poverty for good



WITHOUT transforms impossible-to-recycle layers from waste chip packets into high-quality, recyclable products like sunglasses. WITHOUT actively supports the livelihoods of waste pickers, facilitating a 2X increase in income, providing healthcare insurance, and supporting their children's education. Besides, it helps reduce the litter caused by single-use plastic and the waste flow to the landfill. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

09 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

12 - International Youth Day

15 - Independence Day

20 - National Renewable Energy Day

 **ecolastic®** Goodbye Plastic! Change the World With ECOLASTIC

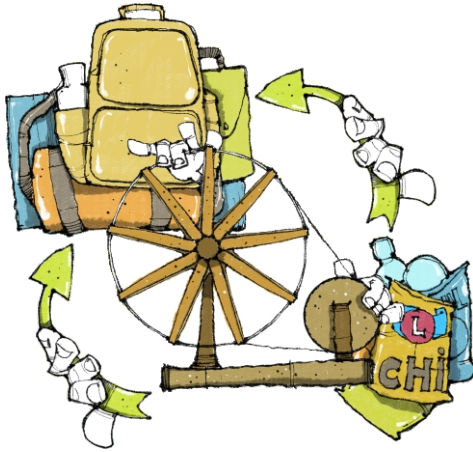


Ecolastic specialises in manufacturing and supplying an extensive range of eco-friendly compostable products, including films, carry bags, garbage bags, pouches, courier bags, garment bags, plant bags, gloves, and head caps. It offers an alternative to single-use plastic polyethylene/polypropylene bags without compromising functionality and properties. Ecolastic products are applicable across various sectors and can be decomposed at home or through composting. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 07 - International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
- 16 - International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 20 - Ekonnnect's 12th Birthday!
- 26 - World Environmental Health Day



Upcycled and Handwoven in India, with pride

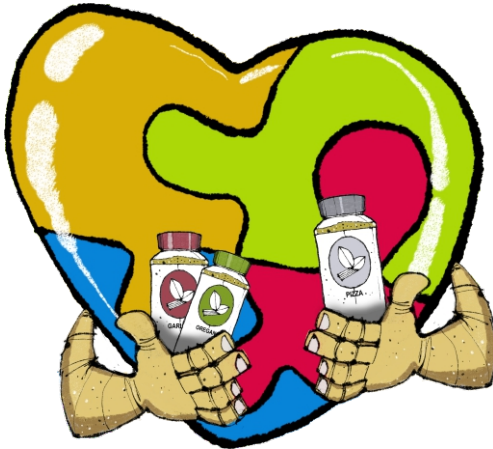


reCharkha EcoSocial creates livelihood opportunities for our tribal Women and Youth as they manually weave fabric from waste plastic using a traditional charkha (Spindle) and handloom. The fabric is used to make consumer products such as handbags, fashion accessories, office utilities and home decor. Over the last eight years, reCharkha generated a revenue of approx. ₹ 6.7 Cr and upcycled around 3.1 Mn plastic bags and wrappers, reducing litter and waste to landfills. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



Social innovation for food!

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

07 - World Habitat Day

13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction

14 - International E-Waste Day

24 - International Day of Climate Action



Auspice Social is a purpose-driven social enterprise pursuing meaningful profits. Auspice produces 55 varieties of Naturally Dried Culinary Herbs, Seasonings, and Spices. All Auspice products are cleaned, sorted, packaged and labelled by persons with autism. Auspice provides hands-on training and skill development to adults with autism. Auspice thus offers an opportunity for gainful employment to someone with autism and strengthens their ability to contribute to society. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

10 - World Public Transport Day

14 - World Usability Day

26 - World Sustainable Transport Day



Step Towards Sustainability



Greensole crafts sustainable, vegan shoes using in-house materials like coffee, Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA), and parts of old shoes, offering upcycling solutions. While upcycling about 0.58 Mn used shoes and apparel into slippers and bags, Greensole has employed over 100 people, creating jobs in upcycling and retail. Going above and beyond, it has provided footwear, bags, and mats to children in need. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Circular Enterprises - Ekonnnect's Kaleidoscope



December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 05 - World Soil Day
- 05 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 14 - National Energy Conservation Day
- 18 - International Migrants Day



Extracting What Matters



Mini Mines is a prominent lithium-ion battery resource recovery company dedicated to sustainable solutions for end-of-life lithium-ion batteries. Utilising the proprietary Hybrid Hydrometallurgy™ process, it achieves zero emissions. This process recovers up to 96% of all materials from lithium-ion batteries, exceeding 99% purity and recovering critical materials like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper. This approach lessens the environmental impact and fosters a circular economy towards resource security. Do you wish to know more? Scan the QR.



EkoCalendar 2024

Eco Entrepreneurship - Our Mission and the Passion



As we bid farewell to another year, let us reflect on the growing interest in eco-innovations, sustainability and responsible finance. At the heart of this reflection is the Environmental Management Centre (EMC), a sustainability consulting organisation with a mission that predates the current sustainability wave by more than 28 years. EMC's mission, 'Practicing Sustainability to the Advantage of All,' was crafted when sustainability was not the popular 'buzz' as it is today.

In 2012, Ekonnnect Knowledge Foundation was born as a Section 8, not-for-profit company focusing on raising awareness, imparting training, influencing education, and mentoring entrepreneurship. Apart from several community-based and corporate-supported initiatives in these arenas, Ekonnnect came up with ideas that were the first of its kind. The initiatives included designing and organising hackathons on waste management and circular solutions, conducting master classes on circular economy and international leadership programs, and mentoring eco-entrepreneurs. These engagements reflect our commitment to continuous knowledge sharing, promoting eco-innovations, building on our experience and staying connected.

Established in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and founded by UN bodies, SEED has been an active catalyst in promoting eco-entrepreneurship worldwide. Since 2013, SEED has been a crucial player in India's transition to a low-carbon and green economy. In 2023, Ekonnnect became the SEED India Hub. Armed with SEED's training toolkits and EMC's practice experience, Ekonnnect looks forward to partnering with Government bodies in their various innovation-related schemes, engaging with corporates to tap their CSR funds to strengthen the eco-innovation ecosystem and helping universities embed eco-entrepreneurship to complement their education programmes.

We cordially invite you to explore our mission, passion and capability by scanning the QR code and signing up for our newsletter.



Team, EMC and Ekonnnect.

