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# Now, corp banks on NIIST to manage waste

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Thiruvananthapuram: Offering a solution to the garbage issue in the city, CSIR's National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) has developed an anaerobic digester to convert household organic kitchen waste to biogas. The technology will be utilized by the city corporation as part of its 'My City, Beautiful City' drive. A company based in Pune had approached the NIIST for the technology transfer and it was handed over on Monday.

The technology was developed by the NIIST team led by senior scientist V B Manilal. "Each anaerobic digester has a capacity to convert up to 3kg biodegradable kitchen waste per day, which will be converted to 400 litre biogas which can be used as fuel. In the process it will discharge about 2.5 litre manure which can be used for kitchen garden. It would cost around Rs 25,000," Manilal said.

It will be available for purchase at two centres in the city - at Poojapura and at Pappanamcode.

Mayor V K Prasanth, who visited NIIST and personally examined the equipment, said that this technology will be a great help to the corporation for its venture of clearing the waste at source level.

"Biodegradable waste from kitchen contribute significantly to pollution, which demands immediate management and

treatment. Treatment of biodegradable waste in traditional aerobic digester creates foul smell and leachate discharge. A refined household wastes treatment mechanism is the need of the hour since the present municipal treatment plants suffer from many demerits. Therefore, anaerobic digester of NIIST is a suitable option for the effective treatment of biodegradable wastes at source," said NIIST director A Ajayaghosh.

On Monday, the anaerobic digester technology of NIIST was transferred to Pune-based Mailhem Ikos Environment Pvt Ltd, a global waste management conglomerate offering customized solutions in solid waste and waste water treatment and management. The company plans to develop the product at its unit in about two months.

O Rajagopal, MLA, and ward councillor Vijayan were present at the function held at NIIST on Monday to transfer the technology.