



News

Let's Regreen our Cities Vertically

Urban areas almost always come at the expense of natural environments. Where clusters of houses rise and stand ever thicker on the ground in densely populated urban areas, trees and vegetation invariably disappear with nothing but little parks remaining here and there as beleaguered little vestiges of green. A case in point for this state of affairs: Kuala Lumpur. Their general absence makes any remaining patches of green highly prized in cities like KL. The problem, of course, is that space is at a premium in densely populated cities, especially in downtown areas, and so grass, trees and shrubs cannot but lose out to stone, steel and glass in competition for it. But greenery can make a comeback even in the densest urban clusters of skyscrapers and high-rises. That is because even if vegetation does not have much space to grow horizontally in a landscape dominated by asphalt and stone, it can be allowed to re-grow vertically – on the side of buildings, that is. By retrofitting buildings with vegetation (such as in the style of hanging vines), we can make cities a whole lot greener – both literally and figuratively. [Read more...](#)

Date: 09 October 2016**Source:** <http://cleanmalaysia.com>**PDA chops precious Shisham trees for ongoing expansion of University Road**

PESHAWAR: A number of the precious Shisham (Indian Rose Wood) trees have been raised to the ground in the ongoing expansion of the University Road by the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) in the provincial capital. A total of 89 small and large trees, including at least 45 to 50 mature Shisham trees adjacent to the boundary walls of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar (BISEP) and Islamia College University Peshawar (ICUP) have been chopped down by the workers busy in the expansion of an extra lane on both sides of the three-lane road that is often jammed due to heavy traffic, especially during school and office hours. After the directives of the provincial government, the PDA resorted to widening the road in order to ease the traffic on the road. An expansion of one lane each meant clearing of all hurdles including trees, small plants and shrubs. "No one would like to cut beautiful and historical trees but since the widening of the road is necessary, these trees have to be chopped down according to the government policy. However, we were able to shift small plants to new locations for replantation," said Mian Muhammad Shakil, Director Horticulture with the PDA. Muhammad Shakil added that the large trees on the sides of all main roads are the property of the forest department. "Forest department was requested by the government to cut the trees that could not be moved to new locations. These were 89 in total and the government has already paid money to the forest department for plantation of new trees in return for the removed trees," he explained. [Read more...](#)

Date: 04 October 2016**Source:** <http://dailytimes.com.pk>**5 lakh shrubs planted this year, but pollution fight lags**

NEW DELHI: With numerous initiatives to make the capital greener, the Delhi government has already crossed another target — planting 5 lakh shrubs this year to combat air pollution naturally. On World Environment day, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced a target of planting 10 lakh trees and 5 lakh shrubs this year in a bid to improve the green cover in the capital. Greening agencies have already planted 8 lakh shrubs and over 6 lakh trees in different divisions and zones, falling under agencies like NDMC, DJB, North Corporation, environment department and others. Forest officials attributed good monsoon to the high plantation numbers. "We have carried out a majority of these plantations during the monsoon where the survival rate is the highest," said a senior forest official. Earlier in the year, the Delhi government had launched a 'greening Delhi' drive to address the problem of dust and air pollution. However, experts feel dust pollution has still not come under control, as a lot of stretches are not maintained. [Read more..](#)

Date: 11 October 2016**Source:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>**Barnet wins Mayor of London's official accreditation for work towards cleaner air throughout the borough**

Barnet is on its way to having some of the cleanest air in London, according to the findings which saw the borough awarded for its efforts to fight pollution. The Cleaner Air Borough accreditation, awarded to boroughs which effectively monitor and reduce air pollution, is part of the Mayor of London's Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) framework. It was given to Barnet Council last week for "effectively monitoring and reducing air pollution" with its environmental team, managed by Regional Enterprise (Re). LLAQM is used by local authorities to review and improve air quality within their areas, designed to specifically meet London's needs. Councillor Dean Cohen, chair of the environment committee, said: "We are very pleased our hard work to keep Barnet's air clean has paid off." "Air pollution obviously affects the health of everyone who lives in, works in or visits our borough. "This is why our work in this area is vital and we will continue to do our best to keep the air as clean as possible." The council was praised for its work involving schools and the local public through the Air Quality Champion scheme, which is run jointly with Harrow Council. [Read more...](#)

Date: 10 October 2016**Source:** <http://www.borehamwoodtimes.co.uk>**The Big Read: Chinese village clean-tech to the world, where trees die and water is polluted**

At night, the pollution around the village has an otherworldly, almost fairy-tale quality. "The air sparkles," said Zhang Tuling, a farmer in a village in far northeastern China. "When any bit of light hits the particles, they shine." By daylight, the particles are visible as a lustrous gray dust that settles on everything. It stunts the crops it blankets, begrimes laundry hung outside to dry and leaves grit on food. The village's well water has become undrinkable, too. Beside the family home is a plot that once grew saplings, but the trees died once the factory began operating, said Zhang's husband, Yu Yuan. "This is what we live with," Zhang said, slowly waving an arm at the stumps. Zhang and Yu live near a factory that produces graphite, a glittery substance that, while best known for filling pencils, has become an indispensable resource in the new millennium. It is an ingredient in lithium-ion batteries. Smaller and more powerful than their predecessors, lithium batteries power smartphones and laptop computers and appear destined to become even more essential as companies make much larger ones to power electric cars. [Read more...](#)

Date: 03 October 2016**Source:** <http://www.nzherald.co.nz>

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