

## Title of the Practice 2

Building a Sustainable Future: Transforming Plastic Waste into "Eco Bricks"

### Objectives of the Practice

- **Plastic waste reduction:** By compacting single-use plastic into eco bricks, our objective is to divert plastic waste from household, landfills and waterways, mitigating its long decomposition period.
- **Environmental awareness and educational opportunities:** Through the practice of eco bricking, students and staff develop a deeper understanding of the environmental impact of plastic waste and its management.
- **Community involvement:** Encouraging unity and cooperation among students, faculty and society.
- **Sustainable infrastructure:** Utilizing eco bricks, college aims to construct diverse structures such as benches, planters, and small installations, reducing the demand for conventional building materials with a higher environmental footprint.

### The Context:

The Eco brick concept involves compacting single-use plastic into dense building materials within plastic bottles. This unique practice in Uttarakhand's higher education promotes sustainability, waste management, and community engagement. By adopting eco bricks, our college addresses the significant environmental concern of single-use plastic waste in India while providing an eco-friendly alternative to traditional construction materials like bricks or concrete.

### The Practice:

After the college administration's decision to ban single-use plastics, teachers initiated a campus-wide cleanup campaign to address polythene waste. With the help of students, plastic waste was collected from the campus, and the idea of eco bricks was introduced. Students were encouraged to collect plastic waste in plastic bottles, leading to a movement that expanded beyond the campus. To support the initiative, interested students/ staff member submit their eco bricks to a designated collection point. For wide spread awareness, resources such as motivational videos, "selfies with my eco brick", video of making eco-brick campaigns, and workshops were organized.

### Evidence of Success:

The initial goal of making our campus polythene-free was swiftly achieved through the implementation of eco bricks. Additionally, the movement expanded to collect plastic waste from beyond the campus, which was transformed into eco bricks. These bricks have been utilized in various applications, such as creating borders for the botanical garden, seating stools in reading rooms, and other innovative projects. Students have embraced the initiative, creating colorful eco bricks as part of their activity. This practice not only contributes to a plastic-free

environment but also instills a sense of community involvement and educates students about the importance of collective action. Overall, making eco brick in our college showcases a unique and forward-thinking approach to sustainability and waste management in higher education in Uttarakhand.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

- Inadequate communication and coordination initially led to confusion and hindered the collection process.
- Limited budgeting
- Variations in eco brick characteristics, such as shape, size, density, and sturdiness, affected their usability.

By addressing these challenges and allocating appropriate resources, our eco brick initiative can continue to thrive, making significant contributions to sustainable waste management and environmental conservation

### **Supporting document**

Eco brick made by the students





Structures made from eco brick

