

AEPC to promote 'waste to energy'

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Waste management has always been a headache for the Valley residents, while energy and power crisis are the bitter everyday realities. Amid this, a government body has come up with an idea to solve both problems at once by converting waste into energy.

Backed by the recently promulgated new renewable energy subsidy policy, Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) has urged the valley residents, private developers and social sectors to collaborate in 'waste to energy' project it formally launched in the capital on Wednesday.

Until now, only those in rural areas of the country qualified for subsidies regarding renewable energy projects even though the 'waste to energy' is not yet popular in those areas.

"Waste to energy is relatively new concept in Nepal, where possibilities of energy generation from large

amount of waste produced from various sources are being explored for biogas systems for electricity generation," said Samir Thapa, assistant director at AEPC and the project leader. "We feel that this concept has come at the right time. It will offer a good solution to the ever increasing problem of waste management and energy crisis, mainly in the cities," he added.

In a survey conducted by AEPC in 2008, the per-capital household waste generation was found to vary from a range of 0.12 kg to 0.54 kg per day in Nepal. AEPC further records that approximate waste in the Kathmandu district alone to be 400 tons per day.

"The valley has high potential both for bigger and smaller projects. We can generate energy through the waste at industries, health-care centers, army barracks, slaughter houses, hotels, old age homes and so on," Thapa said. "It can be done at a small scale too, covering every household. The segre-

gated waste can be turned into cooking gas."

Thapa added that installing the needed tools to convert waste into gas may cost a family around Rs 35,000, out of which Rs 10,000 would be borne by the government. Subsidy rates would vary depending on whether it is for private or public services.

At the launching of 'waste to energy bazaar' at AEPC center at Khumaltar, Lalitpur on Wednesday, the organizer shared with the attendees the government policies, time tested technologies and business models that are supposed to be marketable and replicable in the Nepal.

Meanwhile, with an aim to make the idea of 'waste to energy' more popular, the organizer has also sought project ideas from enthusiasts. It has promised to award project development facilities to the most innovative, sustainable and effective project, to be announced in the capital on 26 April.