Metro goes green with clean power, water

The CMRL generates 14,000 units of power every day from the solar panels installed on the rooftops, officials said. “The stations are designed to reflect functional aesthetics, user friendliness, and energy efficiency. Around 33.5 per cent of representative energy shall be fed back to the grid. We are expecting to achieve an Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) of more than 14.22 per cent.”

This is not all. The network management is also saving water by recycling. The Metro Rail administration and depot buildings are utilizing recycled water from the 180 kiloliters per day (KLD) sewage treatment plant for various purposes.

To ensure efficient water management, water efficient toilet fittings have been utilized. For instance, the taps are fitted with aerators to reduce the flow of water, and thus save nearly 60 per cent of water. “We are proud that various innovative measures are under taken by CMRL when compared to other Metro networks across the country. We wanted to put the tax payer’s money into efficient use,” said another official.

According to the official, there is a non-electrified sewage treatment plant (sewage type) that is already operational at the CMRL station premises. This plant recycles around 5,000 litres of water every day, which is used for gardening. “A similar facility will be installed at Guindy. In all other stations, the water usage is monitored with help of flow meters for economic usage of water,” he noted.

Over the years, the CMRL has introduced alternate modes of transport, including cycles, to improve the last-mile connectivity and encourage eco-friendly transportation. According to the latest data, more than 1.79 lakh metro passengers have used the feeder services to reach their respective destinations, instead of using private vehicles to cover the same distance.

New, going another step forward, the CMRL is planning to extend a discount for the users of e-vehicles at its parking lots. This is aimed at promoting electric vehicles.

“The project moved with an intent that commuters are provided with a well-integrated system comprising of inter-state bus terminal, railway stations and Multi Model Transport System (MMTS) Station. In view of it, from the road in the concourse of ticket counters and back, facilities have been provided in such a way to ensure unhindered flow of pedestrians who use the Metro, and to make the commute a comfortable experience,” added another official.

In a big boost to three efforts, the CMRL Administrative Depot bagged LEED-NC 2009 Gold Certified Build in May last. Based on this method of evaluation, the administrative building depot was awarded 70 out of 110 points, which fetched them the gold rating under LEED 2009 for the New Construction.

“Our Phase 2 Metro stations are also planned to be green rated. It will have elements like rainwater harvest ing, harnessing solar energy, universal access to physically-challenged commuters, last-mile connectivity through non-motorised transport, energy efficient design, and various others. These measures will be integrated at the design stage itself,” said Prasakumar Bhanumathi, the managing director of CMRL.

“Based on the experiences and lessons learnt from the Phase 1, new plans and innovative measures will be implemented in the second phase,” he added.