MANIFESTING CHANGE

BECAUSE THE MOUNTAINS ARE OUR HOME!



2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT

WASTE WARRIORS
REDUCE RE-USE RECYCLE



ABOUT THE COVER: THE COVER CELEBRATES THE SPIRIT OF A MOUNTAIN WARRIOR WHO STRIVES FOR WASTE-FREE MOUNTAINS BY BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION. THE ILLUSTRATION FEATURES A WATER BODY NESTLED AMIDST A MOUNTAINOUS LANDSCAPE, TEEMING WITH DIVERSE LIFEFORMS. IT REMINDS US THAT WE SHARE THIS BEAUTIFUL ECOSYSTEM WITH COUNTLESS OTHER SPECIES, EACH WITH A VITAL PLACE IN NATURE. THE ONLY ELEMENTS THAT SEEM OUT OF PLACE ARE THE FLOATING CHIPS PACKET AND PLASTIC BOTTLES, SERVING AS A STARK REMINDER OF THE THREAT PLASTIC POLLUTION POSES TO THESE PRISTINE ENVIRONMENTS.

HOW MANY ANIMALS AND BIRDS CAN YOU SPOT ON THE COVER?

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"You'll find me in Govind, Uttarkashi.
One of 124 left* in Uttarakhand.
This is supposed to be my stronghold.
But it's changing: Snow is melting faster.
Also, 15 tonnes of waste, every month,
and very low amount of it leaves...burned,
buried, or eaten by my prey.
You won't see me near the trash.
My prey will. And what they eat, I eat.
This is still my mountain.



*SOURCE: Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) report published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

ABOUT WASTE WARRIORS

Waste Warriors Society is a non-profit organisation working to address the solid waste management crisis in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). Operating across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Waste Warriors focuses on eco-sensitive and high-tourism geographies where conventional waste models fail due to terrain, seasonality, and governance constraints.

The organisation works as a systems catalyst, partnering with Gram Panchayats, district administrations, local entrepreneurs, and communities to design waste management models that are locally owned, financially viable, and context-appropriate.

Waste Warriors' work is built around four core pillars:

- Community Engagement and Behaviour Change
- Systems and Infrastructure Strengthening
- Governance and Livelihood Integration
- Youth-Led Movement for Climate Action

Rather than operating parallel systems, Waste Warriors integrates waste management into existing local governance frameworks, enabling systems to continue beyond individual project timelines. Its interventions span rural and urban areas, pilgrimage routes, tourism hubs, and protected landscapes across the Indian Himalayan Region. By strengthening responsible waste management, our work contributes to climate mitigation while supporting the conservation of vulnerable and endangered species and the delicate balance of Himalayan ecosystems. Through these efforts, Waste Warriors seeks to foster a more sustainable and harmonious coexistence between communities and the environment.



In remote Himalayan landscapes, inadequate waste management infrastructure makes the challenge urgent and deserving of our attention. The Himalayan Cleanup's 2024 campaign found that 70% of collected plastics were non-recyclable and had little to no market value, underscoring the need for decentralised infrastructure, sustained public support and solutions suited to the realities of the mountains.

As visionary CEO Vishal Kumar passed the leadership torch to Mayank Sharma, a leader with deep roots in the mountains and a strong belief in the power of people, Waste Warriors entered a new chapter. What remains unchanged is the spirit that has carried us this far: Resilience. Empathy. Curiosity. Integrity. Passion. Enthusiasm.



THE MOUNTAINS THAT SHAPE US &

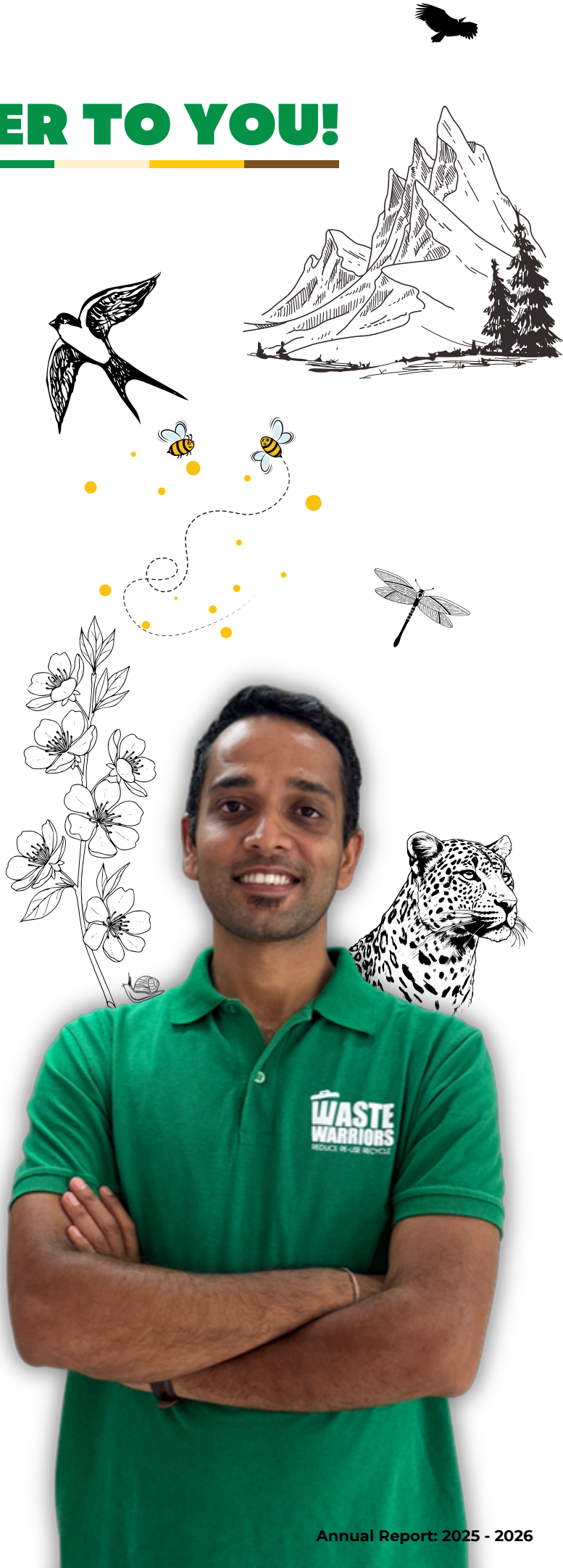
MY FIRST LETTER TO YOU!

I grew up in Purukul, near Dehradun, at the foothills of the Himalayas. My family lived in government housing, and the mountains were part of the landscape I woke up to every day. **I watched a mountain being reshaped to support human activity, only to see nature reshape it again through a landslide.** Wildlife was equally close. Leopards, wild boars, birds, and snakes were part of the world I knew as a child. I did not know then how deeply these experiences would shape my work today.

In 2019, on a trip to Kedarnath and Tungnath with students from Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS), I saw plastic bottles and litter scattered across the mountainous route. Troubled by what I saw, I began picking up the waste. Soon, the students joined me, and together we brought the sack of collected waste down the mountain. **I had not asked anyone to join me. I simply started, and others followed.** That experience stays with me as a reminder that change often begins when someone chooses not to look away.

Since joining Waste Warriors in 2022, I have come to understand the waste crisis more closely, and more deeply. Waste is not just a problem of collection and disposal. It reflects how we consume, how our systems function, and how disconnected we have become from the consequences of our choices. I have seen foxes and jackals scavenging from mixed waste piles near forest boundaries. What we discard carelessly can threaten wildlife, pollute rivers and affect communities living closest to the problem.

A question Vikram Lal, founder of Eicher Motors, posed to me in 2023 echoed something similar: **is waste a problem of human habits or character?** Today, I continue to reflect on that question during the field visits and conversations with our community.



THE MOUNTAINS THAT SHAPE US...

Although my journey at Waste Warriors began with fundraising and the understanding that tackling the waste crisis in a particular geography like our Himalayas requires resources, over time, I learnt that resources alone are not enough. **Lasting impact depends on strong programmes, capable teams, sound systems and an institution that can grow without losing sight of the communities it serves.**

One observation across all our locations in the Himalayas is that people experience the waste crisis differently. Some have lived with dumping for years and are seeking relief. Some local governments recognise the problem but need support to develop practical solutions. Others are already taking action and need the resources, infrastructure and partnerships to sustain it. No two places are the same, and no single solution will work everywhere. **Here, lasting change requires us to understand local realities and bring communities, governments and other partners together to build systems that work.**

As I step into the role of CEO, I carry many more lessons from those who have shaped my professional journey. G. K. Swamy Ji, founder of PYDS, taught me gratitude and service; Vishal taught me to think beyond immediate problems and explore solutions across different levels of a system; and Anshu Gupta of Goonj showed me how action and resourcefulness can drive social change. I am grateful to Jodie, Tashi, Avinash, Meenakshi and everyone who has helped build Waste Warriors into what it is today. Their contributions have given us a strong foundation to build on.

In the past couple of years, we have learnt to work like an **ELEPHANT**, with collective strength, resilience and the ability to move forward. These qualities have shaped who we are and remain central to our work. As we enter a new chapter, we are learning to move like a **HORSE**, bringing greater agility, focus and a willingness to explore new ways of working. This is not about leaving behind what has brought us here, but building on it. So, here are the four priorities that will guide us in this next chapter:

1. **Root ourselves in our Karmabhoomi:** *Build accessible, locally owned waste systems that work for the mountains and their communities.*
2. **Nurture the next generation of Warriors:** *Through YUWA, empower young people to question, participate and lead change.*
3. **Strengthen public systems and partnerships:** *Work with governments to build lasting capacity, ownership and solutions across the Himalayas.*
4. **Take our learnings beyond our projects:** *Turn field experience and research into evidence, stories and knowledge that shape waste management across the Indian Himalayan Region.*

As we turn our progress into lasting systems that serve the Himalayan mountains with love, deepen our connections and build an institution capable of responding to the scale of the waste crisis, we welcome you to stand alongside us as our cheerleaders, with gratitude for your continued support.

Mayank Sharma
CEO, Waste Warriors Society

A NOTE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report, "Manifesting Change", captures not just our manifestation but also the diversity of our growth, which we witnessed in many forms. From campaign designs that brought our work closer to communities to the strengthening of our research work, IEC materials and artwork that made waste easier to understand, we have continued to find new ways to engage and create change. We have expanded our budgets, taken calculated risks, broken records and earned recognition for our work. We have seen our resilient Sakhis in Corbett grow into more promising, enterprising leaders and our programmes expand in scale and ambition, moving towards operational sustainability and dignified livelihoods. Each of these milestones reflects not just what we have achieved, but how we have evolved. As you read this report, I welcome you to discover the people, partnerships and collective efforts that have shaped our journey of change, along with the possibilities that lie ahead as we continue in our spirit of service to the mountains.

WHY THE HIMALAYAN WASTE CRISIS IS DIFFERENT?

Solid waste management is a growing challenge across India, driven by urbanisation, changing consumption patterns, and inadequate infrastructure. **But in the Indian Himalayan Region, the challenge is structurally different.** It is not simply about collecting and processing waste. It is a systems challenge shaped by geography, ecological sensitivity, waste composition, economics and institutional capacity.

The economics become more complex when we consider the nature of the waste. The Himalayan Cleanup's 2024 campaign found that 70% of collected plastics were non-recyclable and had little to no market value. This means material recovery alone cannot sustain waste management systems. Excessive tourism adds further pressure, with destinations such as **Manali, Kempty and Dharamshala** experiencing seasonal spikes in waste generation, while the costs of maintaining collection systems continue throughout the year.

Our work across 11 locations further demonstrates the need for different processing pathways. Between April 2025 and March 2026, we processed 2,498 metric tonnes of waste through recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion and cement co-processing, among other routes. Our preliminary assessment using the US EPA's WARM model **estimated that these interventions avoided approximately 3,809 tonnes of CO_2-equivalent emissions.**

The Himalayan waste crisis, therefore, calls for a different approach to how waste management systems are designed, financed and managed. **This means investing in decentralised infrastructure, reliable processing linkages, stronger local government capacity, sustained public financing and community ownership.** The question is not simply how to manage waste in the mountains, but how to build systems that are operationally viable, ecologically responsible and financially sustainable in the long term. **It requires moving beyond conventional infrastructure-led approaches towards locally adapted solutions that respond to the realities of mountain communities and landscapes.**



~5,000 *tonnes*
waste generated per day in the Indian Himalayan Region



60% +
dumped or burned, due to poor infrastructure



IHR is warming @
an accelerated rate compared to the rest of the planet



~20%
of global methane emissions come from mismanaged waste



OUR APPROACH

Our four programme areas define what we do, while the six models guide how we deliver it on the ground. Together, they help us adapt to local needs, strengthen community ownership and build lasting solutions across our projects.

Rural Waste Management | *Urban Waste Management* | *Community Activation* | *Research & Outreach*

Paryavaran Sakhi Model
Empowering local women to lead waste collection and processing while creating dignified livelihoods, community engagement, and environmental leadership.

Protected Zones
Integrating conservation and waste management in ecologically sensitive areas, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserves.

Local Entrepreneurship
Enabling a local community member to run decentralised waste systems while creating local livelihoods through sustainable waste collection and processing.

YUWA Movement
Nurturing future climate leaders by engaging and empowering youth to drive local climate action and address civic issues through community-led movements.

Hub and Spoke Model
Using core offices as hubs to extend expertise and support to nearby locations, enabling timely, community-led interventions without permanent setups.

Community Engagement
Activating the community stakeholders, including tourists, to participate in local waste management and climate action through shared responsibility.

Our Vision

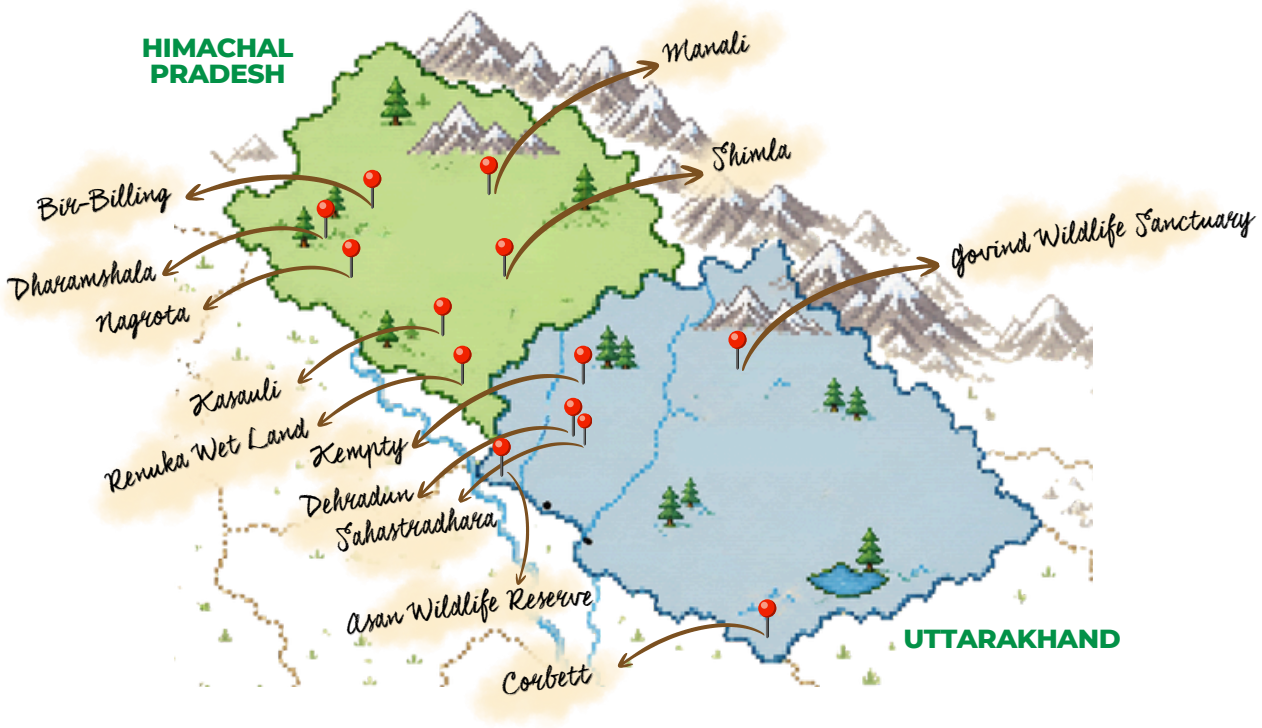
An inclusive, participatory, and sustainable solution for waste management in the eco-sensitive Indian Himalayan Region.

Our Mission

Catalysing systemic change for waste management solutions in the eco-sensitive Indian Himalayan Region.



OUR FOOTPRINT



12+

Locations across Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

10,000+

Metric tonnes of waste diverted from the environment to scientific processing since 2012

200+

Warriors from across India solving the waste crisis in the IHR

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE = PEOPLE + PLACE + SYSTEMS

- Empowering Communities
- Enhancing Infrastructure
- Strengthening Governance
- Promoting Local Entrepreneurship
- Overcoming Social Stigma
- Scaling Through Partnerships



OUR IMPACT

With every Warrior moment, a forest becomes cleaner, wildlife is protected, a child steps up for a future free of open burning, and our community grows stronger to win the war against waste. Our data shows exactly that!

1,935* MT
Waste sent for processing in FY 25-26

*1,935 MT does not include composting data. You will find a different number in the Research section, which includes composting.

135+ MT
carbon emissions reduced

53+ MT
methane emissions reduced

49+
hectares of landfill saved*

4,934
trees saved*

1,18,635
environment-positive climate actions

32,271
days of livelihood generated for Safai Saathi

*A trees saved in waste management measures how many trees are preserved from being cut down when paper, cardboard, or wood waste is recycled or reused.

2,51,300+ ***people engaged to adopt positive waste management practices***

3,000+
volunteers participated

341
public space transformations

923
active citizens

2,193
women trained on menstrual hygiene management

22
waste banks operational

61+ lakh
user fees collected from communities to enabling operations

66+ lakh
in government funds unlocked

1.47+ cr
revenue generated by selling of waste

15,218
household covered by segregated waste collection

6
MRFs operational

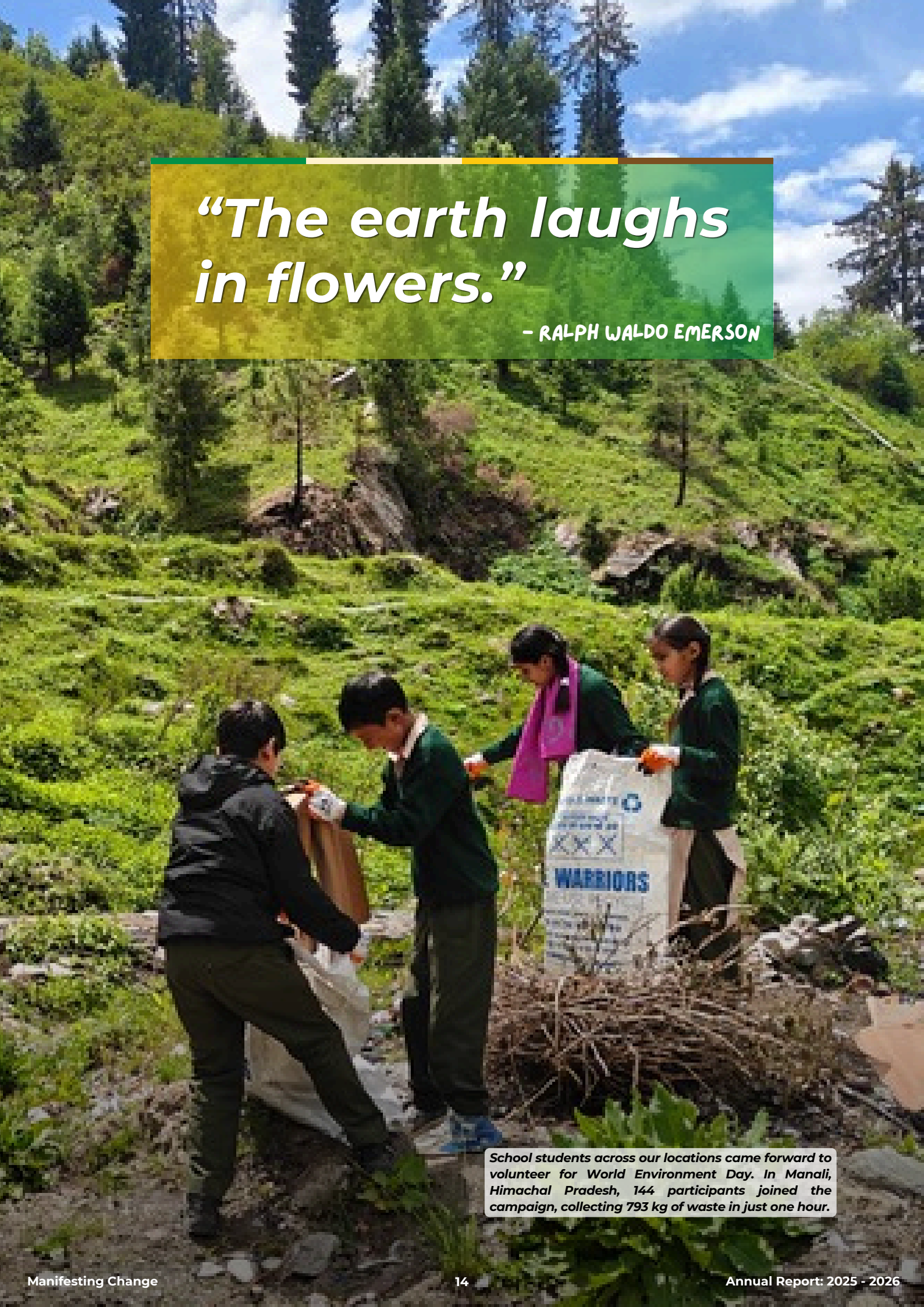
PROJECTS SNAPSHOT

A glimpse into Waste Warriors' work across key locations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, sharing what makes each place unique, the progress we have made, and the communities and livelihoods at the heart of our waste management work.

*TPD = tonnes per day

Locations	Why We Work Here	The Current Status	The Current Impact
Dehradun (Urban & Rural)	Our headquarters and home to one of our longest-running model ward programmes, built on strong partnerships with local governments.	A profitable 3 TPD* Material Recovery Facility (MRF), with high source segregation, the Sahastradhara Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU) and the rural Paryavaran Sakhi model. A hub for our Uttarakhand work and a model for wider adoption.	Reaches 22,800 residents (urban and rural) across 1 ward and 10 Panchayats. Supports 35 workers (40% women) and has generated 24,000+ days of dignified livelihoods over the last two years.
Dharamshala (Urban & Rural)	The birthplace of Waste Warriors, Dharamshala brings together diverse urban and rural communities, cultures and stakeholders. Its identity as Himachal Pradesh's winter capital, a major tourist destination and home to the Tibetan community.	A city-wide partnership with the Municipality, covering all wards; the only 2 TPD local entrepreneurship (LE) owned MRF; expanded rural dry waste operations; and wet waste pilots. Strong partnerships with the Rural Development and Forest Departments, alongside award-winning Panchayats.	Reaches 14000+ residents (urban and rural) across 17 wards and 7 Panchayats. Supports 32 workers (30% women, 60% SC/ST) and has generated 16,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Corbett	A high-biodiversity landscape shaped by its National Park, tourism and commercial activity. Home to our earliest rural waste management model.	A Paryavaran Sakhi model and government-owned MRF, supported by convergence across government departments. Strengthening community participation and expanding household coverage remain key priorities.	Reaches 15,000+ residents across 13 Panchayats. Supports 26 workers (100% women, 39% SC/ST) and has generated 8,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Bir	Paragliding destination, Alternative lifestyle communities, Tibetan settlements, Transition to Nagar Panchayat	A government-supported MRF, over ₹60 lakh in government funding unlocked, a functioning LE model and wet waste collection in partnership with the Hotel Association. Also, works with active citizens on initiatives such as menstrual hygiene awareness with high adoption rate.	Reaches 10,000+ residents across 7 Panchayats. Supports 5 workers (60% women, 83% SC/ST) and has generated 3,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Shimla	The state capital, with strong potential for government partnerships, student engagement and action on tourism-related waste.	In its 2nd year of model building, the project has secured land for an MRF with ₹1 crore in capital investment from Rural Development. Building institutional partnerships and preparing to extend operations to 7+ Panchayats.	Reaches 9,000+ residents across 7 Panchayats. Supports 5 workers (12% women, 62% SC/ST) and has generated 3,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.

Locations	Why We Work Here	The Current Status	The Current Impact
Kempty	A popular waterfall destination very close to Mussoorie hill station with seasonal tourist surges and a high concentration of commercial establishments.	A government-backed model supported by the Zilla Panchayat for capital and operational costs, driven by a strong local entrepreneur, multiple waste banks, and high community ownership. The three key support streams: user fees, collaboration with government agencies, and the sale of recyclables, collectively contribute to achieving 75% financial sustainability.	Reaches 6,000+ residents across 2 Panchayats. Supports 9 workers (8% women, 31% SC/ST) and has generated 6,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Uttarkashi	A remote, low-density landscape along popular trekking routes, with challenging weather and high ecological importance within the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary.	Building a network of waste banks, with land allocated for a PWMU. Engaging local green workers and entrepreneurs, and building partnerships with trekking agencies and the Forest Department.	Reaches 2,500+ residents across 5 Panchayats. Supports 10 workers (60% women, 67% SC/ST) and has generated 3,000+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Manali	A high-altitude destination with cold weather and Himachal Pradesh's highest tourist footfall.	Piloting waste management across select Panchayats, building momentum around local infrastructure and strengthening community support.	Reaches 1,000+ residents across 3 Panchayats. Supports 4 workers and has generated 40+ days of dignified livelihoods in the first year.
Kasauli	A semi-urban hill station with an Army cantonment, a large student community and close links to Chandigarh.	Piloted waste operations in a complex landscape of existing waste vendors. Exploring a transition towards YUWA, while working through the high costs of operations and manpower.	Reaches 16,000+ residents across 4 Panchayats. Supports 9 workers (26% women, 18% SC/ST) and has generated 2,400+ days of dignified livelihoods in two years.
Nagrota	An industrial hub near Dharamshala, where strong government support helped lay the foundation for the programme in late 2025.	In its first year as a full project, transitioning from the Hub and Spoke model and building on an existing PWMU.	Reach and livelihood figures to be determined.
Special Projects (multiple locations)	A space to test new ideas, experiment with emerging models and learn what works across different landscapes.	Piloting low-touch, low-cost approaches at Renuka (religious site) and Asan Wetlands; partnering with trekking agencies; and running periodic waste collection drives through Swachhta Express in Dehradun.	Waste diverted: to be updated.



“The earth laughs in flowers.”

– RALPH WALDO EMERSON

School students across our locations came forward to volunteer for World Environment Day. In Manali, Himachal Pradesh, 144 participants joined the campaign, collecting 793 kg of waste in just one hour.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manifestation is not wishful thinking!
It is the deliberate alignment of intent with action. For Waste Warriors, FY 2025–26 was the year we scaled possibility into lasting progress. **From securing a landmark 3-year MoU with Himachal Pradesh Rural Development and handing over the Dharamshala Urban MRF to the local ecopreneur**, to expanding the YUWA youth movement and executing the **largest mountain cleanup drive to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5**, this year proved what happens when communities and institutions align around a shared vision.

Over 2 billion people rely on the Himalayas, the mountains, for life itself. Yet, the region generates 1.9 million tonnes of waste every year, weighing as much as 900,000 Asian elephants. This is the challenge that our 250+ Warriors, Sakhis, active citizens, youth, and Green Workers/Safai Saathis meet every day across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

And how did we try to address this challenge during 2025–26? We translated our **Roadmap to Sustainability (RtS)** into an active operational framework for waste management in Himalayan villages and towns, stayed motivated by **winning global awards for communication at the ISWA World Conference in Argentina**, and strengthened our role as an enabler in the sector through knowledge-sharing with ecosystem partners in other Himalayan states. And as our visionary CEO, Vishal Kumar, passed the leadership torch to mountain-born leader Mayank Sharma, our team anchored its future in six words: ***Resilience. Empathy. Curiosity. Integrity. Passion. Enthusiasm.***

Organised around the following four levers of our change model, this report offers an earnest look at our journey: the wins, the gaps, and the road ahead.



A young champion quietly leads by example, cleaning her school surroundings during the Largest Mountain Cleanup in Ramnagar, Corbett.



Our Warrior, Angad, represented Waste Warriors at the ISWA World Congress in Argentina, where we brought home two major wins: 1st Prize in Communications and in the Video Category.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Financial Sustainability

The honest truth first!

Responsible waste management in the mountains remains structurally expensive. **We recovered approximately 55% of the overall costs of delivering this work in mountain regions** through recyclable sales, EPR, government support, and user fees. The gap is not a failure. It is the structural reality of doing this work with integrity.

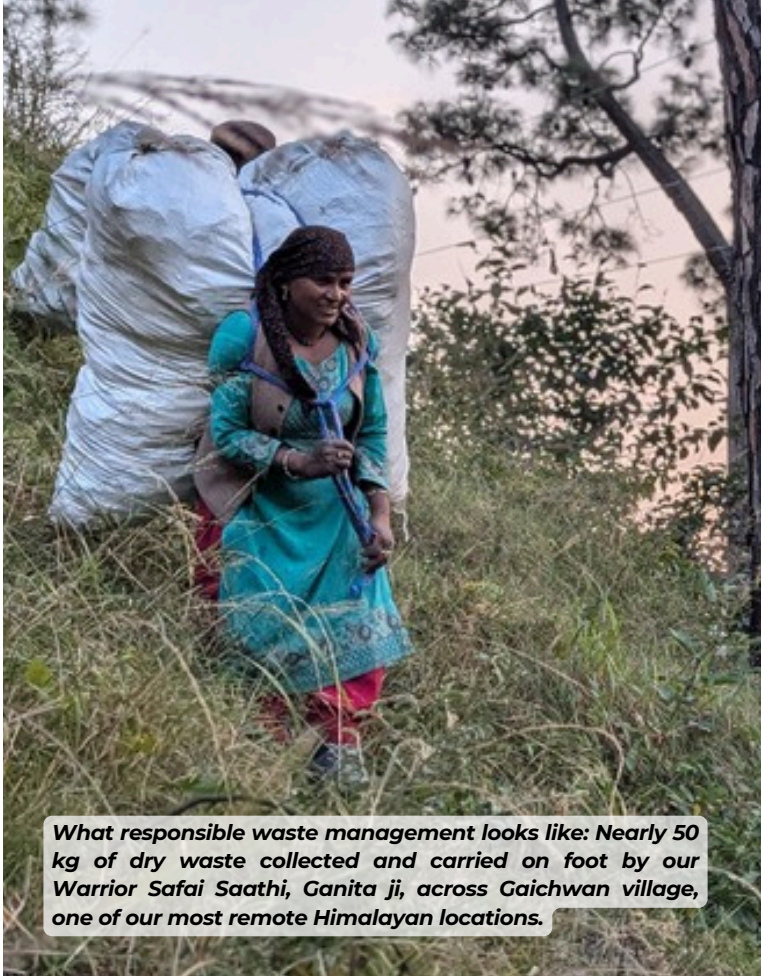
We strengthened our revenue mix:

- **₹1.47 crore** from recyclable sales
- **₹66.09 lakh** unlocked through government support
- **₹61.60 lakh** collected through household and commercial user fees

The most significant financial shift this year was cultural! We introduced advance user fee subscriptions and invited communities to name the service fee for waste management. ***Swachhata Nidhi*** emerged as the winning name through an organisation-wide vote. During Valentine's Week, we launched the campaign and took it across our locations. Households in Corbett, Bir, Kempty, Kasauli, Shimla, and Sahastradhara paid in advance, with many contributing more than the suggested fee. Since material recovery alone cannot cover the costs of waste management, particularly for low-value waste and in remote locations, user fees are essential to bridging the gap and financing recurring operations.

Partnerships created additional value:

→ **8.7 tonnes of MLP** routed through RePurpose; 6.9 tonnes of flexible plastic transported free of charge by Ambuja Cements; 2.6 tonnes of plastic from Kasauli sent to UltraTech for co-processing. Our partnership with Sarovar Portico Hotels opened a new revenue stream through bulk waste generators. The *Good Guest Guide*, launched in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Airbnb, offers further potential to engage the tourism sector in financing responsible waste management in the mountains.



What responsible waste management looks like: Nearly 50 kg of dry waste collected and carried on foot by our Warrior Safai Saathi, Ganita ji, across Gaichwan village, one of our most remote Himalayan locations.



Celebrating Valentine's Week with our community in Corbett, where 241 households subscribed to advance user fee payments through the campaign.

What remains: Core operations continue, thanks to our external funding partners. What has become clearer is that predictable institutional and public financing will be key to strengthening the organisation's financial resilience.

WHEN CLEANUPS BECOME COMMUNITY:

In Dhanola Panchayat of Raipur Block, community ownership has taken root. What began as a few residents cleaning a riverbank dumping spot has grown into the Sathi Foundation, a determined collective led by local shopkeeper Anil Negi. Every month, Anil, local shopkeepers, students, and Paryavaran Sakhis walk through forest edges and stream banks to gather plastic left by picnickers. We supports them with gloves, bags, and transport, but the drive belongs entirely to the community.



2. Community Ownership and Governance

From project partner to institutional partner:

The most significant governance milestone of the year was the **signing of a State-level MoU with the Himachal Pradesh Rural Development Department, a 3-year agreement making Waste Warriors the State Partner for Solid Waste Management** signed in the presence of the Minister, Secretary, and Director.

At the local level, MoUs with Panchayat Swachhta Samitis were signed for the first time across Sahastradhara, Corbett, and Nagrota. In Kasauli, a four-party MoU between the Block Development Office (BDO), Panchayat, local entrepreneur, and Waste Warriors established the Barog Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU) as the region's processing anchor. Gram Panchayats in Dharamshala and Bir also received Badges of Honour from the HP Panchayati Raj Department, facilitating exposure visits and training opportunities with Gram Panchayats where Waste Warriors' programmes are implemented.

How community ownership became the most important metric!

The Pradhan of Bir, who once staged a public walkout, expressing anger and accusing us in front of our partners, is now one of our strongest stakeholders. The language changed. Waste became the main *mudda* (issue). The shift from "Sir, things are working only because you're around" to Pradhans taking ownership of waste management as a civic responsibility is perhaps our most meaningful measure of progress.

Across projects, 923 active citizens contributed to local waste management and awareness efforts, generating 1,18,635 environment-positive climate actions.

In Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, a baseline survey covered 1,530 households across 7 Gram Panchayats and 30 villages, laying the foundation for future expansion. In Renuka Wetlands, collection services were extended across two Panchayats, while Narwana Khas Panchayat (in Dharamshala Rural) issued its first-ever fine for open dumping, marking a shift from awareness to community-led enforcement.

The resilience of mountain communities was also reflected in Karligad Panchayat, located 19 km from Dehradun. After September's cloudbursts left families homeless and livelihoods destroyed, support and cleanliness activities continued. **By December, the same panchayat recorded 100% active user fee participation and 20 new units onboarded.**



A milestone in Shimla's first year: MoUs on dry waste management signed with 8 of 9 Panchayats in Mashobra Block, marking a shared commitment to cleaner villages.

3. Operational Efficiency

Processing at scale:

Our work diverted 1,951 MT of waste from landfills, avoiding an estimated 3,809 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, roughly the annual emissions of 822 cars. Collection grew across multiple locations, reflecting stronger systems, better source segregation, and growing operational capacity.

Infrastructure milestones:

Harrawala MRF commissioned a 24-hour composting machine, Khyarsi Waste Bank expanded from 600 to 2,000 sq ft, and Bir's Him Ira Swachhata Cafe, an integrated café and waste-processing centre, is nearing operational readiness. **In Dharamsala, the Urban MRF was fully handed over to Local Ecopreneur Rajkumar, who registered Yashraj Environmental Services and invested in a Mahindra Bolero to grow his waste trading operations.** This is what the Local Entrepreneurship Model was built for: enabling local entrepreneurs to take ownership and grow. In Corbett, the Paryavaran Sakhi Model is evolving towards maturity, with new Sakhis joining the team and monthly waste collection increasing from 12 MT to 17 MT. The Corbett Tiger Reserve administration subsequently invited the Sakhis to operate an MRF in Ramnagar, a recognition earned through their work on the ground.

The Roadmap to Sustainability:

The RtS, our internal health report card for rural waste management projects, tracked five milestones: Infrastructure, Operations, Government Outreach, Community Participation, and Handover. One visible outcome came **in Kempty, where source segregation increased from 55% in December 2025 to 76% in May 2026 after the RtS identified specific units needing support**. The approach is now taking shape across other locations.



From Waste Warriors employee to local ecopreneur: Rajkumar takes full ownership of Dharamsala Urban MRF, marking a milestone for our Local Entrepreneurship Model.



A historic step for Corbett's Paryavaran Sakhi Model: (left to right) Tara, Janki, Kamlesh and Khasti take on Coordinator roles to lead the model alongside Waste Warriors.

IN MEMORY OF A 'PARVAT' WARRIOR:

In December, we lost our beloved Warrior, Sundas ji, a Safai Saathi who served for nearly five years in Doni, one of our most remote locations in Uttarakhand. Every day, he carried 50 to 60 kg of waste across steep terrain, preventing open burning and dumping to protect his community's forests and water sources. His steady dedication behind high-altitude waste management reminds us that our systems are not built solely on machines and metrics, but on profound human courage.



4. Mountains Movement for Change

Our ambition was bigger than moving waste: to enable an ecosystem for how waste is managed across the Indian Himalayan Region. We brought together our technical expertise and grassroots experience, investing in systems that make our work more measurable, credible and scalable.

In that spirit, we activated our partners across the Indian Himalayan Region through **the Storytelling Grant and Resilience Fund, empowering younger organizations to strengthen their waste management work on the ground**. With this support, Zero Waste Ladakh purchased a vehicle for operations, Navikru Eco Foundation upgraded its basic infrastructure, and LiFE in Nagaland transformed a dilapidated building into a vibrant Material Recovery Facility.

In January, **we partnered with MIT D-Lab** and the Eicher Group Foundation for a Creative Capacity Building workshop in Sahastradhara, bringing community members together to design solutions to grassroots waste challenges. The momentum continues into the next financial year with a second workshop in Bir, building on the learning from the first. We also worked with FemFuture Collective on menstrual health management, and **saw Bharat Ingenuity Foundation adopt our data structures and frameworks to build waste management systems in Assam.**

The **Good Guest Guidebook**, launched with the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and supported by Airbnb, gave us another practical tool to influence tourist behaviour and advance responsible tourism across the Uttarakhand.

We won!

- On World Environment Day, June 5, **Waste Warriors Society set a World Record, certified by the World Records Union**, USA, for the largest simultaneous clean-up drive ever conducted across a mountain region.
- At the **ISWA World Conference in Argentina**, the Sakhi film was screened for an international audience representing 57 countries, and **Waste Warriors received first prize in both the Communications and Video categories.**
- Waste Warriors was also **among six winning organisations at the ILSS Pitch Fest at IIT Delhi.**
- The **Sakhi model was featured in the ClimateRise Alliance compendium** on women-led climate action.

The movement is growing not only in scale, but in its ability to inspire, enable and equip others to act. This is what manifesting change looks like: a mountain movement that others can join, build on and carry forward.




"What's good for you is good for the environment."
(BECAUSE...YOU ARE PART OF NATURE!)
ONCE A WARRIOR
WASTE WARRIORS
WASTE WARRIORS
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE
WWW.WASTEWARRIORS.ORG

A WARRIOR'S MANIFESTATIONS

MANIFESTING CHANGE: A LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

When I arrived at Waste Warriors in December 2020, I was not a boy of the mountains, I was a beach kid drawn to a problem that felt larger than life. Standing in front of 110 tonnes of waste at Harrawala during my first visit, any romantic notions about mountain villages quickly gave way to reality. The Himalayas were majestic, but deeply vulnerable. I didn't come to start something new; I came to adopt an organisation already fighting on the ground and help it grow.

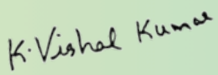
Over the past five and a half years, our entire network: our team, our funders, and our partners, has had to ask hard questions about what real impact looks like. We moved away from viewing waste as a series of isolated cleanup projects. Instead, we pushed for systemic change, transforming daily wage models into the Paryavaran Sakhi entrepreneurship model, building rural sustainability roadmaps, and establishing decentralized systems across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

None of this was easy. We faced two lean years without direct funders, stalled infrastructure, and the slow work of shifting mindsets. But every delay and hurdle taught us that sustainability is not a static milestone - it is a continuous, daily act of handover and shared ownership.

To our funders and supporters: *your trust during the uncertain moments allowed us to look beyond immediate deliverables toward long-term systemic health. You invested in the unglamorous, foundational work of capability building and institutional trust.*

To the Warriors: *you are the heart of this tribe. I have watched our community mobilizers step into the field in the depth of winter, embodying a level of resilience, integrity, and warmth that transformed how whole villages view waste. You showed me that leadership isn't about what you are doing, but who you are being. You shaped me into a better person, showing up for one another simply because that is the culture we built together.*

We have shown what is possible when community engagement meets structural strategy, but the work is far from finished. As I step back, I carry full conviction in the people leading this next chapter. When the work feels overwhelming, hold onto belief in yourselves and in the collective good we are building. The mountains remember those who show up for them.



With gratitude and love,
Vishal Kumar
Former CEO, Waste Warriors Society



On 12 September 2025, 92 children and 9 teachers at Manivenarawal Shishu Vidya Mandir, Kempty, met Kachra Man with fun and laughter.

CONNECTION TO THE GROUND (AND EVEN WATER BODIES)

This year, our Warriors on the ground tried new ways to help communities change how they think about and manage waste. We continued our regular awareness and engagement work, but also tested new ideas, adapted along the way and learned from what worked and what did not. Behaviour change in mountain communities does not happen through posters alone. **It happens through presence: executives who know households by name, attend Mahila Mandal meetings, walk collection routes with Sakhis and return to follow up.**

It also happens when campaigns connect waste to things people already care about. **Gau Seva** linked food waste with care for cows. **Swachhata Nidhi** turned user fees into a community contribution. **Clean Kitchen, Clean Kempty** made waste segregation part of running a responsible food business.

The teams that designed and ran these campaigns learned by doing. They tried different approaches, saw what worked and documented those lessons for the organisation to build on. What follows is the story of that work, the numbers behind it and the people who made it happen.

Clean Kitchen, Clean Kempty Campaign

67 food businesses | 5-week campaign | 183 people engaged in one day

Kempty Falls faces a persistent litter challenge, with food businesses generating mixed waste. The five-week ***Clean Kitchen, Clean Kempty*** campaign brought 67 businesses into three-way segregation and kitchen hygiene, using regular orientations, WhatsApp monitoring, peer learning and a dustbin mascot that reached 183 people in a day. The goal was not compliance for five weeks. It was to create enough habit and peer pressure for practices to sustain beyond the campaign itself.



Every Sunday, local communities come together for a clean-up drive at Renuka Lake. On 7 September 2025, around 25 people from Dadahu and nearby villages joined the effort, even venturing into the lake to collect floating plastic waste. Together, they collected and diverted 5 kg of dry waste, while wet waste was transported in tractor trolleys and used as manure in local fields.

THE POWER OF SHOWING UP

Sahil is our Safai Saathi / Green Worker at the segregation centre in Dharamshala. Every morning, he arrives on time, cleans his work area and gets to work. He handles wet waste with care and consistency, rarely seeking attention or recognition. Over time, his discipline and quiet commitment have earned the respect of those around him. For Sahil, dignity comes from doing his work honestly and showing up every day.



Gau Seva Campaign

1.74 tonnes of wet waste diverted | 7–8 cows supported | 50 households and commercial units in Kasauli

In Bir and Kasauli, the team linked waste segregation to a practice communities already valued: ***Gau Seva***. In Bir, 10 establishments began setting aside clean, edible wet waste for local cowsheds, diverting 1.74 tonnes during the pilot and providing feed for 7–8 cows. In Kasauli, 50 households and commercial units joined the first collection round. **By connecting segregation to animal care, the teams made the purpose of the practice easier to understand and adopt.** The Bir pilot is now being extended for three months, while Kasauli is expanding to new wards.

Sajjhi Zimmedari Campaign

1,917 households paid in advance | ₹2,60,580 collected in just one month | 2-month advance payment is the most popular choice

The team wanted a better way to talk about user fees. Fee felt transactional, while contribution felt vague. So they asked Warriors and communities what the advance payment for waste collection should be called. The choice was ***Swachhata Nidhi, or Cleanliness Fund***, a name that felt more like a shared commitment.



The ***Sajjhi Zimmedari campaign*** brought the idea to communities across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, through door-to-door visits, markets, Mahila Mandals and schools: your waste, your responsibility, your contribution.

In Corbett and Bir, 241 households subscribed to advance user fees, with 16 households contributing an additional ₹2,050 in Bir. **In Shimla, ₹1,320 was collected in a single day across two panchayats.** In Kempty, the Swachhata Samiti committed to monthly meetings and began formalising user fee collection. In Nagrota, Mahila Mandals spontaneously donated ₹2,180 during a community awareness session.



Our Warrior Anuradha with a little community member in Bir, sharing the Gau Seva message through IEC and door-to-door engagement.



The community signed up for the Sajjhi Zimmedari campaign in the Model Ward Project, Dehradun. Warriors in Harrawala engaged with 550+ community members and collected ₹59,240 in advance user fees.



Pankal, our Warrior, engages with a shop owner in Dharamshala, as our Rural and Urban teams collectively raised ₹16,181 in Swachhata Nidhi in a single day.



As part of Prakriti Ka Shagun, 40 volunteers joined our Special Projects Warriors for a nine-hour trek to Bhojwasa, 14 km from Gangotri, at 12,590 feet, and collected 85 kg of waste.

TURNING CLOTH INTO LIVELIHOODS

Dehradun's textile waste met an opportunity for women's livelihoods through Weaving Lives. A cloth drive in Harrawala collected 635 kg from 150+ households, while 450+ women across SHGs and collectives were engaged through meetings and exposure visits. 50–60 women began preparing for training in upcycling, sewing and product design. The pilot turned discarded fabric into bags, quilts, mats and IEC quilts. At a 3-day stall in March 2026, 70+ products were sold, generating ₹11,400 for artisans.



Trek it Back Campaign

45 agencies engaged | 30 onboarded | 18 diverting waste | 2,170 kg dry waste brought down | 70% segregation

From December 2025 to February 2026, ***Trek It Back*** piloted an intervention in Sankri, the gateway to the Kedarkantha winter trek and several routes within Govind Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park in Uttarakhand. **The aim was simple: address trek-generated waste at its source and create a more responsible system for bringing it back.**

We engaged 45 trekking agencies and onboarded 30, building their capacity to manage trek waste. As a result, 18 agencies began diverting waste from the Kedarkantha trail to the MRF in Harrawala, near Dehradun, for proper processing. Using mules, 2,170 kg of dry trek waste was brought down from higher camps to the Sankri roadhead and transported onward. The intervention also achieved 70% segregation, an encouraging step towards better trek waste management.

Prakriti Ka Shagun Campaign

8,492 volunteers | 101 locations | 18,600 kg of waste | 500+ donors | 1 hour

Weeks before the event, ground teams across nine locations mobilised schools, army units, Tibetan communities, Mahila Mandals, monasteries, colleges and local communities.

More than 90 spot locations were coordinated through a common system, with GPS-stamped photos, witness testimonies and real-time updates. **The drive reached from 12,590 feet at Bhojwasa, where 40 volunteers trekked for nine hours to collect 85 kg, to Dzongsar Monastery in Bir, where 304 participants collected 1,118 kg.** In Corbett, 597 volunteers collected 1,310 kg across nine locations, while 144 participants in Manali collected 793 kg.

More than 500 donors supported volunteer kits through ***Prakriti Ka Shagun campaign***, allowing people to contribute even when they could not join the clean-up. **Even the clean-up itself followed the message: refreshment waste was segregated, and banana peels collected in Manali were taken by local women to feed their cows.**



After a successful Kedarkantha trek, trekkers celebrate bringing their waste back and depositing it at our Saur's waste bank.



PRAKRITI KA SHAGUN

A WORLD RECORD: THE LARGEST MOUNTAIN CLEANUP

The first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973 with the theme: "Only One Earth." Fifty-two years later, we honored that message through the Largest Mountain Cleanup 2025. All this in just one hour, setting a World Record certified by the World Records Union, USA.

mobilized	across	remove
8,492	**101**	**18600**
volunteers	locations	kgs of waste



MAKING CHANGE POSSIBLE

Our work increasingly moved beyond delivering programmes to building the capabilities that can sustain, measure and extend them. Across community activation, digital systems, research, partnerships and communications, teams worked across functions to make our programmes stronger and their learning more useful beyond individual locations.

Growing YUWA

This year, **Green Gurukul engaged 44 schools and 1,102 youth changemakers, while Ecolympics brought together 30 colleges and around 900 youth**. Together, the two competitions enabled 6,034 climate actions, diverted 6,065 kg of waste, and helped young people resolve 21 civic issues through formal government portals. The joint closing ceremony brought together 570+ participants, marking the scale of a movement that is increasingly youth-led.

But YUWA's growth was not only in numbers. **The Changemakers community doubled from 21 to 42 members, while 851+ enabled actions created opportunities for young people to move from participation to leadership.** Through microgrants, fellowships, accelerators, internships, volunteering opportunities and platforms such as NextGen Talks and Green Job Round-ups, YUWA continued to connect young people with pathways to learn, lead and build careers in the climate and sustainability space.

Saumya and fellow Changemakers took the lead in mobilising citizens for climate action, including the Largest Mountain Cleanup 2025. On World Environment Day, 11 YUWA Changemakers independently led clean-ups across locations, with some travelling for hours to take part and others bringing years of involvement to the movement.

Scaling DT + API

More impact meant more data, procurement, monitoring, reporting and coordination, creating a need for systems that could keep pace with the organisation. We began building our own digital infrastructure to make the organisation more connected, efficient and accountable. **SARAL streamlined procurement, Saathi strengthened internal collaboration, while Satya and Waste Watch supported monitoring and impact tracking**. Alongside these, ODK, dashboards and digital tracking helped field teams move from manual, fragmented processes to more consistent systems. The shift was as much about adoption as technology. **200+ Warriors were trained in data and technology, 50+ projects were tracked through dashboards, and 170+ Stories of Change were captured. With 10+ digital tools, we reduced manual data entry by 30%.**

The impact is now extending beyond our own programmes. Three ecosystem partners adopted WW frameworks, including BIF, which used our data structure to build waste management systems in Assam.



FROM MOUNTAIN SUMMIT TO ACTION

In February 2025, we convened the Mountain Cleaners Summit, uniting 40+ organizations from across the Himalayas to strengthen collaboration on waste management. Since then, momentum has continued through three Community Calls that fostered knowledge exchange, idea-sharing, and motivation, leading to closer regional partnerships and cross-visits. We also supported two partners through ILSS fundraising scholarships and five partners through the Resilience Fund to sustain their ongoing work.



Strengthening the Collective

Learning at Waste Warriors extended beyond formal training through field exposure, sectoral engagements, leadership development, and practical capacity-building, fostering a more capable, connected, and collaborative workforce.

- **Warriors visited IPCA's chipboard factory, EverEnviro's Waste-to-Energy plant in Ghazipur, and EcoGram by Saahas in Delhi,** gaining insights into circular manufacturing, energy recovery, and decentralised waste management.
- Visits to Saahas-supported Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in Mulki, Puttur, and Belthangady highlighted partnerships with Nagar Panchayats, Gram Panchayats, and communities.
- Learning also extended through participation in the South Asia Consultation (Nepal), BCC Summit (Delhi), and GIZ India's Circular Samvaad.
- **Two Warriors joined the Environment Policy and Action Youth Fellowship (EPAYF)**, two participated in a sustainability exposure visit with Earth Sashtra, while national consultations on plastic innovation and clean air and a policy workshop with Takshashila broadened sectoral and policy perspectives.
- Learning through **Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) sessions, Satat Sammelan, and the launch of Community-led Planning and Financing Framework (CPPF)** strengthened Warriors' understanding of governance and community-led planning.
- Practical trainings in data literacy, circular economy, wetlands management, health and safety, and field leadership further built technical capabilities.
- **First Response Training** reached 250+ Warriors across all project locations, strengthening emergency preparedness.
- **Foundations Day** brought together 230+ Warriors, up from 153 the previous year. Centred on *Safarnama*, the two-day celebration featured sports, cultural performances, shared hobbies, and reflection, fostering joy, connection, team spirit, and shared purpose.

Poor internet connectivity, applying learning to dynamic field realities, and differences in language and literacy continue to affect learning access and application. Going forward, the focus is on more accessible, practical, and multilingual learning opportunities to strengthen team capabilities and community impact.





DISCOVER YUWA

Click to explore how young people are turning climate concern into action across Dehradun.

[Click Here]

MAKING THE CLIMATE IMPACT OF WASTE VISIBLE

Building evidence, Challenging assumptions

Our research this year focused on building stronger evidence around what works, what sustains change, and how waste management contributes to climate action.

We studied user fee behaviour across ~850 households in Dharamshala Rural and Bir, comparing households that sustained payments with those that discontinued them.

→ The findings showed that satisfaction with service quality was closely linked to continued payment, while neighbourhood littering was among the reasons people stopped.

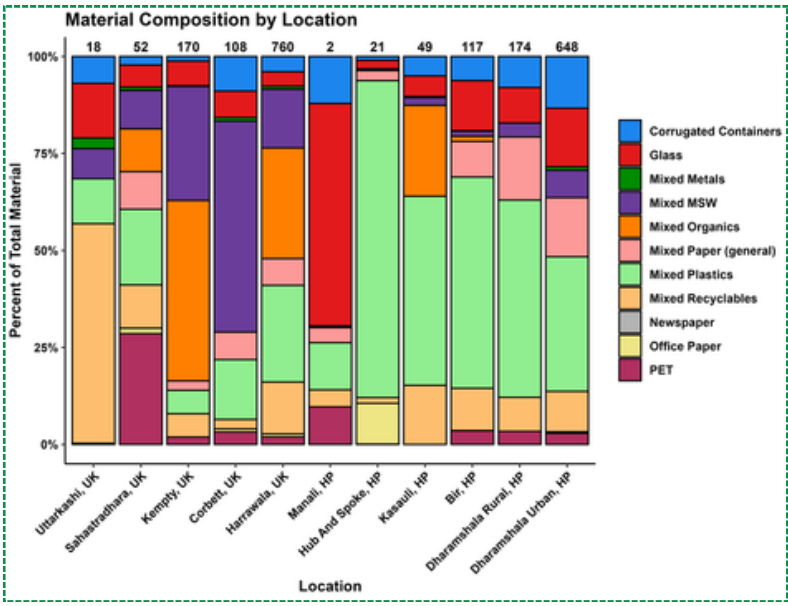
→ The study also highlighted the role of local leaders and community norms in shaping behaviour.

Emissions Unpacked

The impacts of waste pollution extend far beyond what we can see. We may see the dark fumes from waste burning in our backyard, but not the **tiny black carbon particles that travel through the air, settle on glaciers and accelerate their melting**. We may smell the odour of food waste rotting in dumpsites, but not the **methane that warms the earth 80 times faster than carbon dioxide over 20 years**.

As we began looking beyond the visible to understand the climate impact of how waste is managed, some questions emerged: How much does diverting waste from dumpsites reduce greenhouse gas emissions? What is the climate impact of painstakingly sorting plastics for recycling instead of sending them en masse to landfills or cement plants? We found that, to a first approximation, we can quantify it.

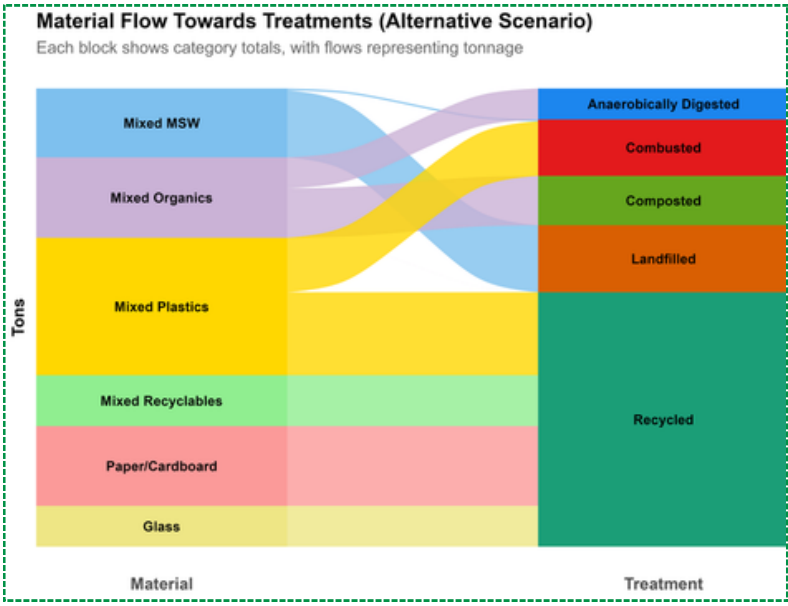
We used the **Waste Reduction Model (WARM)**, developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency, to estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from different waste management practices. The model allows us to compare two scenarios: **a Baseline Scenario,** where waste would be dumped or burnt without Waste Warriors' intervention, and an **Alternative Scenario**, where waste is sorted and, as far as possible, recycled, safely combusted, composted or anaerobically digested.



First, we compiled data on the materials in the waste processed at each location.

- **2,498 metric tonnes of waste processed across 11 locations between April 2025 and March 2026.**
- Mixed plastics made up a significant share of the waste, with higher volumes recorded in Himachal Pradesh.
- Mixed waste (MSW), comprising dry and wet waste, was commonly found in some locations in Uttarakhand.
- Mixed MSW and domestic hazardous waste had to be sent to landfills.

- Recyclables, including glass, paper and cardboard, were sorted from dry waste across all locations.
- Mixed organics were mostly composted, while non-recyclable plastics and some mixed MSW were sent for anaerobic digestion or cement co-processing.

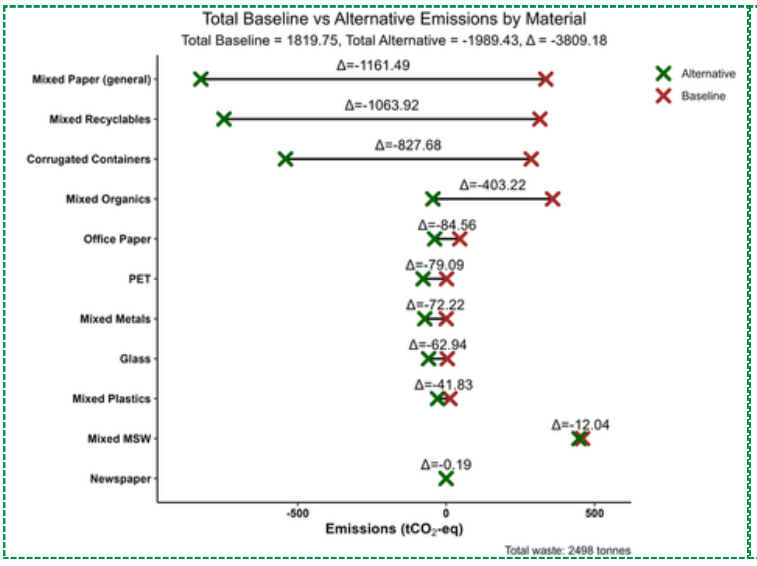


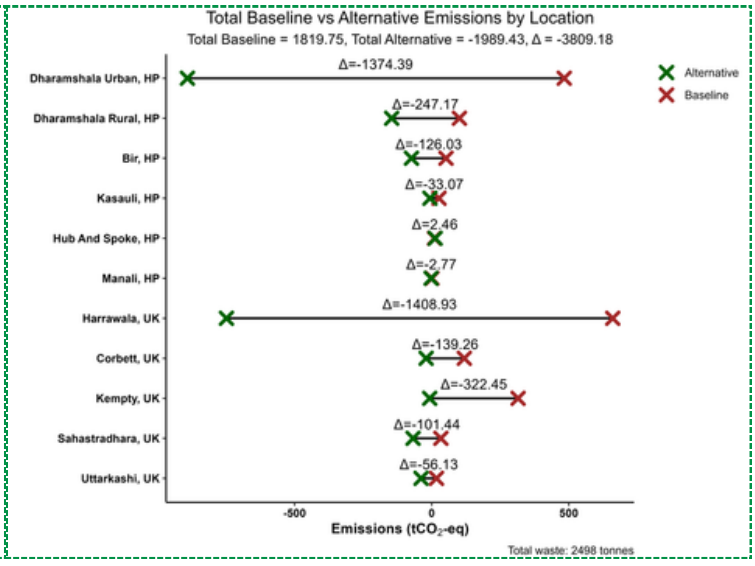
Our intervention reduced 3809 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2-eq) in total across all locations. This is roughly equal to saving annual emissions from 822 cars or 1.5 lakh gas cylinders.

All locations showed reductions in emissions except the Hub & Spoke project which has mostly non-recyclable plastics that go for coprocessing in cement plants. Dharamshala Urban, HP and Harrawala, UK, the two Material Recovery Facilities that process large volumes of waste, showed the biggest reductions in emissions with about 1400 tCO2-eq each.

Recycling paper, corrugated containers (cardboard), and mixed recyclables had the biggest climate impact, each reducing around 1000 tCO2-eq. This is because paper based materials release methane in landfills in the baseline scenario according to the WARM tool, which is prevented by our intervention. Moreover, recycling such material that offsets the need to produce it from virgin material saves additional emissions required to produce such materials. Similarly, composting and anaerobically digesting mixed organics saves around 400 tCO2-eq.

Composting saves the methane that would have otherwise been released from landfills while anaerobic digestion captures this methane that can then be used as fuel. For mixed plastics, some non-recyclable material is sent to cement plants for co-processing. While this generates energy that offsets some fossil fuel use, the process also produces GHG emissions. However, a significant share of mixed plastics is sorted and recycled, resulting in a net reduction in emissions. **Overall, our waste processing results in net negative GHG emissions across all materials, with recycling and composting delivering the greatest climate benefits.** Our preliminary analysis also suggests that source reduction could have an even greater climate benefit, an insight we and others can explore further.

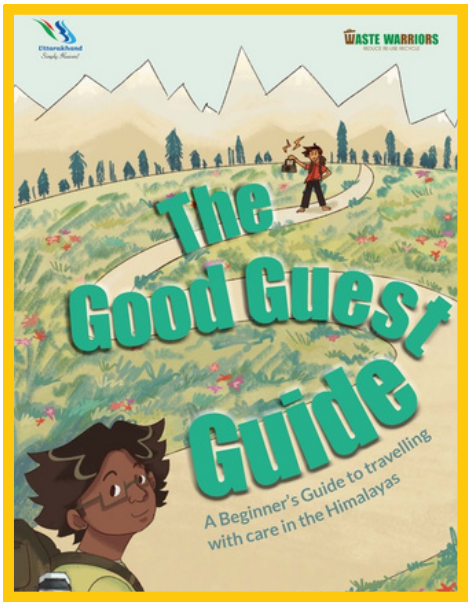




COMMUNICATING PARTICIPARTORY CHANGE

To mark World Tourism Day, Waste Warriors Society and the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) launched the Good Guest Guide, a first-of-its-kind travel companion with practical tips to reduce waste, conserve resources, and support local communities across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The guide was unveiled at a special gathering, “Atithi Devo Bhava,” attended by Mr. Shyam Agrawal, State Minister, Government of Uttarakhand; Mr. Sameer Sinha, Head of Forest Force, Uttarakhand; Mr. Abhishek Rohilla, Additional CEO, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board; and representatives from Airbnb.

READ THE GOOD GUEST GUIDEBOOK HERE BY CLICKING ON THE BOOK!



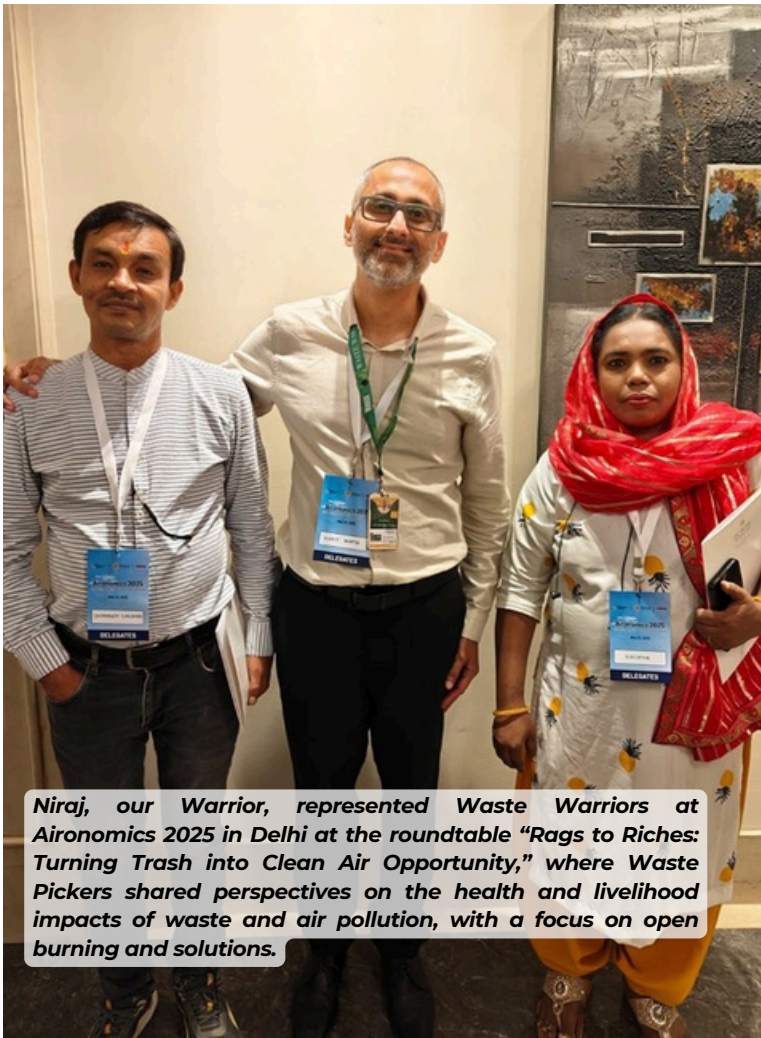
“Athithi Devo Bhava conducted by Waste Warriors with support from Airbnb is a wonderful initiative to promote responsible tourism and they have launched an interesting book called The Good Guest guide which will help out tourists to know what kind of behaviour they should depict when they come to Uttarakhand and how they should become responsible tourists as well as responsible citizens.”

- Mr. Abhishek Rohilla, Additional CEO, UTDB

Our research did not stop at analysis. We took the findings to wider audiences, shared them with practitioners and research institutions, and used them to question assumptions about waste and climate.

We shared these findings through “Waste to Climate Action,” our first technical webinar at this scale, bringing together 286 stakeholders from India and abroad. We also engaged research institutions and practitioner networks to strengthen our approach in the absence of India-specific emission factors.

Our research became a tool for advocacy too. “Waste is not wealth: Lessons from the Indian Himalayan Region” reached 91,000+ people across 35 states and 40 countries, challenging the assumption that all waste has economic value. The conversation reinforced a key learning: evidence can challenge familiar narratives and create more honest conversations about what sustainable waste management requires.



Niraj, our Warrior, represented Waste Warriors at Aironomics 2025 in Delhi at the roundtable “Rags to Riches: Turning Trash into Clean Air Opportunity,” where Waste Pickers shared perspectives on the health and livelihood impacts of waste and air pollution, with a focus on open burning and solutions.



Next time you're on the Shoghi Road, keep an eye out for our new Banka Shimla installation, built from 235kg of recovered waste. It's more than just a photo op; it's a conversation starter that's helping us take sustainability onto the streets.

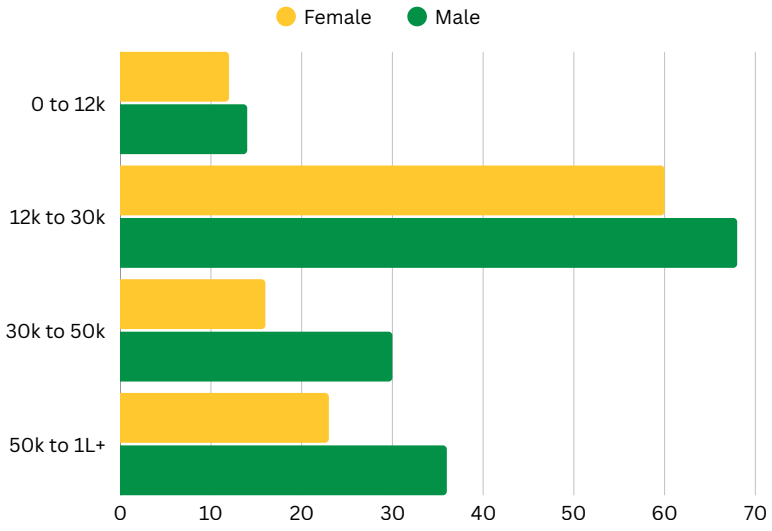


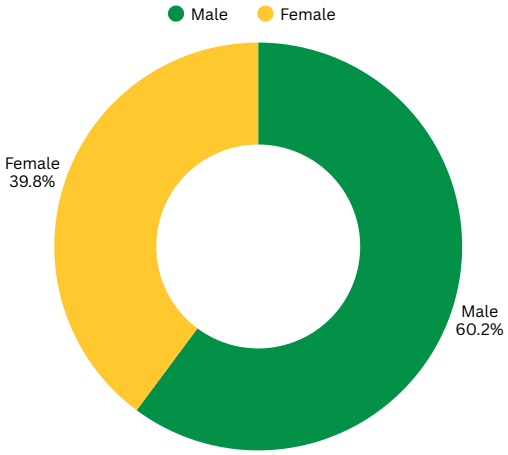
Waste infrastructure, reimagined through mountain culture. ⛰️♻️
From an ibex sculpture crafted from discarded metal in Keori to a nature-inspired entrance gate in Bir, we turned everyday waste spaces into reflections of the communities and landscapes they serve!

HR UPDATES

We come from diverse cultural, educational, and professional backgrounds, yet we are united by the common Warrior Spirit that drives us forward. As Warriors, we are constantly striving to grow, improve, and inspire those around us.

Organisational Pay Structure and Gender-Ratio





Ensuring a Safe and Respectful Workplace: POSH Compliance and Initiatives

1. Number of complaints of sexual harassment received in FY' 2025-26: 01

2. Number of complaints disposed of during FY' 2025-26: 01

3. Number of cases pending as of 31st December 2025 for more than 90 days: 0 (Zero)

4. Number of workshops or awareness programs against sexual harassment carried out: 03

5. Nature of action taken by the Employer: Depending on the severity of the misconduct, Waste Warriors has taken actions like
   - Written Warnings
   - Temporary Suspension
   - Termination
   - Paid leave to Complainant
   - Counseling Sessions
   - Workshops or Awareness Programs for employees against Sexual Harassment carried out during the year

The organization remains committed to maintaining compliance with all legal requirements related to the prevention of sexual harassment. Regular audits and assessments were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of our POSH policy and identify areas for improvement.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Warriors that constantly root for us!



Gaurav Soni
President



Gaurav Aggarwal
Vice President



Inderjit Vaadev
Secretary



Taranpreet Singh
Treasurer



Shaila Brijnath
EC Member



Sanjay Aggarwal
EC Member



Tarit Mohan
EC Member



Malvika Ahuja
EC Member



Sanjeev Mohan Joshi
EC Member

OUR PATRONS

THANK YOU!

From helping us set up waste banks and cheering us on as we created a world record through mountain clean-ups, to supporting community engagement and creative art interventions that nudge mountain communities towards becoming more waste-wise, you have been with us every step of the way. You continue to give us hope and the courage to keep fighting the waste, waste, waste that surrounds us.

To our funders, donors, collaborators, partners, and supporters, thank you for believing in our mission, standing by us, and helping us make it happen, every single day. Your trust, encouragement, and support keep us going and make our collective journey towards cleaner, healthier Himalayas possible. We are deeply grateful to have you as part of this journey.

ALLIANCES AND CONSORTIUMS

Blessed to be part of a community where, together, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

GOVERNMENT COLLABORATIONS

Thankful to all our government stakeholders for their guidance, support and commitment!



OUR FINANCIALS

Waste Warriors Society
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2026

(Amount in INR)

	Particulars	Note	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025
I	**Sources of Funds**			
1	**NPO Funds**	1		
(a)	Unrestricted Funds		118,754,113	84,947,113
(b)	Restricted Funds		68,211,795	40,803,479
			186,965,908	125,750,592
2	**Non-current Liabilities**			
(a)	Long-term Borrowings	2	-	-
(b)	Other Long-term Liabilities	3	-	-
(c)	Long-term Provisions	4	-	-
			-	-
3	**Current Liabilities**			
(a)	Short-term Borrowings	5	-	-
(b)	Payables	6	828,609	805,718
(c)	Other Current Liabilities	7	669,365	1,469,638
(d)	Short-term Provisions	8	396,397	1,666,647
			1,894,371	3,942,003
	Total		**188,860,279**	**129,692,594**
II	**Application of Funds**			
1	**Non-current Assets**			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets			
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment	9	59,470,818	44,181,848
(ii)	Intangible Assets	10	67,480	67,480
(iii)	Capital Work in Progress	11	-	-
(iv)	Intangible Asset Under Development	12	-	-
(b)	Long Term Loans and Advances	13	-	-
(c)	Non-current Investments	14	-	-
(d)	Other Non-current Assets	15	476,501	386,501
			60,014,799	44,635,829
2	**Current Assets**			
(a)	Current Investments	20	-	-
(b)	Inventories		759,353	368,300
(c)	Receivables	16	9,736,867	3,075,730
(d)	Cash and Bank Balances	17	114,820,385	79,476,973
(e)	Short Term Loans and Advances	18	1,382,683	1,542,623
(f)	Other Current Assets	19	2,146,192	593,139
			128,845,480	85,056,765
	Total		**188,860,279**	**129,692,594**
			-	-

The accompanying notes to accounts are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date.

KHATTAK KOCHHAR & CO.
Chartered Accountants

S.D

Per PRASHANT KOCHHAR
Partner
MRN : 094411
FRN : 017124C
UDIN : 26094411DDPTRJ2140

Place : Dehradun
Date : September 24,2026

OUR FINANCIALS

Waste Warriors Society
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2026

(Amount in INR)

	Particulars	Note	March 31, 2026			March 31, 2025		
			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
I	**Income**							
(a)	Donations and Grants	21	14,577,167	216,125,262	230,702,429	9,527,892	173,336,966	182,864,858
(b)	Fees from Rendering of Services	22	2,424,904	3,965,924	6,390,828	650,123	5,430,418	6,080,541
(c)	Sale of Goods		7,003,573	-	7,003,573	8,654,026	-	8,654,026
II	Other Income	23	3,318,663	-	3,318,663	1,880,040	-	1,880,040
III	**Total Income (I+II)**		**27,324,307**	**220,091,186**	**247,415,493**	**20,712,081**	**178,767,384**	**199,479,465**
IV	**Expenses:**							
(a)	Cost of Goods Sold/Material Consumed	24	1,339,094	-	1,339,094	3,574,375	-	3,574,375
(b)	Donations/Contributions Paid		-	180,000	180,000	-	-	-
(c)	Employee Benefits	25	4,491,948	104,780,505	109,272,453	2,096,285	73,729,000	75,825,285
(d)	Depreciation and Amortization	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
(e)	Finance Costs	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
(f)	Other Expenses	28	2,919,076	72,489,554	75,408,629	2,551,374	66,467,286	69,018,660
(g)	Religious/Charitable Expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Expenses		**8,750,117**	**177,450,059**	**186,200,176**	**8,222,034**	**140,196,286**	**148,418,320**
V	**Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year before exceptional and extraordinary items (III-IV)**		18,574,189	42,641,127	61,215,317	12,490,047	38,571,098	51,061,144
VI	Exceptional items - reconciliation adjustments		-	-	-	-	-	-
VII	**Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year before extraordinary items (V-VI)**		18,574,189	42,641,127	61,215,317	12,490,047	38,571,098	51,061,144
VIII	Extraordinary Items (specify nature & provide note/delete if none)		-	-	-	-	-	-
IX	**Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (VII-VIII)**		18,574,189	42,641,127	61,215,317	12,490,047	38,571,098	51,061,144
X	**Less : Appropriations/Transfer to Funds**		10,006,889	42,641,127	52,648,016	6,405,153	38,571,098	44,976,251
XI	**Balance of Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (IX-X)**		8,567,300	-	8,567,300	6,084,894	-	6,084,894
XII	**Add : Transfer from Funds**		-	-	-	-	-	-
XIII	**Balance transferred to General Fund (XI+XII)**		8,567,300	-	8,567,300	6,084,894	-	6,084,894

The accompanying notes to accounts are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date.

KHATTAK KOCHHAR & CO.
Chartered Accountants

S.D

Per PRASHANT KOCHHAR
Partner
MRN : 094411
FRN : 017124C
UDIN : 26094411DDPTRJ2140

Place : Dehradun
Date : September 24,2026

OUR SPACES FOR CHANGE

Some are already driving change, while others are taking shape. Together, these Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs) and Swachhta Kendra / Waste Banks reflect our ongoing journey towards building a more sustainable and inclusive waste management ecosystem.

At these facilities, waste is transported, stored, sorted and weighed. Recyclable materials are recovered, while the remaining waste is channelled for responsible disposal. In the mountains, where difficult terrain and scattered settlements make waste management challenging, decentralised infrastructure (Waste Banks/Swachhta Kendras) brings solutions closer to communities. These spaces and people are essential to building a stronger waste management system and protecting our fragile mountain ecosystems.



MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY AT DHARAMSHALA



MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY AT HARRAWALA, DEHRADUN



SWACHHTA KENDRA, GAICHWAN VILLAGE

Strengthening decentralised waste management in the high-altitude villages of Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarkashi.



SWACHHTA KENDRA, KHYRASI NEAR KEMPTY FALLS

Infrastructure that helps address the growing waste footprint of tourism in the Mussoorie region.



SWACHHTA KENDRA, KEORI VILLAGE

A waste bank facility to help manage the growing waste footprint of tourism in the Bir-Billing region in Himachal Pradesh.



WASTE BANK IN KASAULI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A decentralised waste management centre for responsible waste management in Kasauli.



OUR SAKHIS & THE WASTE BANK IN CORBETT

An effort to build awareness, and create a safer, more informed space for waste management led by our Sakhis.



WORK IN PROGRESS

CARE TO KEEP THE MOUNTAINS CLEAN WITH US?



Whether it is reducing single-use plastics on your next trek, supporting local Paryavaran Sakhis, or bringing responsible waste practices into your own community, every action counts towards protecting the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. **We invite you to care about an issue that has long been overlooked: waste management.** Because this is not just about garbage. It is about public health, climate, dignity, and the future of mountain communities.

WHERE TO START:

Start by talking about it. Support the organisations working tirelessly on the ground. Share their stories, amplify community voices, and bring waste management into everyday conversations. If you cannot act today, pass the message on to someone who can. Sometimes, change begins with simply making an issue impossible to ignore.

Partner with us to build resilient, community-owned waste management systems across the Indian Himalayan Region. To explore institutional partnerships, CSR collaborations, or philanthropic support, write to us at partnerships@wastewarriors.org.

Scan the QR Code and Join the Fight Against Waste!

AND, THAT'S A WRAP!

Watch all these films on our Youtube Page...



Watch how Paryavaran Sakhis in Sahastradhara are leading a community effort to tackle waste mismanagement.



Watch Australian filmmaker, Brodie Hopkins, cover our work as part of his Protect the World series on wildlife and conservation.



WE ARE IN THE NEWS...

idr INDIA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Women unite to tackle Uttarakhand's waste problem

The Tribune VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Himachal Pradesh Government joins hands with waste warriors for rural waste management

India waterportal

Transforming waste: Vishal Kumar on India's path to sustainable plastic management

TRAVEL+ LEISURE INDIA

From Triund to Manali, young eco-activists are leading a mountain-wide waste movement.

Case Study: Shoonya

"Shoonya: Towards Zero Unchecked Solid Waste in the Himalayas" dives into how Waste Warriors has partnered with communities in and around the Govind Wildlife Sanctuary to confront mounting waste in a fragile alpine ecosystem. The study follows the journey from waste hotspots near trekking trails to women-led collection systems and formal waste-bank infrastructure.

WASTE WARRIORS

REDUCE RE-USE RECYCLE



Waste Warriors believes that waste is a global problem that requires local action. Over the past 13 years, we have grown from working in one location to reaching 12+ project locations across the Indian Himalayan Region. In Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, we are building inclusive, participatory, and sustainable solutions to tackle the waste crisis.

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Call us at +91 7505763049

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