

Citizens pledge to fight plastic pollution

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AHMEDABAD: The message of “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” was amplified at various events in the city on Tuesday, World Environment Day. This year’s theme was ‘Beat Plastic Pollution.’

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) marked the day with a slew of events. Mukesh Kumar, Ahmedabad municipal commissioner, released educational kits for school students and launched the “Green Key” initiative, which identifies hotels and other establishments exhibiting environmental responsibility and sustainable practices.

Kartikeya Sarabhai, director of CEE, said the initiative aims to raise awareness among school students and teachers through specially-designed activities. An e-waste collection centre was also launched at the

campus.

Approximately 125kg of plastic waste per kilometre was recovered during a cleanliness drive conducted by the state government’s social forestry department in Ahmedabad from 8.30am to 6pm on Tuesday. The drive will continue on Wednesday. S M Patel, range forest officer, Ahmedabad, said they will encourage citizens to work towards a green environment. Officials stopped 13 persons from littering, highlighting the need for monitoring and educating citizens, he added.

A group of citizens carried out a plantation drive on Juhapura Road in association with city police, where they planted trees and installed tree guards. Haseeb Shaikh, one of the organizers, said that a major plantation drive will be taken up in the area after the first spell of rain.

While IIT Gandhinagar organized “Hara Pitara”, to promote a green lifestyle, at Science City children engaged in activities ranging from workshops to film screenings and learning about the perils of waste. A number of city-based organizations engaged children and adults alike in spreading the message of water conservation, reducing carbon footprint and adopting greener practices.

AMC on Tuesday sealed 39 places selling banned plastic items, those thinner than 50 microns, and conducted a search to identify spots where plastic products not meeting standards are stored, as part of a drive against plastic pollution.