

Unpollute

by STEP

A Sustainability Conclave



A Report - 2024

Partners

Eversource
Everstone

Vfor
Her

Co-organized by



30th Sept -1st Oct' 24
www.thestepworld.com

Table of Contents



01

Introduction

02

The Journey Begins

03

UnPollute
Conclave – Day 1

04

Unpollute
Conclave – Day 2

05

Investor Meet ,
Exhibition Stalls

06

Winners & Media
Coverage

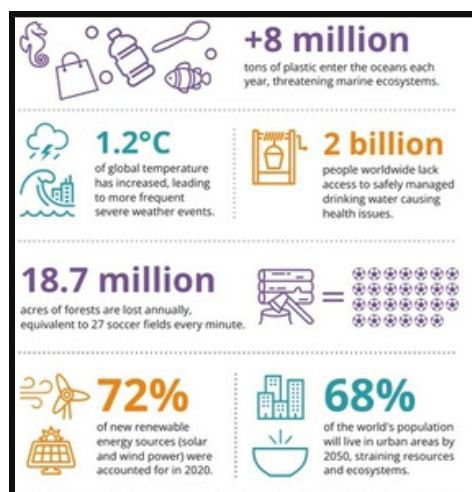
Introduction

Sustainability – A necessity, not a choice

Sustainability is crucial for meeting present needs without compromising future generations. Global temperatures are 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, with climate disaster costs projected to exceed \$23 trillion by 2050. Annually, over 2 billion metric tons of waste are produced, with about 33% improperly managed. Additionally, over 1 million species face extinction, and deforestation occurs at a rate of 27 football fields per minute. Embracing sustainable practices, therefore, is imperative for the well-being of our planet and future generations.

These practices compel us to rethink about production, consumption, and resource management to minimize waste, protect biodiversity, and build a resilient planet.

STEP recognizes that sustainability and climate change impact all sectors. and advocates for adoption of sustainable solutions across areas including energy, agriculture, and industry. These measures are essential to mitigate adverse effects of climate change, preserve ecosystems, and ensure a healthier, more equitable future for generations.



Source: International Renewable Energy Agency//WHO//NASA/
National Geographic//World Wild Life Fund

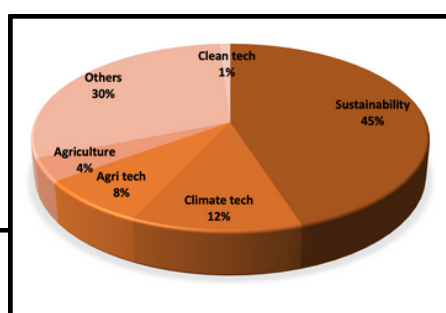


STEP proudly hosted UnPollute – A Sustainability Conclave, co-organized with Miranda House, a leader in women's education in India and supported by **Everstone**, **Eversource**, and **VForHer**. The event underscored the importance of fostering environmental awareness and sustainability showcasing impressive sustainable innovations developed by women entrepreneurs from across India, as well as contributions from students and fellows.

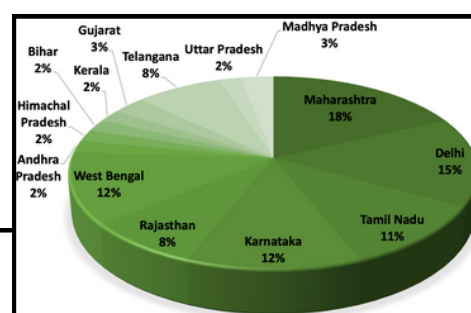
The two-day conclave, held at Miranda House, Delhi, commenced with a Pitching Round on UnPollute Day 1 - Pitchfest on 30th September 2024 UnPollute Conclave - Day 2 on 1st October 2024 featured insightful panel discussions, fireside chats, and entrepreneur talks, concluding with an award ceremony to celebrate the winners.

From Ideation to Impact

STEP invited applications from women-led startups across India with a focus on sustainability. Approximately 150 applications were received, with all participants offered support through mentorship, workshops, and masterclasses covering key topics such as impact measurement, product-market fit, building an investor pitch deck, and so on.... (A detailed report will follow soon) Following a thorough evaluation, 20 exceptional women advanced to the finals. (Note - 4 participants were unable to attend citing unavoidable reasons)

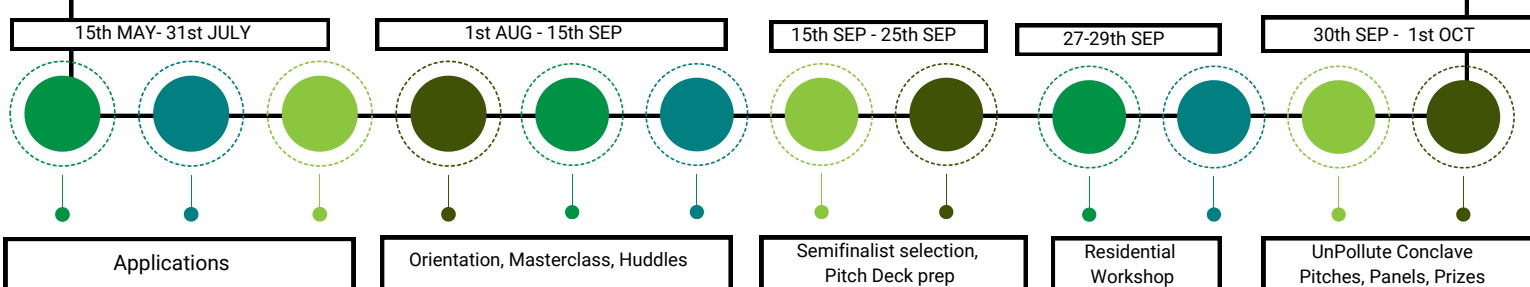


Applications - Sector wise



Applications - Location wise

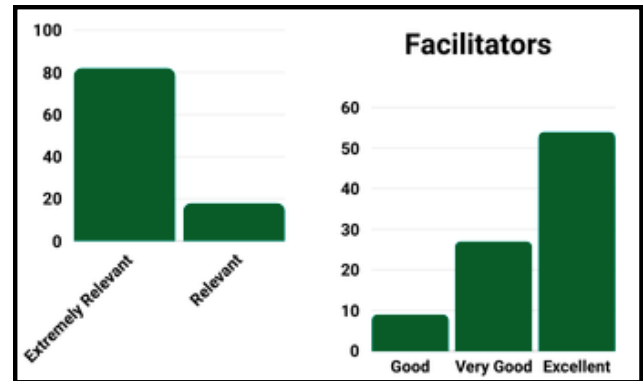
Program Timeline



The Journey Begins

Residential Program – Experiential Workshop for Founders

Feedback



With the support of Everstone & Eversource, STEP organized a Residential Program at Zorba - The Buddha, a serene eco-village renowned for its vibrant, life-affirming environment. Facilitated by Sumedhas, The Academy for Human Context, the workshop was led by Ms. Bhavana Issar and Mr. Steve Correa. The program aimed to create enriching learning experiences, foster self-awareness, and help participants integrate personal growth into their professional and personal lives. 12 STEPPERS participated in this transformative workshop.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Participants found the workshop life-changing and immersive, helping them dig deeper into personal challenges and professional growth. Many expressed a desire to participate in future workshops and appreciated the safe, secure environment fostered by the facilitators.



*"Thank you so much team **STEP** and Team **Sumedhas**, our mentors Steve and Bhawna for such an immersive experiential workshop. These three days were so well scripted by you guys that every minute added some insights within us. Thank you to all my teammates, enjoyed being with you, learning & dancing with you guys 😊😊"*

Ankur Jaipuria, Founder - Impact Foundation

*"I just wanted to express my gratitude to **STEP & Sumedhas** for this amazing experience and learning process. To strip oneself and to rebuild is not an easy process for anyone and I feel this gave a safe platform to us to do that! I have come back with this awakening and added a wealth of having met amazing women leaders and I hope to imbibe some qualities from each of them that have inspired me."*

Geetha Vijayasarithi, Co-founder - Tisser Artisans Trust

UnPollute Conclave

Day 1 – 30th Sept 2024

The first day began with an exciting pitching round featuring our innovative finalists. Their creativity and dedication to sustainability were truly commendable.



Finalists

S. no.	Founder Name	Organization
1	Malini Parmar	Soupstone
2	Surbhi Manocha	Ekobae Lifestyles
3	Anisha Shetty	Kiasha's MTL Pvt. Ltd.
4	Kohima Dhandhan	Eprrecycler
5	Meghna Rathore	Nariksha Pads Pvt. Ltd.
6	Nishita Mittal	Hitesh Enviro Engineers Pvt Ltd
7	Smita Singhal	Circular Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
8	Pahal Garwa	Blockceuticals Pvt. Ltd.
9	Madhura Jadhav	Zuviron Innovations
10	Vennila	Serigreen Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
11	Sushmita Malaviya	Kaaya Palat Consultants
12	Renu Pokharna	India Recycles
13	Anjali Puranik	The Bhagirath Laboratories
14	Krishna Bhadra	Agati Design Store
15	Ranjana Sirohi	Curative Creations
16	Kiran Singh	Bare Craft Consulting OPC Pvt. Ltd.

Studentpreneurs

S. No.	Founder Name(s)	Organization
1	Divya Sharma, Lakshita Khajanchi, Simran Joshi	Beezkin, Miranda House
2	Milu Maria Jose	Bloom, Miranda House
3	Tripti Jain, Ekanshi Ojha	Project Eco, Miranda House
4	Rahnuma Firdaous, Anvi Chawla, Fathima Amal	Project Nitara, Miranda House
5	Sandesh/Umesh Patil	Beyond Bite, Nashik Fellowship (STEP)

Meta Mastery: Unlocking Growth for Green Entrepreneurs, led by **Priyash Nigam**



Our 'Meta Tools' workshop was designed to help participants maximize the full potential of their online presence. Attendees learned actionable strategies to boost visibility, track performance, and build lasting connections, ensuring their brands stand out in the digital world.

Welcome Note
Reinu Shah, Founder - STEP



STEP Founder, Reinu Shah, opened the event with an inspiring welcome address, encouraging students to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path. She emphasized the importance of support in achieving transformative change, stating, "**Support is crucial for transformation. None of us can navigate these journeys alone. Empathy, encouragement, and community are the foundations of progress.**"



UnPollute Conclave

Day 2 – 1st October 2024



Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda,
Principal, Miranda House

Welcome Note by Dr. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House

We are committed to fostering an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship in environmental sustainability. Our collaboration with STEP is central to this vision, as we work together to empower our students to shape their future and the future of the country."

Keynote Speaker, Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade, (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry said, *"The government is committed to supporting environmental friendly company models, and we think that women entrepreneurs contribute significantly to this effort. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere that allows innovation and sustainability to thrive together peacefully through platforms such as UnPollute."*



Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry



Financing Solutions from the Government and Private Sector - A panel discussion - The esteemed panelists included Ms. Arti Bhatnagar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Professor Srinivas Chary Vedala, Director of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), and Ms. Archana Jahagirdar, Founder and Managing Partner of Rukam Capital. The session was moderated by Ms. Swati Shah Gupta, Founder of Excellerate Solutions. The panel explored various financing solutions that can unlock the capital essential for driving sustainable development. These opportunities have the potential to catalyze the transformative change needed to build a more sustainable future.

Left to Right: Ms. Arti Bhatnagar, Ms. Archana Jahagirdar, Prof. Srinivas C. Jedala, & Ms. Swati Shah

The Third Pillar of Climate - In conversation - The fireside chat featured an engaging discussion with Ms. Vandana Bhatnagar, a distinguished member of the Board of Governors (IIM) Jammu, Ms. Charu Gulati, Group Head, Human Resources at Everstone Capital Advisors India, and Ms. Neha Bansal, a Senior International Development Specialist. The discussion explored the significant role of women in addressing climate change. Panelists shared their experiences, challenges, and successes, underscoring the need for gender-inclusive approaches in environmental efforts and demonstrating the resilience and innovation that women bring to the forefront of the climate movement.



Left to Right: Ms. Vandana Bhatnagar, Ms. Charu Jaitley, and Ms. Neha Bansal

Entrepreneur Talk



Mr. Manik Thapar
Founder, EcoWise Waste Management

"Sustainability means rethinking waste as a resource. With innovation and collaboration, we can transform waste into opportunity, building a circular economy that benefits both people and the planet."



Ms. Garima Poonia,
Founder, Kachrewaale Foundation

"We must learn from our ancestors who lived in harmony with nature. By rethinking development and technology, we can adopt lifestyles that minimize waste and restore balance."

Unveiling of Mental Health Report



Left to Right: Ms. Nidhi Lal,
Ms. Archana Jahagirdar,
Aastha Agarwal

In March, STEP organized the Green Ribbon Fest in collaboration with HDFC Parivartan, an initiative aimed at supporting and empowering mental health startups in India. From the insights gathered during the program, we developed a special report—an in-depth guide to the mental health startup ecosystem in India. This report was unveiled by the Ms. Nidhi Lal, STEP's Alumnus from the Mental Health cohort, Ms. Archana Jahagirdar, Founder and Managing Partner, Rukam Capital, and Ms. Aastha Agarwal, student intern at STEP and report's co-author.



Investor Meet

This unique session gave our startups a one-on-one pitch opportunity with investors, offering founders a chance to present their ideas, build connections, and explore funding opportunities. Our distinguished panel of investors featured a diverse blend of angel investors, venture capitalists, sector experts, and successful entrepreneurs. Their collective expertise spanned across multiple sectors, enabling discussions on market potential, business models, and sustainable growth. The investors provided invaluable feedback to the startups, helping to shape the future of innovation in sustainability.

In addition to offering invaluable insights on funding, the investors provided critical feedback that helped the startups refine their ideas and strategies. This exchange of knowledge was not only about securing financial backing but also about fine-tuning the long-term vision of these businesses to ensure they could scale responsibly and achieve lasting impact. By fostering an environment where innovation meets expertise, the session played a key role in shaping the next generation of sustainability-driven ventures.



Exhibition Stalls

The UnPollute event served as a vibrant convergence of creativity, innovation, and eco-consciousness, with sustainability at its core. This platform allowed startups from the sustainability sector, along with students from Miranda House and STEP's Nashik Fellowship program, to showcase their innovative products and transformative environmental ideas in real time. Exhibits ranged from eco-friendly consumer goods to pioneering green technologies, showcasing diverse solutions for pressing environmental issues.

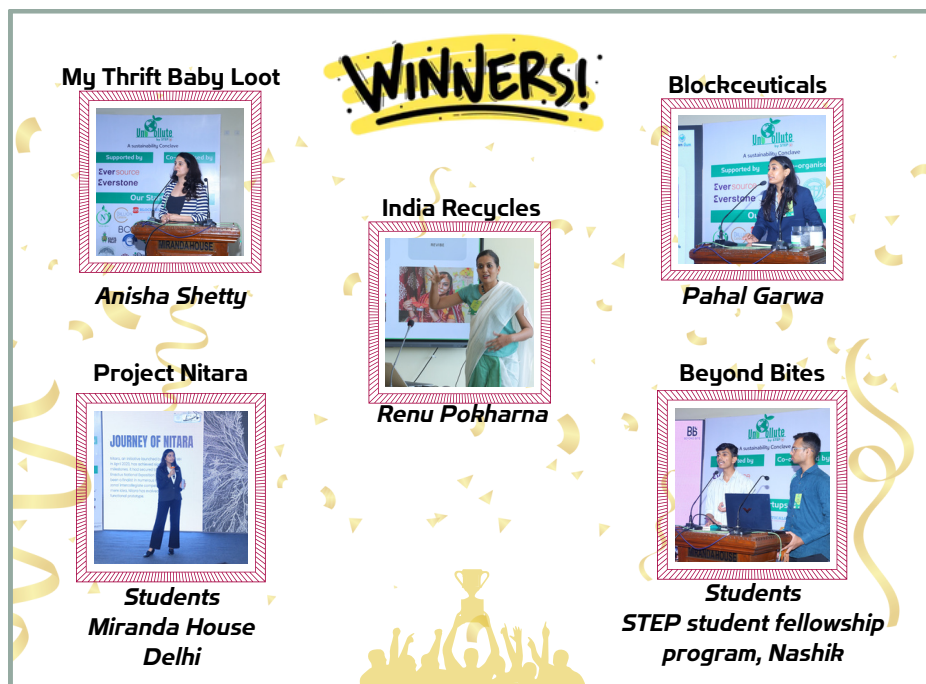
Beyond the product and idea showcase, the event provided a robust networking platform. Exhibitors connected with a diverse audience, including industry experts, students, peer entrepreneurs, and academics enabling them to engage in meaningful dialogue and share invaluable insights on sustainable living.



Winners

The event culminated with an award ceremony, where outstanding startups were recognized for their contributions to sustainability. Winners, both women founders and students were recognized for their creative approaches to waste management, circular economy initiatives, and climate action. The winners of the UnPollute event—**Blockceuticals (Pahal Garwa)**, **India Recycles (Renu Pokharna)**, and **Kiasha's MTL Pvt. Ltd. (Anisha Shetty)**—were collectively awarded Rs. 6 lakhs to support their innovative sustainability ventures.

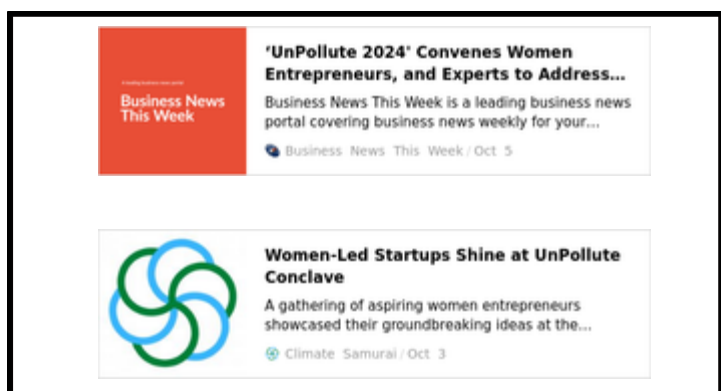
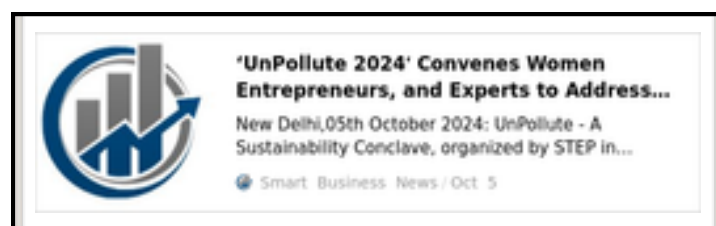
Additionally, two studentpreneurs, from Miranda and STEP student fellowship program, were also recognized for their climate change and sustainability driven ideas.



Media Coverage



UnPollute – A Sustainability Conclave received extensive media coverage, with prominent newspapers & outlets, both print and online, highlighting the event's impact. Featuring sustainability advocates, entrepreneurs, & sector experts the conclave generated significant attention across leading platforms. With a focus on climate tech, waste management, and the circular economy, UnPollute positioned itself as a landmark event in the sustainability sector.













Post-Event Support

In line with its commitment to supporting women entrepreneurs, STEP will offer needs-based **Mentorship Support** to the top 10 startups from the UnPollute Conclave. Additionally, assistance with **Legal Services** will be provided by **VforHer** to these finalists. Both the legal and mentorship services will be offered free of charge for a period of **6 months**.

Note: **VforHer**, an initiative by **Everstone Group**, is a women-led organization dedicated to advancing gender justice and equality. Focused on empowering women across India, the foundation creates an ecosystem for women's empowerment by connecting them with a broad network of legal professionals.

Top 10 startups for ongoing support

LOGO	STARTUP	LOCATION	FOUNDER	DESCRIPTION
	Kiasha's MTL P. Ltd	Mumbai Maharashtra	ANISHA Shetty	E-commerce marketplace through which parents can buy, sell, or give away their kids' preloved products.
	Blockceuticals P. Ltd	Nagaur Rajasthan	PAHAL Garwa	A sustainable recycling dry cell batteries to regenerate them into valuable biopolymer-based agri inputs with zero carbon emissions
	EPR Recycler	Kanpur UP	KOHIMA Dhandania	Waste Management Company that is turning Multi Layered Plastic waste into a sustainable solution for a cleaner future.
	Hitesh Enviro Engineers P. Ltd	Noida UP	NISHITA Mittal	An AI-based water and wastewater treatment solution.
	The Bhagirath Laboratories Introduces	Raigad Maharashtra	ANJALI Puranik	A novel eco-friendly economical and efficient adsorbent that can trap pollutants.
	Nariksha Pads P. Ltd	Rajsamand Rajasthan	MEGHNA Rathore	Converting agro waste into biodegradable sanitary napkins, sustainably and affordably
	Circular Water Solutions P. Ltd	Delhi Delhi	SMITA Singhal	Commercialising "AquaGo," solar-powered, mobile wastewater treatment unit using vermi-filtration technology to instantly provide portable water at the point of use.
	India Recycles	Ahmedabad Gujarat	RENU Pokharna	A zero waste enterprise that creates affordable markets for the urban poor
	Bare Craft Consulting P. Ltd	Delhi Delhi	KIRAN Singh	Their primary objective is to build sustainable livelihood opportunities in India & enhance the contribution of the creative economy by empowering SMEs in the craft, lifestyle & fashion sectors.
	Serigreen Technologies P. Ltd	Salem Tamil Nadu	VENILLA M.	A deep agri-tech service-based organization that provides resilient sericulture for climatic action and maintains the micro-climate for silkworms.

Partners

Ever
source
Everstone



Co-organized by

