

LAHORE: Minister for Environment Protection Bao Muhammad Rizwan was briefed on Punjab Environment & Punjab Green Development Programme (PGDP) by Urban Unit CEO Khalid Sherdil on Thursday in a meeting at Urban Unit.

Khalid Sherdil explained that the programme will strengthen the province's environmental management through empowering Environmental Protection Department to provide better services. The objective of the programme is to strengthen environmental governance and promote green investments in Punjab, he said and presented the environmental landscape of Punjab, water availability and water quality in Punjab as several factors, including rapid population growth, industrialisation, urbanisation and motorization, have resulted in growing environmental degradation and pollution.

Sherdil explained that as per Self-Monitoring and Reporting by Industry Rules, 2001, all industrial units shall be responsible for correct and timely submission of Environmental Monitoring Reports to the Federal Agency. To comply with this rule, Urban Unit will develop monitoring dashboard for the industries to get monthly and quarterly updates from these industries.

Hassan Illyas, Research Analyst, presented the Disbursement Linked Indicators of this programme including Restructuring of Environmental Governance in Punjab, Environmental Governance & Monitoring Framework, Best Available Techniques and ICT Based Solutions. He elaborated that there is a need to establish Strategic Planning and Implementation Unit of Punjab's Environment & Punjab Green Development Programme to achieve the said targets. Dr Basit, Specialist MIS, presented the design and development of the systems and applications for effective environmental monitoring and management in the province.

Discussing the Urban and Peri-Urban Tree Plantation Campaign, the minister and Urban Unit team agreed that they will share letter with all Housing Societies to reserve at least 7pc of its areas for open space or parks as per Punjab Housing Societies and Land Sub Division Rules 2010.

Specialist Solid Waste Management Urban Unit shared the facts of hospital waste facts of Punjab and its hazardous impact on environment. The minister directed Urban Unit to prepare a summary for the CM to regulate hospital waste collection, transport and disposal through licensing of eligible companies.

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