COUNCIL on BUSINESS & SOCIETY
An alliance with a purpose

CESC – Powering cities & People



CESC LIMITED







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FGV EAESP · ie · KBS · Smith · Stellenbosch Business School · Trinity College Dublin · wbs

COMPANY PROFILE

125 Years of Keeping the Lights On

Founded 1899

125+ years of continuous operations in Kolkata

3 Million Consumers

Sole distributor across 567 sq km of Kolkata

1,225 MW Thermal

Owned generation capacity with ~50% coal-linked supply

300 MW Solar Target

Via subsidiary Purvah Green Projects

Recognition That Speaks for Itself



Green Buildings & Environment

USGBC Leadership Award 2021LEED Platinum — CESC House



Energy & Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability Winner 2025 Best Sustainability Initiative 2025



CSR & Social Impact

Governor's Scroll of Honour 2024ICC Social Impact Award 2024



People & Workplace

Great Place to Work India's 100 Best Companies

Flagship Achievement: CESC House — the **first heritage building in India** to achieve LEED v4.1 O+M Platinum.

Source: CESC Limited — cesc.co.in/greenInitiative · cesc.co.in/csr · cesc.co.in/cescGeneration · cesc.co.in/careers

CORE PHILOSOPHY

Inefficiency Is Not Destiny



Discard

What society throws away – flowers, time, energy, emissions



Reframe

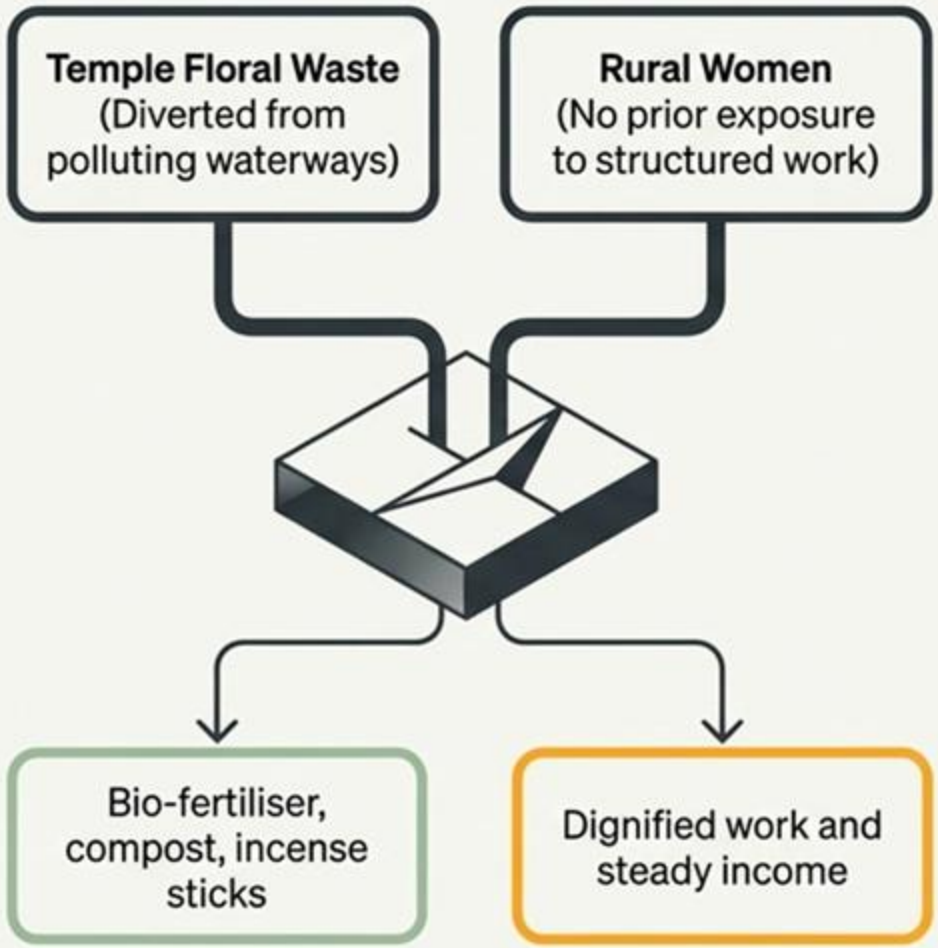
Seeing hidden value where others see only a problem



Reclaim

Converting waste into income, infrastructure, or insight

From Temple Waste to Financial Independence



300,000 Beneficiaries Reached

"For women in developing nations where poverty or tradition make empowerment feel like a luxury, this is more than waste management. It is daring to rewrite the script for someone who had no one else to do it for them."

Impact Note: One participant recently made the first independent household financial decision of her life—a direct result of reclaimed confidence.

The Honest Problem



1,225 MW thermal generation portfolio.



Coal mines supply ~50% of fuel.



3 million customers who cannot afford a single outage.

We must optimize the imperfect present while aggressively constructing the clean future.



Aggressive scaling of solar capacity.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).



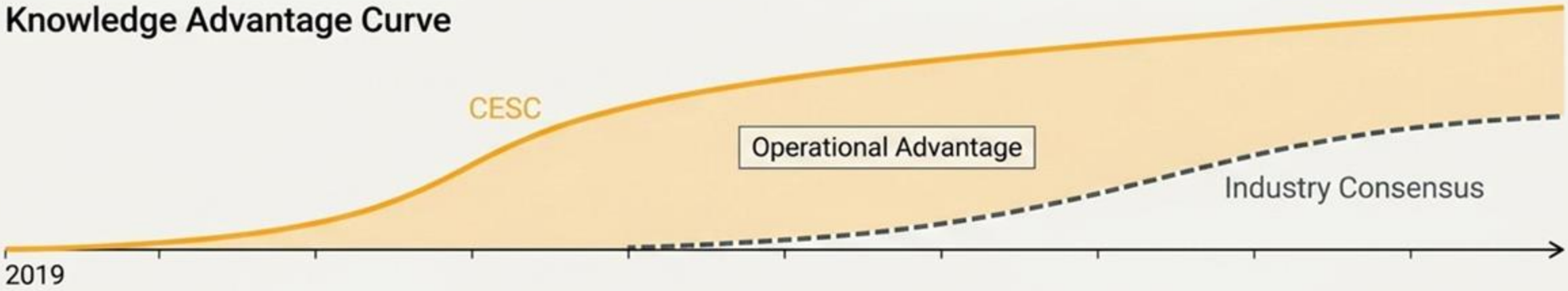
Floating microgrids.



Making Early Bets Nobody Asked For

The waste being reclaimed here is time. Most utilities will spend the next decade learning what CESC spent the last one figuring out.

Knowledge Advantage Curve

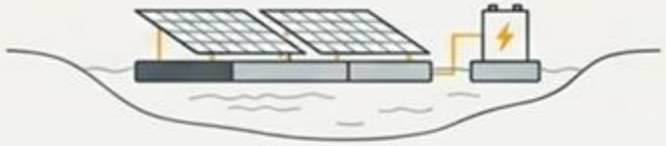


2019 Benchmark



315 kWh BESS at East Calcutta substation. Installed with no regulatory mandate, no consensus, and no obvious commercial case.

Chakmir Microgrid

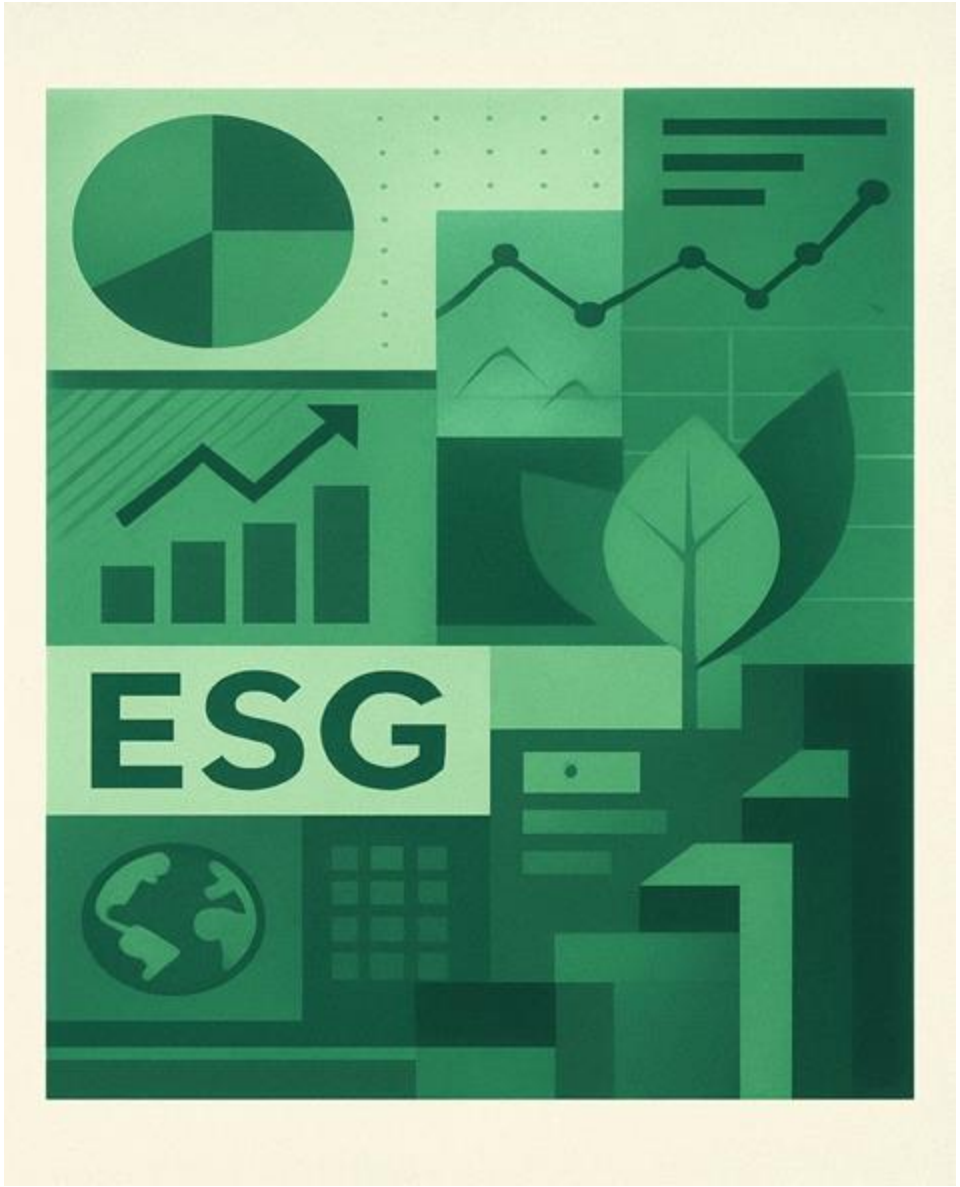


100 kWp Solar + 218 kWh Battery floating on a water body. Supplies local load, operates grid-independent during cyclones, AND reduces water evaporation beneath the panels.

Measuring Journeys, Not Just Endpoints

The standard ESG framework undervalues CESC's most significant contributions, and that gap is worth naming.

"Sustainability is fundamentally about the trajectory, pace, and credibility of transition over time."



Division Ownership

Named responsible persons in every division keep ESG accountability operational.

Board Oversight

Sustainability is reviewed at the highest governance level.

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The Road to 2070

Net zero by 2070 is honest about the scale of transformation required, and it depends on credible near-term milestones.

1

2019

First BESS installed at East Calcutta Substation: 315 kWh, years ahead of industry.

2

2025

India crosses 50% non-fossil installed capacity, five years ahead of the Paris target.

3

2029

3.2 GW renewable capacity committed, with a 3 GW solar manufacturing facility in development.

4

2030

Renewables exceed conventional generation, putting the 10 GW long-term target on track for 2070.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

What CESC Teaches the World About Responsible Business

1 ***Reframe before you discard***

Ask what if this isn't waste – applied to flowers, coal plants, and underemployed women, it changes everything.

2 ***Solve two problems with one solution***

Aparajita diverts floral waste and creates financial independence for women simultaneously.

3 ***Make early bets, even without a mandate***

Knowledge accumulated while competitors debated is now CESC's most valuable asset.

4 ***Own the contradiction honestly***

A company that admits imperfection while committing to change earns more credibility.

5 ***Measure journeys, not just endpoints***

Low T&D losses represent carbon avoidance that ESG scorecards never capture.

6 ***Empowerment is the point, not the byproduct***

When a participant made her first financial decision, that was the goal.

7 ***Dignity is a deliverable***

Telling a woman her labor and future have value – that is wh at business c in do.

8 ***Progress arrives quietly***

In a composting plant run by women, in a neighborhood no one mapped, in a transformed life.

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THANK YOU!

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