

This note provides a comprehensive overview of the progress, challenges, and future strategy for **Solid Waste Management (SWM)** under **SBM(G) Phase II** in **Lakhimpur Kheri**, Uttar Pradesh.

1. Progress of SWM under SBM(G) Phase II (2020–2026)

Since the launch of Phase II in 2020, Lakhimpur Kheri has transitioned from universal toilet access to **ODF Plus** status, focusing on "Sampoorn Swachhata."

- **Village Coverage:** Out of the **1,686 villages** in the district, approximately **1,677** have been marked for SWM arrangements. As of early 2026, the district has achieved a high rate of **ODF Plus** declarations, with most villages falling under the "**Rising**" (both SWM and LWM arrangements) or "**Aspiring**" categories.
 - **Infrastructure Development:** * **Segregation Sheds:** Numerous Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) and segregation sheds have been established at the Gram Panchayat (GP) level.
 - **Collection Tools:** Procurement of manual tricycles and e-rickshaws for door-to-door collection has been a priority.
 - **Processing:** Implementation of community compost pits for wet waste and tie-ups with Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs) at the block level for dry waste.
 - **Funding Utilization:** Convergence of funds from SBM(G) and the **15th Finance Commission (Tied Grants)** has been the backbone of these physical achievements.
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2. Key Challenges Faced

Despite significant infrastructure growth, the district faces specific hurdles in reaching 100% functional saturation:

- **Behavioral Gaps:** Transitioning households from "dumping waste" to "source segregation" (Dry vs. Wet) remains a slow process in remote rural pockets.
 - **Logistical Terrain:** Lakhimpur Kheri's large geographical area and flood-prone zones (near the Sharda river) make consistent waste collection difficult during monsoon seasons.
 - **Technical Capacity:** Lack of technical expertise at the GP level to manage aerobic composting or operate battery-powered vehicles efficiently.
 - **Financial Sustainability:** Reliance on government grants rather than self-sustaining user-charge models.
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3. Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Arrangements

To ensure sustainability, the district has moved toward a **Decentralized O&M Model**:

Feature	Description
Custodian	Gram Panchayats are the primary owners of SWM assets.

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User Charges	GPs are empowered to collect monthly "Swachhata Shulk" (User Charges) from households and commercial shops to pay for collectors' salaries.
Self-Help Groups (SHGs)	Many villages have outsourced collection and segregation to local Purna SHGs , providing livelihood opportunities for women.
Monitoring	Use of the SBM(G) IMIS and the "Swachh Bharat" mobile app for geo-tagging assets and reporting functionality.

4. Way Forward for Saturation & Sustainability

The goal for 2026 and beyond is to cover the residual villages and ensure no village slips back into "non-functional" status.

- **100% Door-to-Door Collection:** Deploying motorized vehicles for larger villages (5000+ population) and manual carts for smaller clusters.
- **Plastic Waste Linkages:** Strengthening the "Hub and Spoke" model where every GP is linked to a Block-level Plastic Waste Management Unit to ensure dry waste is baled and sold to recyclers.
- **GOBARDhan Integration:** Promoting community-level biogas plants in cattle-rich blocks of Kheri to manage animal waste and generate clean fuel.
- **IEC 2.0:** Shifting focus from "building toilets" to "managing waste" through wall paintings, "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaigns, and school-level awareness.