

SECLITE



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

THE LAST STRAW

IT'S TIME WE REDUCE OUR PLASTIC USE



GET SMART ABOUT E-WASTE

Here's why and how you should recycle your e-waste.

STEPS TO A PLASTIC-LESS LIFESTYLE

Make a difference in the fight to reduce plastic waste with these small tips!

GREEN AND GROWING

What if going green could save money for you and your business?



Singapore Environment Council

STEPS TO A PLASTIC-LESS LIFESTYLE

You might use plastic straws, water bottles, and coffee cup stirrers for just a few minutes, but these items don't disappear when they are discarded.

Single-use plastic items account for more than 40 per cent of plastic waste globally, and each year about 8.8 million tonnes of plastic trash flows into the ocean. This endangers wildlife, pollutes the water, and puts human health at risk.

In Singapore, plastic was the largest category of waste disposed of last year. We produced a staggering 815,200 tonnes of plastic waste in 2017, yet only 6 per cent was recycled. The rest of it was incinerated and shipped to Semakau Landfill, which is slowly running out of space.

This may all sound frightening, but small changes to your routine can make a real difference in the fight against plastic. Start with these simple tips below:



CARRY YOUR OWN CUTLERY

Avoid using disposable knives, forks and spoons when you are eating on the go. You can keep silverware in your desk for lunch at work, or bring a set with you when dining out.



SAY NO TO STRAWS

One of the easiest ways to reduce plastic use is to refuse plastic straws. Simply inform your waiter that you don't need one, and make sure to specify this when ordering at a hawker centre. You can also purchase a reusable stainless steel or glass drinking straw.



USE REUSABLE BOTTLES AND CUPS

Instead of disposable water bottles, refill a reusable bottle. Bring a reusable cup to coffee shops and ask the barista to fill it up.



BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER

Whether you are taking food away or bringing home your restaurant leftovers, be prepared with your own reusable containers. When you place your order, ask if you can get the food placed in your own container. Most eateries will have no problem with it.



REFUSE PLASTIC PACKAGING WHEN ORDERING FOOD ONLINE

Ordering your lunch online? Pick the "opt out" option for disposable plastic cutlery. Food delivery companies like [Deliveroo](#) and [foodpanda](#) allow customers to say no to plastic forks and spoons when they make orders online.

KNOW YOUR PLASTIC

CAN THESE BE RECYCLED?



Yes

PLASTIC BOTTLES

DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CUTLERY

Yes



No

STYROFOAM PACKAGING



CD AND CD CASING

No



PLASTIC STRAWS

Yes

Yes



PLASTIC BAGS

No



PLASTIC PACKAGING CONTAMINATED WITH FOOD



PLASTIC PACKAGING

GET SMART ABOUT E-WASTE

IN THE FIVE MINUTES YOU TAKE TO READ THIS ARTICLE, SINGAPORE WOULD HAVE DISCARDED 570KG OF ELECTRONICS.

THAT'S ROUGHLY THE WEIGHT OF 3,800 MOBILE PHONES!



Drop off old gadgets at recycling points provided by organisations like StarHub, Dell, Panasonic and IKEA.

In one year, Singapore generates more than 60,000 tonnes of e-waste, half of which is generated by households. According to the National Environment Agency, only 6 per cent of e-waste ends up in recycling bins.

WHY RECYCLE E-WASTE?

Rapid changes in technology and shorter product life-cycles have resulted in a surplus of e-waste around the globe. Improper disposal of electronics leads to pollution and harms our health.

E-waste that is not recycled is incinerated and results in the release of carbon emissions that contribute to global warming.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Recycle your e-waste. There are currently eight e-waste recycling programmes available offering recycling points for your old gadgets. Learn more about these programmes [here](#).

Know what you can recycle. Common types of e-waste include computers, mobile phones, printers, modems, computer mice, battery chargers, cables and wires, etc.



TAKE PART IN THE INAUGURAL E-WASTE CHALLENGE, PART OF THE SEC-STARHUB SCHOOL GREEN AWARDS (SGA) 2018!

We believe that youths have a crucial role in driving behavioural and mindset change. The inaugural E-Waste Challenge is thus created to mobilise students and school staff to take action to minimise e-waste.

Schools are encouraged to opt for this initiative under their **SGA application**. For every kg of e-waste collected by schools, StarHub will contribute S\$5 to help children learn more about biodiversity conservation and the environment.

Sources: National Environment Agency, StarHub, Channel NewsAsia

For more details, visit sec.org.sg/sga/e-waste-challenge.

GOING GREEN – MORE THAN JUST A COLOUR



In celebration of Earth Hour 2018, StarHub employees took part in a green learning journey to better appreciate the environment.

When StarHub established its six-point green policy in 2009, the telco understood the importance of growing its business without compromising the environment.

Another key component of StarHub's environmental policy is to actively engage their employees in environmental learning and behaviour, through the eco learning journeys and workshops organised for them throughout the year.

In addition, SEC works closely with StarHub to encourage youth to put their green ideas into action through the SEC-StarHub School Green Awards. Through this programme, students get to contribute to a sustainable Singapore in their own way.

For more on StarHub's green initiatives, visit this [link](#).

"Green is more than just a colour to us. It's part of our philosophy."

SMOOTH SAILING AHEAD FOR PLANET EARTH



Regular eco workshops help MPA staff to cultivate a green office culture.

As a leading maritime agency, sustainability is integral to Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)'s operations in an industry that currently accounts for **two per cent** of global carbon dioxide emissions.

MPA began its office environmental journey back in 2002, with the implementation of its 3Rs (Recycling, Reuse and Reduce) programme. Since then, the agency has introduced various initiatives to cultivate a green office culture.

Examples include eco workshops to teach participants to upcycle, making wallets and terrariums using discarded materials like used drink cartons. In recognition of its commitment to environmental sustainability, MPA again received the Project: Eco-Office certification from SEC in 2017, a feat it has continuously achieved since 2011.

CALLING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



Mr J.D. Kasamoto, General Manager, Service & Environment Division, Ricoh Asia Pacific, led the Industry Innovation roundtable discussion at Eco Action Day 2018.

“THE CHALLENGES THE WORLD FACES TODAY RANGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBALISATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, TO ENERGY RESOURCE SUPPLY ISSUES. THE OPERATING CLIMATE HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS.

SAID MR KAZ GOTO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF RICOH ASIA PACIFIC



The panel consisted of J.D. Kasamoto, General Manager of Service and Environment Division of Ricoh Asia Pacific; Crystynna Ewe, APJ Regional Director Global Takeback of Dell; Maggie Lee, Corporate Partnership Strategist of WWF; and Professor Seeram Ramakrishna, Chair of Circular Economy Taskforce of National University of Singapore.

In conjunction with World Environment Day on 5 June 2018, Japanese electronic multinational Ricoh Asia Pacific brought together government, business, and academic leaders to explore how sustainable infrastructure development can contribute to a greener future.

The industry roundtable concluded the 12th edition of Eco Action Day, an annual national public awareness campaign organised by Ricoh since 2007.

The roundtable discussion centred on achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG) 9, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation, in Singapore.

Points raised during this year’s roundtable discussion include the following:

- Industry Innovation**– With the Internet of Things (IoT), the average lifecycle of > products has extended. Corporations can consider shifting towards being service providers, instead of manufacturing with obsolescence and increasing the amount of waste generated.
- Managing end-of-life**– Products must be designed with end-of-life in mind.
- > **Driving the circular economy**– Businesses should utilise waste as a resource, while > recycling should be made accessible for consumers.
- What the future will look like**– If SDG 9 is neglected, rapid urbanisation in a high-density > metropolis like Singapore will continue at the expense of the environment.

Apart from the industry roundtable, Ricoh, with help from SEC, also encouraged organisations, schools and individuals to make pledges in support of the Year of Climate Action. The outcome reflected an increasingly positive attitude towards the environment, with the number of pledges increasing by 30 per cent from 2017.

Gracing the annual Industry Roundtable was Guest-of-Honour Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. She noted, “The response from businesses in making pledges in support of the Year of Climate Action has been truly heartening, and shows that the corporate world is as passionate as the public sector about creating a more sustainable Singapore.”

For more on Eco Action Day, visit www.ecoaction.sg.

GREEN AND GROWING



ValueMax began their green journey in 2017, implementing policies to protect the environment and conserve energy.



Sustainability is more than just being eco-friendly. Increasingly, we see more companies adopt ethical practices in their daily operations.

At the forefront of this movement is ValueMax Group Pte Ltd. The pawnbroking chain began their green journey in May 2017 after recognising that sustainable growth and a clean environment go hand in hand. ValueMax is a SMRT Shops tenant and all their stores have since been certified under the Project: Eco-Shop programme.

“We believe that sustainable growth and a clean environment are inextricably linked. ValueMax considers its long standing commitment to the environment as a cornerstone of its reputation and ability to conduct business,” said Mr Rich Chua, Operations Manager, ValueMax Group Ltd.

The Project: Eco-Shop programme was the stepping stone that helped guide the company to establish an environmentally-friendly workplace. This certification programme is a joint initiative between SEC and SMRT Corporation Ltd, and guides retailers to fit out their shops in an environmentally-sustainable manner, as well as to adopt eco-friendly habits and green practices. Through it, retailers can significantly reduce their energy consumption over time and lower their utility bills, as ValueMax noticed after switching to LED lights.

In addition, ValueMax employees formed a Green Committee solely devoted to identifying where and how improvements can be made on their premises. And the benefits are clear.

“Besides reducing operating costs for the organisation, our decision to go green also bolstered ValueMax’s brand awareness at the same time, resulting in a stronger customer base for the company,” said Mr Chua.



WE CAN HELP YOU TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

Project: Eco-Shop is a joint initiative between SEC and SMRT Corporation Ltd. It guides retailers to fit out their shops in an environmentally-sustainable manner and adopt eco-friendly practices.

Shops that achieve a satisfactory rating are certified with an Eco-Shop label, a strong sign of their commitment to being green. Retailers are also able to reduce their energy consumption in the long run.

For more details, visit www.sec.org.sg/ecoshop



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