

Singapore Environment Council Announces Winners of Interschool Recycling Contest

- Forty-five schools raced to recycle the most PET bottles
- Winner gets to visit *Coca-Cola's plant in Kuala Lumpur* and go on an eco-trip to Pulau Ketam

Singapore, 28 February 2020: Singapore Environment Council (SEC) announced today that **Zhenghua Secondary School** has emerged as the overall victor of the interschool bottle recycling competition **One Less Plastic – PET Bottle Collection Contest** with **67 kg** of PET bottles collected.

In total, **45** schools took part in the contest organised by SEC in partnership with Sembcorp Industries (Sembcorp) and sponsored by **Coca-Cola**. Ms Sharon Tan, Director, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability at Coca-Cola Singapore and Malaysia presented the top prize to the student representatives of Zhenghua Secondary School. The 3D2N trip to Malaysia is sponsored by **Coca-Cola**.

On the trip, **the students will get to visit Coca-Cola's bottling plant** in Kuala Lumpur, as well as get the opportunity to explore Pulau Ketam, a small island near Port Klang that is vulnerable to marine debris. Since 2015, Coca-Cola has worked with the Malaysian Nature Society to improve waste management at Pulau Ketam, including implementing composting and recycling programmes, and conducting environmental education programmes.

“The students have done an excellent job in recycling PET bottles. After SEC’s One Less Plastic campaign, we hope they will continue with good recycling habits and pass on the message to encourage friends and family members to recycle PET bottles the right way as all it takes is three simple steps, ‘Rinse, Dry and Recycle’. The students’ recycling efforts have contributed towards waste reduction, conservation of natural resources, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,” said **Ms Tay Sok Leng, Head Business Strategy & Development, SEC**.

Ms Sharon Tan, Director, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability at Coca-Cola Singapore and Malaysia, concurred. “We believe that every package should have more than one life, including PET bottles which are fully recyclable and have value beyond its initial use. This is why we are heartened to see such great participation from the schools and we would like to thank every school who joined the competition. The **One Less Plastic Campaign** has been a great way to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and the value of PET plastic among the young. We look forward to continue working with the Singapore Environment Council to drive environmental awareness and to spread the message of Recycling Right.”

Mr. Neo Hong Keat, Senior Vice President (Waste Management), Sembcorp, said, “Single-use plastics such as PET bottles are a concern due to the high consumption and the damages they can cause to the environment. There are also recycling challenges when PET bottles are contaminated. We are therefore very proud to support this inter-school competition which collected over 600kg worth of clean bottles that are fit for recycling. It goes to show that when like-minded organisations work together, we can help create a more sustainable future.”

As part of the **One Less Plastic – PET Bottle Collection Contest**, participating schools were provided with a 660L recycling bin for the collection of used PET bottles from November 2019 to February 2020. During the three-month competition, Sembcorp’s ‘**ezi**’ **recycling app** facilitated the convenient collection of bottles from the participating schools. Overall, the project amassed more than 600 kg of recyclable PET bottles. The overall scores were assessed by SEC based on each school’s total weight of PET bottles collected in relation to the school’s population comprising of students, educators, and non-teaching staff alike.

To make the contest more challenging and to inculcate the concept of recycling right, a **10% penalty** was deducted from the score of a given collection if **food or liquid waste** and/or **non-PET bottle materials** were found in the bin.

The **One Less Plastic – PET Bottle Collection Contest** is the second part of a two-part outreach campaign, **One Less Plastic Campaign**, launched in 2019. The campaign aims to foster a recycling culture amongst the students of Singapore and get them to take ownership of decisive action against environmental damage. The first component, **Recycling Bin Design Contest**, held last year, saw 20 schools submit many unique and creative takes on the humble design of the blue recycling bin.

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ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-governmental organisation (NGO). As Singapore’s first United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-accredited environmental NGO, we influence thinking of sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in the nation.

We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors. SEC continuously engages

all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: Eco-F&B. In addition, we build a pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme. Our Training and Education arm provides the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a sustainable future.

Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.

新加坡环境理事会简介

新加坡环境理事会 (SEC) , 成立于 1995 年 , 是非政府组织 (NGO) , 也是非盈利机构。我们致力于推广新加坡可持续发展项目同时协调环境改善事务。在 2018 年 , 新加坡环境理事会被联合国环境规划署授予认证。

我们是一个获得认可的慈善机构 , 捐赠者可享受税务优惠。通过举办一系列整体项目如新加坡环境成就奖 (Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards) 、亚洲环境新闻奖(Asian Environmental Journalism Awards) 、 SEC-星和校园绿化奖 (SEC – StarHub School Green Awards)、新加坡绿色标签计划 (Singapore Green Labelling Scheme)、绿化办公室计划(Project: Eco-Office)、绿化商店计划 (Project: Eco-Shop)和绿化餐饮计划 (Project: Eco-F&B) , 新加坡环境理事会持续在社会各个领域发挥作用。

通过志愿环保战士 (Earth Helpers) 项目新加坡环境理事会组织了一支队伍协助和改善环境。我们的培训与教学部门旨在提高人民、政府部门及各领域的环保意识 , 知识与技能 , 并提供相关教材。多年以来 , 新加坡环境理事会一直支持并引导着新加坡的环保运动 , 通过与企 业、政府机构和其他非政府组织建立密切的合作关系以更积极的行动达成改善环境的远景 , 这对于我们项目的可持续发展是至关重要的。

