

For Immediate Release

Stronger legislation, early intervention among suggestions to shape Singapore's green future

*14 key findings from dialogue sessions put up by SEC for consideration in review of Sustainable
Singapore Blueprint*

Singapore, 26 May 2014 – Participants and respondents to a national dialogue on Singapore's environmental future have indicated stronger legislation and early intervention, among other suggestions, as key factors which will be necessary to shift behavioural change towards a cleaner, greener and safer Singapore.

The suggestions and ideas from members of the public from various sectors of society are a result of 19 dialogue sessions which were conducted over a three month period by the Singapore Environment Council, Singapore's leading non-governmental organisation (NGO) which champions environmental advocacy, education and action.

Other recurring themes which were brought up by participants include better and greener infrastructure, a stronger culture of corporate citizenship as well as consistency in policies, messages and actions. (Please refer to Annex A for the list of recurring themes.)

"The ENVision dialogue sessions have been an effective conduit in gathering feedback from the ground, to continually nurture citizens who exhibit ownership, responsibility and care for our environment. The visioning report addresses common issues pertaining to Singapore, which includes how the people sector, one of the most important Ps in the 3P framework which make up the Public, Private and People sectors, should be empowered with the right to be heard and make a difference in how environmental policies are crafted," said Mr Jose Raymond, Chief Executive of the SEC.

Added Mr Raymond: "The challenges we face now, and in the near future, will require a many-hands-on-deck approach, and solutions will have to be co-constructed by using a 3P framework. This is one of the reasons why it is crucial for all sectors to work together to achieve a common objective of a sustainable, clean, green and safe city of the future."

Agreeing with Mr Raymond, Mr Eu Pui Sun, Senior Vice President of Senoko Energy Pte Ltd said: "It is crucial for Singapore to work ceaselessly to preserve what little we have in the environmental areas at a sustainable level. Those of us who care for environmental issues need to be the brave conscience of our nation, and speak out just as we did during the ENVision dialogues."

Besides those from the business community, the dialogue sessions also involved participants from the community groups, government agencies, NGOs, schools and the youth sectors, among others.

Students, who formed nearly half of the participants, also felt empowered to speak their minds on Singapore's green future.

"It is wrong to think that individual efforts do not make a difference. It is through our little initiatives that the world can become more environmentally friendly," opined Mr Gideon Loh, a Secondary 2 student from Queensway Secondary School.

From the list of recurring themes, the SEC was able to conclude that the three values which Singaporeans and members of the public felt strongly about were 'Care, Responsibility and Ownership'.

"Participants were forthcoming with their feedback and showed a keen sense of interest in the future of our earth and nation, perhaps attributable to the atypical weather conditions Singapore has seen recently such as the haze and dry spell. We are confident that the visioning report will play an essential role in ensuring the success of a sustainable future due to its grounds-up approach, strategically targeted at every sector. It also underscores the vital role that NGOs like the SEC play in tackling national issues. Ultimately, what's important is that we have to take ownership and be responsible stewards of the environment," added Mr Raymond.

The findings will form the basis of an upcoming review for the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint, and are in response to the call made by Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the Singapore Sustainability Symposium held on 8 Jan 2014.

"Everyone can make a difference, regardless of our backgrounds. It begins with one and it begins with me," said Mr Lawrence Joseph, Associate General Secretary of Singapore Kindness Movement.

"Though the series of ENVision dialogue sessions have ended, the conversation has only just begun – we look forward to receiving more views from the public to help us further refine the visioning statement," added Mr Raymond.

**** END OF MEDIA RELEASE ****

Annex A: Key Findings from dialogue sessions

- **Early Intervention** – conditioning a pro-environment mindset from young
- **Stronger Attitude** – Addressing apathy and inaction
- **Impactful Education** – Experiential, scenario-driven (cause and effect) and habit-forming
- **Better Signalling and Messaging** – Consistency in policies, messages and actions
- **Stronger Advocacy from the People Sector** – Encourage or enable communities, grassroots leaders and NGOs to engage more
- **Exemplary Conduct** – to use “Green Champions” as role models within the community
- **Peer influence** – to drive individual habits to become societal norms
- **Better and Greener Infrastructure**
 - e.g. Recycling waste chutes in HDBs, use of more natural light in homes, more cycling lanes
- **Stronger Role (Public Sector)** – playing the role of an enabler to encourage and emphasise environmental initiatives
- **Better Incentives** – incentivising behavioural shifts
- **Stronger CSR/Pro-active (Private Sector)** – stronger culture of corporate citizenship
- **Having a Green Reflex** – having the environment at the centre of discussions
- **Stronger Legislation / Regulation** – use of legislation to regulate shifts in behaviour
- **Leader in Green Technology** – Singapore being the hub of R&D and adoption of the latest green technology in the region

Annex B: Quotes from ENVision participants

- “ENVision has brought leaders and influencers across Singapore together to brainstorm on protecting the environment and tackling climate change, which are probably Singapore’s greatest challenges for the long term.” - **Chan Mun Wei**, *Divisional Director, Corporate Planning Division, Sentosa Development Corporation*
- “I look forward to a Singapore society that is truly First World – a community that recognises our responsibility as heirs of our natural world, as custodians with interests beyond our individual selves, as people who would do what is right not because we are made to, but because we want to.” - **Leonard Chua Jun Yi**, *Singapore Ambassador, Pangaea Young Explorer Programme*
- “The ENVision is an enriching platform which bridges the government, business and civil society to generate ideas on how we can work together more effectively and create a liveable and sustainable environment for Singapore. It has been an inspiring experience for me to be part of the discourse.” - **Tai Jo Fen**, *Assistant Director, Centre for Liveable Cities, Bayer’s Young Environmental Envoy, 2004*

- “I imagine Singapore will be a city where its residents take ownership of caring for the environment; where children grow up knowing how precious our natural resources are; and where communities come together to initiate projects that make a difference to their immediate surroundings,” - **Lau Yu Ching**, Senior Executive, East and Central Asia Desk, Civil Service College International
- “The current trend is for incremental improvements that fail to move us sufficiently away from the business-as-usual unsustainable ways of doing things. Nevertheless, I am hopeful that we will see the rise of leaders who have the vision and courage to create the necessary change.” - **Tan Yi Han**, Founder, People's Movement to Stop Haze
- “Balance needs and desires with Wisdom; respect for life, pure nature and properties with Compassion.” - **Yeo Siew Tin**, SEC Earth Helper
- “What is the use of a fine house we build for our family when we have not got a sustainable planet to put it on?” - **Jeremy Kong**, Programme Chair (Diploma in Environmental Science) School of Applied Science, Republic Polytechnic
- “Environmental issues are complex and messy. It requires systems thinking and long term commitment from various stakeholders to cover all grounds. I am sure the ENVisioning Exercise can facilitate a better future for Singapore.” - **Ryan Jin Zhanhe**, President, Earthlink NTU
- “I see a clean and green Singapore where society as a whole takes responsibility for keeping the environment clean in their area of influence. For example, where families as a unit take personal responsibility and advocacy to clear their tables at food centres and in public areas, or where companies take responsibility in taking up environmental causes within their organisation” - **Sharon Kee Seok Khim**, Director, HORSBRUGH ENGINEERING (F.E.) PTE LTD
- “I envision that we will flourish as a true garden city by developing a strong "green reflex" for a sustainable future. I am creating greater awareness to the green initiatives available by the government/ NGOs and instilling the culture to people around me with the hope that it will finally become second nature. The game changer is the nexus, with an optimal balance between early intervention and infrastructure in tropical Singapore” - **Christian Eber**, Technical Director, CE Engineering Pte Ltd
- “The future of Singapore's environment is entirely dependent on the condition of the world as a whole, and on each person understanding the impact of their choices on this global system. Only as a result of each of us taking responsibility for reducing our own consumption, and by collectively prioritizing the health and biodiversity of our home planet, will we be able to safeguard Singapore's environment for future

generations.” - **Alice T. Grainger**, Editor, *Scuba Diver AUSTRALASIA | THROUGH THE LENS*, Asian Geographic Magazines Pte. Ltd.

- "I hope that one day I can make a difference by taking a lead in making the community more active in their contribution towards the environment." - **Faris Mazlan**, Sec 3, *Queensway Secondary School*
- “In Singapore, there is potential to better engage the large youth movement and young workers to help push for policies that support clean and affordable energy or launch initiatives for workplaces to adopt renewable energy. With more active youth environment champions taking actions everywhere and anywhere, we can continue Singapore's efforts in building our energy resilience, towards a sustainable future.” - **Nor Lastrina Hamid**, Team Manager Team Young NTUC, 350 Singapore
- "From the dialogue I learnt that everyone can play a part in conserving the environment. Even if I am only playing a small part, but it is something I can do for the environment." **Timothy Tan**, Sec 3, *Queensway Secondary School*
- “I hope to see Singapore become a country where people are environmentally responsible.” – **Arjun**, Sec 3, *Queensway Secondary School*
- “I hope to see the pervasive use of environmental technology in Singapore.” - **Rachel Wee**, Sec 3, *Queensway Secondary School*
- I hope to see Singapore as a country where everyone plays a part and helps each another keep the environment clean. For example, gracious enough to pick up litter for others.” - **Grace**, Sec 3, *Queensway Secondary School*

Annex C: Participant Breakdown by Stakeholder Group

Stakeholder Group	# (Individuals)	In percentage
Corporates	75	17%
Schools / Youth	201	46%
Public Sector	79	18%
Community and NGOs	81	19%
Total	440	100%

NOTES TO THE EDITOR



ABOUT ENVISION

ENVision is a series of public dialogue sessions initiated by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) to set a common vision and values for the environment based on the views and suggestions of Singaporeans. The exercise aims to engage participants from NGOs, schools, youths, private and public sectors, to the community, to provide their feedback and vision for the future of Singapore's environment.

For more information about ENVision, please visit www.sec.org.sg/ENVision.




ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-government organisation that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Singapore. SEC's work is founded on three pillars of action – Firstly, partnership with the people, private and public sectors of Singaporean society, to nurture a culture aligned with sustainable development concepts. Secondly, SEC rewards environmental excellence through awards schemes and product endorsement programmes, such as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme. Thirdly, the SEC collaborates with partners to develop and

implement training and learning programmes to build competencies in environmental sustainability within companies, thus keeping our business leaders ahead of the curve. Visit our website at www.sec.org.sg.

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For more information about ENVision, please contact:

Mr Danial Mustapha
Executive (Communications)
Singapore Environment Council
Tel: (65) 6433 5398
Mobile: (65) 9223 6795
danial.mustapha@sec.org.sg

Ms Noor Aisha
Manager (Communications)
Singapore Environment Council
Tel: (65) 6433 5388
Mobile: (65) 9786 3091
noor.aisha@sec.org.sg