

SIXTY PER CENT OF SINGAPORE'S STUDENTS MOBILISED TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Record number of schools involved in SEC-StarHub School Green Awards

Students reached one in 12 residents with conservation and recycling message

Singapore, November 8, 2017: Six out of every 10 school-age students¹ participated in this year's SEC-StarHub School Green Awards (SGA), taking their message about conservation and recycling into their communities.

Sponsored by StarHub, the SGA is administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and encourages young people to turn their passion for the environment into action, gaining an understanding of environmental sustainability along the way.

Together, they achieved enormous results during the past year:

RESOURCE	AMOUNT CONSERVED	EQUIVALENT TO
Energy	5,252,000 kilowatt hours	The energy required to power 1,094 4-Room HDB flats for a year
Water	130,000,000 litres	The water required to fill 52 Olympic-sized swimming pools
E-Waste	47,362 kilograms	The weight of five SBS Buses

A record of 410 schools took part this year, of which more than 28 per cent were pre-schools. Pre-schools have been the fastest growing section of the Awards, with teachers encouraging their pupils to take care of themselves and their environment from an early age.

¹ According to the Department of Statistics Singapore, there are 639,801 Singapore residents aged between 5 and 19. In 2017, 384,446 students participated in the SGA, or 60.0% of the school-age population.

PARTICIPATION	2017
Preschool	116
Primary	151
Secondary	113
Junior College	9
Institute of Higher Learning	6
International School	6
Special Education School	9
TOTAL	410

“Young people instinctively know conservation is important and they want to be involved in activities that help save the environment. Drawing a personal inspiration from the Japanese, I am happy that StarHub is able to play a part in nurturing Singapore’s next generation including pre-schoolers to go green through the School Green Awards. By taking part in the SGA, each student can make a difference in their own school, as well as spread their enthusiasm for the green cause into their families and the community,” said Ms Jeannie Ong, Chief Strategic Partnership Officer of StarHub.

“Creating a sustainable Singapore is something we do for our children. So it makes sense to get them involved in environmental activities from an early age. We hope that the SEC-StarHub School Green Awards initiative helps to inculcate green consciousness in our youths from a young age. They are learning lessons which they will take into adulthood, helping to make our society more responsible and sustainable in the future. I congratulate each school on taking part and for earning a SEC-StarHub School Green Award,” said Ms Jen Teo, Executive Director of SEC.

Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Schools) and Second Minister for Transport, officiated at the awards ceremony as the Guest-of-Honour and presented the awards at ITE College East.

STUDENTS REACH 8% OF POPULATION WITH GREEN MESSAGE

As part of the assessment criteria, students are required to be ambassadors for the environment and develop outreach programmes in their communities to promote a

sustainable Singapore. This year the students reached more than 459,000 people, or about eight percent of Singapore's population².

Examples of the community outreach programmes include:

- ✓ **Preschool:** A Go Green Project to enhance greenery and promote the 3R – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle towards a zero-waste nation. It also included a recycling drive where teachers, staff and children went door-to-door to collect recyclables from the residents in neighbouring block (**PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Pioneer Blk 661B**)
- ✓ **Primary:** A food waste collection and weighing project to raise awareness of reducing food wastage, and a “Clean Plate Day” campaign in collaboration with charity organisation Food From The Heart to encourage students to finish what’s on their plate and reduce food wastage (**Xinghua Primary School**)
- ✓ **Secondary:** A “Refuse Plastic” campaign to persuade students and canteen vendors to reduce the use of disposable plastics, including a beach clean-up at Pasir Ris Park to understand how plastic pollution affects the marine animals (**Anderson Secondary School**)
- ✓ **Junior College:** The creation of worm factories to produce fertiliser as a means of reducing food waste (**National Junior College**)
- ✓ **Institute of Higher Learning:** A collaboration with Toa Payoh East Community Centre to run workshops on reusing and recycling old clothes by turning them into pouches for household items such as portable chargers (**Ngee Ann Polytechnic**)
- ✓ **International School:** Making mini documentaries on beach clean-up activities and short 'eco-tips' films, promoting the use of tap water for drinking and re-usable bags for shopping (**Tanglin Trust School**)

² According to the Department of Statistics Singapore, the total population of Singapore is 5,607,3000.

- ✓ **Special Education School:** The creation of a butterfly garden to improve biodiversity in flora and fauna (**MINDS Woodlands Gardens School**)

THE LOTUS SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

The SGA platform serves as an encouragement and appreciation for each school's efforts. Of the 410 participating schools, 146 received the Lotus Sustained Achievement Award for achieving a score of 95 per cent or more for three consecutive years, indicating a very high quality of efforts and commitment from many schools.

This year seven schools received SGA's top honour – the Outstanding Environmental Outreach Project Award (examples of their projects are found in Appendix 1):

- ✓ PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Pioneer Blk 661B
- ✓ Xinghua Primary School
- ✓ Anderson Secondary School
- ✓ National Junior College
- ✓ Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- ✓ Tanglin Trust School
- ✓ MINDS Woodlands Gardens School

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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-government organisation (NGO). We influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore.

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: 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.

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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。

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、政府部门及社会各领域的环保意识，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。

About StarHub

StarHub is Singapore's fully-integrated info-communications company, offering a full range of information, communications and entertainment services for both consumer and corporate markets. StarHub operates a mobile network that provides 4G and 3G services. It also manages an island-wide HFC network that delivers multi-channel pay TV services (including HDTV, Internet TV and on-demand services) as well as ultra-high speed residential broadband services. StarHub operates an extensive fixed business network that provides a wide range of data, voice and wholesale services. Over Singapore's fibre-based Nationwide Broadband Network, StarHub offers a broad range of home and business broadband plans as well as commercial and residential IPTV services.

Launched in 2000, StarHub has become one of Singapore's most innovative info-communications providers, and the pioneer in 'hubbing' - the ability to deliver unique integrated and converged services to all its customers. StarHub, listed on the main board of the Singapore Exchange since October 2004, is a component stock of the Straits Times Index, the MSCI Singapore Free Index, the SGX Sustainability Leaders Index and the SGX Sustainability Leaders Enhanced Index.

Appendix 1

THE OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH PROJECT AWARD

This year, seven schools received SGA's top honour – the Outstanding Environmental Outreach Project Award. One school from each education level is picked for this award based on their project's overall environmental outreach and impact on the community.

1. PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Pioneer Blk 661B

PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Pioneer Blk 661B started a Go Green Project to enhance greenery and promote the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to contribute to Singapore's journey towards a zero-waste nation.

The preschool used the community garden at their centre as an educational platform for the children to learn about plants and instil a love for nature.

They incorporated the 3Rs into their gardening project by using recycled materials as pots for the plants. The teachers cut the bottles into desired shapes and asked the children to decorate the pots. The pots were used in a vertical garden as a creative way to maximise space and beautify the garden.

The National Parks Board (NParks) was invited to guide and share horticultural knowledge, gardening skills and tips. Along with volunteers from Community In Bloom, they conducted a workshop for teachers, staff and children. They gave ideas on the garden layout and showed attendees how to plant and nurture seeds and seedlings.

They harvested the vegetables after three weeks and the cooking staff used it to prepare a vegetable dish for the teachers.

To spread awareness of recycling on a larger scale, they organised a recycling drive in collaboration with Vibrant Recycle & Disposal. The teachers, staff and children went door-to-door to collect recyclables from the residents in neighbouring blocks. The children made bookmarks with 3Rs messages as a token of appreciation for those who donated.

2. Xinghua Primary School

Green Club Members and their teachers at Xinghua Primary School organised a food waste collection and weighing project to raise awareness of reducing food waste.

Posters were made to encourage pupils to love food. The team took turns at their recesses to encourage pupils to finish their food. They also collected the waste and recorded the daily amount of food waste. The data was presented to the whole

school during assembly on Earth Day to demonstrate how much food goes to waste at their school.

Results are positive with a significant increase in the number of students asking for smaller food portions. As a result the amount of waste has greatly reduced.

To raise awareness, a team from Xinghua Primary collaborated with Yuying Secondary Students to spread the message about reducing food waste to all the secondary students through game booths. Another team stayed in Xinghua to encourage invited senior citizens from the Paya Lebar Wellness to be green advocates at home advising their family members not to waste food.

The school also collaborated with Food From The Heart (FFTH) to organise their "Clean Plate Day" to inculcate the value of saving food and reducing food wastage among your students. Every empty plate was counted and every child who finished the food and showed his or her empty plate was given a token. The number of clean plates increased by 120 compared to last year.

In a survey of Xinghua Primary students, Yuying Secondary students and senior citizens from Paya Lebar Wellness Centre:

97.3 % of the P1 to P6 students / 93.5 % of Sec 1 to Sec 4 students / 100% of the senior citizens have indicated that:

- they know the importance of reducing food wastage
- some basic ways to reduce food wastage:
 - *'order only what you can eat'*
 - *'smaller food serving so that we can finish our food'*
 - *'share your food with your peers before you start to eat if you think it is too much'*
- They will encourage people in the family and around them to love food and reduce food wastage.

3. Anderson Secondary School

A group of Green Club ambassadors at Anderson Secondary School started a "Refuse Plastic" campaign to persuade students and canteen vendors to reduce the use of disposable plastics. It also included a beach clean-up at Pasir Ris Park to understand how plastic pollution affects marine animals.

The students conducted an assembly talk to educate schoolmates on the ways to reduce plastic usage and received 99 pledges to refuse plastic disposables immediately after the talk.

CCA leaders persuaded canteen vendors to refuse to give out plastic disposables. After a month of implementation, 70% of the vendors said they had a reduction in operating costs and their business was not affected negatively despite initial

concerns. Even teachers joined in by bringing their own lunch boxes and utensils for takeaways from the canteen.

The project helped vendors to reduce the use of plastic disposables like cutlery, straws, styrofoam boxes and plastic bags which saved about 10% to 20% of their operating costs. One vendor switched to using paper packaging instead of plastic for her stall.

The project reached more than 1,300 students and 120 teachers and raised awareness about the plastic disposable issue in Singapore.

4. National Junior College

National Junior College created worm factories to produce fertiliser as a means of reducing food waste. The team operated eight worm factories to produce garden fertiliser from Oct 2016 to current.

To raise awareness, they invited the public including kindergartens to learn about vermicomposting and waste. This involved hands on sessions with students and parents in egg shell collection, and conducting DIY worm factory making workshops for small scale home vermicomposting.

They extended the project into their community by teaching residents at Watten Estate how to improve their gardening practices through the application of vermicomposting and by teaching them how to make their own worm farms in their homes. This allowed families to manage their food waste at home, produce organic fertilisers and reduce their reliance on chemical fertilisers. This allows for greener gardening practices and promotes eco-friendly waste management in the area of food preparation.

More than 30 residents signed up for the DIY worm factory workshops that were held in the college to learn more about how they could produce worm tea in their own homes and manage food waste. These residents took home their own worm farms at the end of the workshops.

They also worked with the canteen vendors at school to collect food preparation waste such as raw vegetable scraps, tea and coffee grounds, and egg shells for use in the worm farms. This has seen a reduction in food waste during the food preparation process.

5. Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic collaborated with the Toa Payoh East Community Centre to run workshops on reusing and recycling old clothes by turning them into pouches for household items such as portable chargers. By reusing the unwanted old clothes,

they helped to reduce the amount of rubbish being thrown away and minimise waste.

The project was carried out in 4 stages – Promotion, Collection, Sorting and the Conducting of Pouch Making Workshop. In the promotion stage, they gave out flyers to build awareness of the event.

In the collection stage, they went to assigned blocks to collect old clothes from residents.

In the sorting stage, they separated clothes they can use for the workshop from those that were unsuitable but could be donated for the Community Centre's recycling drive.

Lastly, at the workshop they taught attendees how to make their pouch. Decorative materials were provided for them to customise their pouches.

6. Tanglin Trust School

Inspired by the visit of Craig Leeson - director of the documentary film 'A Plastic Ocean' - and his global campaign against single use plastic, the school made plans to help spread the message to a wider community in One North.

Senior school students made mini documentaries following their own beach clean-up. During the beach clean-up, students collected more than two skips worth of trash. The Junior School 'Eco-warriors' made their own short 'eco-tips' films, promoting the use of tap water for drinking and re-usable bags for shopping.

An event was held to showcase the mini documentaries and 'A Plastic Ocean'.

Following Craig Leeson's visit, the Infant and Junior school 'Eco-Warriors' and 'Green Team' together organised a petition which was signed by every single student in the Infant and Junior Schools asking the Management Team to stop using single plastic bottles at Tanglin.

This has led to a number of tangible outcomes:

- Their food service provider agreed to stop selling bottles of water and to phase out other plastic bottles/packaging
- The events team/ CPD team/ PTA and sports team agreed to stop ordering bottles of water for events
- The student Green Teams worked with our Operations team to fit 'J-taps' to the school water fountains, to make re-filling bottles easier.
- The student Green Teams worked with the PTA to source an aluminium water bottle to be sold through the school shop

- The use of disposable plastic bottles has dropped by approximately 40,000 bottles annually.

7. MINDS Woodlands Gardens School

MINDS Woodlands Gardens School created a butterfly garden to improve biodiversity in flora and fauna at their school. They saw the opportunity to share it with the rest of the school and other stakeholders including parents, volunteers and the community.

They were involved in the BioBlitz Schools' Day out at Kentridge Park where they showcased their school gardens to other schools at the event and shared about their school greening programmes.

In collaboration with Creative O Preschoolers' Bay, MINDS Woodland Gardens School held a planting session with the Kindergarten 2, growing plants from stem cuttings in recycled bottles.

They also promoted the awareness about the garden by having a nature theme for their Reading Day. It became "Reading Gardens' Day" where all activities worked around the garden theme. To complement the theme they had an e-learning trail in their school gardens.