

SEC WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT ON CARBON PRICING

Pricing carbon good for the environment, consumers and the economy

Singapore, February 19, 2018: The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) today welcomed the announcement by the Singapore Government that a pricing infrastructure for carbon will be introduced in Singapore.

Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman of SEC, said pricing carbon was a significant and welcome economic reform for Singapore.

“The carbon tax is good for the environment, consumers and the economy. It will be instrumental in helping Singapore reach its carbon reduction target of 36 per cent. Pricing carbon is the most efficient, fair and cost-effective way to meet this commitment.”

“There are three touch points where the carbon pricing will stimulate the creation of a new green economy in Singapore.”

“Firstly, carbon pricing will encourage the energy inefficient companies and power generation companies to utilise less energy and to speed up the adoption of green innovations that remove or abate carbon emissions at their source. It will create a new market for carbon-removal and abatement technologies.”

“Secondly, a carbon tax will stimulate new ideas and technology, as well as attracting investment and creating jobs in the green innovation sector. For example, recovering waste heat and converting it to energy is one innovation that can be implemented in Singapore. Heat from steam boilers, air conditioning and even cars can be recycled into energy.”

“Thirdly, carbon pricing will encourage consumers to take more control over their energy use and to use more energy efficient innovations in their homes. The de-regulation of the energy services market later this year means consumers will be able to choose an energy provider that offers cheaper electricity prices because they have adopted greener innovations,” Ms Loh said.

Ms Jen Teo, Executive Director of SEC said climate change is arguably the most important issue facing Singapore and there is an important role for consumers to play in reducing their carbon footprint.

“We can all reduce our dependency on cars by choosing to walk, bike, car pool or use public transport. We can reduce our energy consumption by choosing more efficient appliances or by choosing to recycle and upcycle what we already have. All these actions lead to less carbon emissions and a cleaner, greener environment,” Ms Teo said.

To help Singaporeans understand and reduce their carbon footprint, SEC will be launching a Carbon Calculator embedded in the digital SEC Green Map. The Carbon Calculator is scheduled for release in the second half of the year and is one of the ways SEC plans to contribute to the Year of Climate Action.

For more information, please contact:

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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: 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.

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