

Singapore's Town Councils Take On Eco-Office Plus Challenge

Tampines Town Council leading the push to get other Town Councils certified under Eco-Office Plus Certification by the Singapore Environment Council

Singapore, 11 August 2020: Tampines Town Council (TTC) is currently spearheading initiatives to engage residents as part of its push toward being an Eco-Town. As one of the initiatives, TTC has already taken the lead to get its office certified under **Eco-Office Plus**, an eco-certification administered by the **Singapore Environment Council (SEC)** that assesses green practices at the workplace. Led by **Dr Teo Ho Pin, former Coordinating Chairman of PAP Town Councils**, TTC is the first town council to lead this Eco-Town initiative. As part of this initiative, TTC has already attained the Elite Tier, the highest of four categories under the Eco-Office Plus certification. It will also be leading a drive to get other town councils certified under Eco-Office Plus.

The Eco-Office Plus certification benefits town councils by providing clear guidance in increasing eco-consciousness amongst staff, the key foundation of any long-term green initiative. The certification features a tier system introduced in December 2018 that helps organisations improve over time, and to recognise their efforts and achievements. **Ms. Cheng Li Hui, Chairman of Tampines Town Council said**, “The Eco-Office Plus certification has helped empower us to take the lead in promoting environmental habits through the smallest of behavioural changes in our daily habits.”

Ms. Jen Teo, Executive Director, Singapore Environment Council said, “Employee mindset and everyday practices hold the key as people lie at the heart of this shift towards a more sustainable workplace and future. This reflects our overall GreenDNA philosophy at SEC that every small change we do can have a great impact on action against climate change.”

Getting the Eco-Office Plus certification and leading the push for the other town councils to getting certified is just one of the many initiatives that TTC has put into place. TTC has already been engaging its residents and grassroots with sustainability initiatives prior to their announcement as an Eco-Town during the Committee of Supply 2020.

Some of these initiatives include the composting of food waste to encourage residents to plant some food crops of their own, as well as reverse vending machines to facilitate recycling. These initiatives have seen high levels of residential engagement. TTC has also been actively going on trips to learn about sustainability initiatives at places such as Hort Park and Jurong Lake Park. TTC is also in talks with the **Ministry of Sustainability and Environment** (formerly the **Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources**) - in partnership with Singapore Power and Temasek - for the installation of smart electricity meters and “Eco-Boards” at HDB blocks. These new facilities enable residents to track usage of utilities such as electricity and water in the block, as well as organise block-wide competitions to conserve resources.



Photo: Reverse Vending Machine (left); Vertical Vegetable Garden for Sustainability @ Tampines Park (right)

Dr Teo, former Coordinating Chairman of PAP Town Councils, said, “These efforts are small building blocks in transforming Singapore into a green society. We are excited to roll out these initiatives around Tampines as well as the rest of Singapore to encourage residents to work together and build a society for future generations of Singaporeans to live, work, and play in.”

For more information, please contact:

| | |
|--|--|
| Right Hook Communications (Singapore Environment Council) | |
| Tan Zu De PR Executive Email: zude@righthook.com.sg Tel: +65 9654 8937 | Debbie Pereira PR Director Email: Debbie@righthook.com.sg Tel: +65 9880 9848 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Tampines Town Council | |
| Jeff Cheang jeff@ttc.org.sg Comms & PR Manager Tel : +65 8719 6839 | Felicia Goh felicia@ttc.org.sg Comms & PR Manager Tel: +65 9235 5220 |

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) was established in 1995 as Singapore's first United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-accredited non-governmental organisation (NGO).

SEC is committed to influence thinking and to drive actions on environmental sustainability through our GreenDNA philosophy, which inspires all our programmes – ranging from the Training & Education series, Green Labels and Eco-Certifications, to Awards & Outreach. It translates to a holistic approach to encode green practices into the DNA of organisations, with a focus on a 3E framework: to Engage employees' interest; Empower them with the knowledge and skills; Evaluate the impact of their initiatives.

SEC values strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs – which are vital for sustaining our programmes and in steering the direction and discourse for the environmental movement in Singapore.

ABOUT TAMPINES TOWN COUNCIL

Tampines Town Council was set up in 1990 to manage and maintain common property of HDB housing estates in Tampines which consists five divisions, namely, Central, East, West, North and Changkat.

Tampines is fast becoming Singapore's sustainable Eco Town. The town will see enhancements making it more green and environmentally sustainable.

Some green initiatives include projects like Sustainability@Tampines Park. It is Singapore's first community-based circular ecosystem. Residents will segregate food waste generated at home, and feed it to black soldier fly larvae. The larvae break down the food waste into fertiliser, which can be used in a vertical vegetable farm. The larvae will then be fed to Tilapia fish cultivated in the Tampines Park pond. As a result, we will reduce food waste while strengthening the community's food resilience.

To reduce energy consumption, Ministry of Sustainability and Environment (formerly the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources) (in partnership with Singapore Power and Temasek) will install Eco Boards at our lift lobbies. These low-energy digital boards use smart meters to provide block-level information on water and energy use. Residents will become more aware of their consumption patterns to reduce wastage and the Town Council will manage resource usage more efficiently as a result.

Tampines has implemented community-based projects to encourage on-the-ground sustainability initiatives. There are Reverse Vending Machines in selected parts of Tampines where residents are incentivised with FairPrice discount coupons to practise recycling. The Town Council is also working with relevant agencies to recruit Resident Gardeners to maintain and enhance our community gardens.