

SEC

Heartbeat

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Singapore
Environment
Council



Why SEC Heartbeat?

A new name. A fresh new look.

Our quarterly SECLite is now called SEC Heartbeat. We think it resonates better with what we do.

Singapore Environment Council is an independently managed, non-profit and non-governmental organisation that works tirelessly to influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore and the region.

To press on to convince and win over more people, we need to be at the heart and pulse of all things to do with the environment and sustainability.

We have a new name. Nothing else has changed. Our heart and soul remains true to the cause.

Here's to One Less Plastic

Own up. Are you guilty of taking more plastic bags than you need?

Findings from our “Consumer Plastic and Plastic Resource Ecosystem in Singapore” found that between two and four plastic bags are taken per person on each supermarket trip. In a year, about 820 million supermarket plastic bags are used, and 467 million PET bottles which are enough to fill 94 Olympic-size swimming pools.



It was timely that we launched our inaugural One Less Plastic campaign with sponsoring partner DBS and four leading supermarket chains - Dairy Farm Singapore Group, NTUC FairPrice, Prime Group and Sheng Siong. The campaign was aimed at encouraging the use of reusable bags over single-use plastic bags.

A total of 40,000 specially designed reusable bags were distributed to shoppers. The campaign also featured 32 roadshows at 16 selected supermarket outlets.

Enhanced SGLS (SGLS+) – ISO 17065 certification

SGLS

Singapore Environment Council has been awarded ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation by the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) for its enhanced Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS+) certification for pulp & paper category. SEC is the first NGO certifying body in the world to receive the accreditation.

The accreditation process has seen SEC's certification procedures and operating processes audited against one of the highest international standards that product certification bodies can be exposed to. SGLS+ uses a comprehensive risk management profiling to complement its more extensive qualification criteria, especially in the areas of fire management and peatland management



Nine global companies from various countries have been certified under SGLS+. The companies are APRIL International Enterprise Pte Ltd, Asia Pulp and Paper, Canon Singapore Pte Ltd, Fuji Xerox Singapore, Kimberly-Clark Products (M) Sdn Bhd, Scanpap (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, Sunlight Paper Products Pte Ltd, UPM (China) Co Ltd and Yeong Chaur Shing Paper Mill Sdn Bhd.

SGLS for commercial dishwashers and washer extractors

SGLS



Businesses such as hotels, hospitals, eateries and self-service laundrettes will soon be able to purchase water efficient commercial dishwashers and washer extractors. Users of these Singapore Green Label certified appliances can enjoy water savings of up to 44%.

Singapore Environment Council, in partnership with PUB, developed the set of water efficiency criteria in accordance with ISO 14024 standards and benchmarked against US ENERGY STAR certification standards. These appliances are also assessed based on their energy efficiency, product performance, health & environmental guidelines, waste management and recyclability, life cycle considerations and labelling and packaging requirements.

Manufacturers such as Electrolux S.E.A. Pte Ltd and EcoLab Pte Ltd have submitted applications for their appliances to be certified under the newly developed SGLS for commercial water use appliances.

SEC and PUB are working together to develop SGLS assessment criteria for commercial high pressure water jets. This is expected to be ready later this year.

Green Events



Local event owners and organisers can now be part of the solution to reduce waste contributing to the Semakau Landfill.

Three event owners and organisers have proactively taken steps to contribute to the environment by getting their events assessed by SEC. The events are assessed based on initiatives that contribute to climate change prevention, resource conservation and waste minimisation. SEC has audited the NTUC Income Eco Run, and assessed two other mega events under its Eco-Events certification programme.

Income Eco-Run

Green Events



For the second year running, SEC was the strategic green advisor for the NTUC Income Eco-Run, one of Southeast Asia's premier eco-run. It champions environmental conservation and aims at encouraging everyone to play their part in the cause for zero waste. The run introduced initiatives such as installing recycling bins for banana peels, use of reusable drinking cups, and leveraging solar panels to power part of its energy use.

SEC representatives also flagged off three of the five race categories.

OCBC Cycle 2019

Green Events



Photo credit: OCBC Bank

Congratulations to OCBC. This year, its signature sporting event, OCBC Cycle, was the first to receive SEC's Eco-Event certification. It attracted close to 6,800 participants.

The event went through several rounds of assessment to achieve our green certification. This included eliminating plastic packaging for event packs, replacing bubble wrap for medals with compostable paper and the composting of banana peels after the event. It also planted one tree for every 50 cyclists who registered for the event.

We want to encourage event owners and organisers to come aboard the environmental sustainable journey and do their part to minimise plastic and food waste.

DBS Marina Regatta 2019

Green Events



Photo credit: DBS Bank

Congratulations also to DBS. Its DBS Marina Regatta 2019 received SEC's Eco-Event certification. Our Eco-Event programme aims at persuading event organisers to join us on the sustainability journey by certifying events which meet SEC's sustainability criteria and providing recommendations on environmental initiatives which can be implemented for future events.

DBS embedded sustainability into the heart of the DBS Marina Regatta 2019 such as the use of recycled, reusable natural and re-purposed materials at the event, leverage use of solar panels to produce electricity and reduce fossil fuel dependency for the first time, use of reusable crockery and tableware instead of single-use plastic.

Visitors were also encouraged to bring their own water bottles to fill up at various water points.

Spotlight on environmental reporting excellence

Green Awards



Fifteen journalists and media outlets were recognised in March 2019 for outstanding environmental reporting at our Asian Environmental Journalism Awards (AEJA). It honours individuals and organisations that report news stories on sustainability issues facing our planet and the Asia region. Journalists and media organisations from as far as the United Arab Emirates submitted their entries. The stories ranged from sustainable farming in Pakistan to hail storm disasters in Myanmar.

Channel NewsAsia won the Environment Story Award and a Straits Times photojournalist won the joint merit award for the Environmental Photograph category. The SEC-CDL Environmental Journalist of the Year award went to Syed Muhammad Abubakar of Pakistan for his story on “Water Woes at Katas Raj” which traced the community’s water woes when bore wells and the Katas Raj pond began to dry up.

The AEJA was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister of Environment & Water Resources, and attended by more than 60 guests. City Developments Limited and Ricoh Asia Pacific sponsored the event.

School Green Awards

Green Awards



The SEC-StarHub School Green Awards, a self-audited voluntary environmental awards programme for students to showcase their environmental efforts, is now accepting applications from schools across all seven categories.

Pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, junior colleges, international schools, schools for students with special needs and institutes of higher learning have until 12 July to register and participate in the e-Waste Challenge. Participating schools can conduct a recycling drive within their community or network for electronics that are meant to be discarded and give them a new lease of life.

Schools with the largest amount of e-waste collected stand a chance to go on an exclusive guided Green Learning Journey at a green supermarket.

New thematic trails

Experiential Trails



The Singapore Environment Council has recently introduced five refreshed thematic trails that tell the Singapore Water Story and Carbon Sequestration, with the two latest ones at Lower Pierce Reservoir and Marina Barrage.

The Singapore Water Story and Carbon Sequestration trails look at ways to ensure maximum water reusability, as well as how participants can contribute to the global efforts of reducing our carbon footprint. This is done by learning how nature regulates the amount of carbon in our atmosphere, and how it has fallen out of balance in recent years due to human activities.

We also have our refreshed Bio-Diversity, Human & Nature Co-Existence trails at Coney Island, Sentosa and Pasir Ris Park where participants are shown how to spot different animal and plant species. They also learn how Singapore manages to be a highly urban city while still maintaining a healthy respect for natural spaces.



First company to be awarded Eco-office Plus Elite

Eco Certifications



DTC World Corporation Pte Ltd, a manufacturer of corporate gifts, is the first organisation in Singapore to receive Elite status i.e. the highest tier, under SEC's Eco-Office Plus certification programme. The firm has demonstrated outstanding effort and achieved stellar results for its energy, water, resource and waste management, greening of its interior environment, sustainability management and engaging its employees on the environmental sustainability journey.

Congratulations to DTC World Corporation for all your efforts!

Eco Action Day

Partner Event



Representatives from Singapore Environment Council participated in Ricoh Asia Pacific (Ricoh) Eco Action Day roundtable on 30 May 2019. Every year, Ricoh organises an Eco Action Day campaign to drive awareness and action for the environment, as well as to celebrate World Environment Day. For 2019, the roundtable tackled the topic on sustainable waste management and recycling.