

# SECLITE

APRIL TO JUNE 2016

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

JUN 5

WORLD  
ENVIRONMENT  
DAY

## RACE TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE



We are the Human Race. We have had that title since the beginning of time. I believe we are called a 'Race' because racing is in our blood. From documentaries to movies, racing never fails to up our adrenaline levels. We even race for time, wealth, resources and sometimes even that last parking space.

But this race is very different. We are the participants, and we are our own competitors. We must challenge ourselves and control our consumption, defy our perception of want and waste, and bring up to speed, the rate of reusing, reducing and recycling.

While some may debate when the race started, many agree we are still far from the Finish Line.



Singapore  
Environment  
Council



# INSIDER



## REVISITING SINGAPORE'S BIODIVERSITY

By Serene Choo, Communications Executive

Biodiversity comes from two words – Biological and Diversity. While we hear of the latter ever so often – race diversity, income diversity, and education diversity, the former fades ever so quickly, right after that deliberate excursion to the zoo or the botanical gardens.

I say deliberate, because life at these parks, would almost have been hand-picked, set-up and packaged into a stunning suite of programmes, complete with elegance, style and that souvenir cup which we will take home for safekeeping through the years.

Don't get me wrong. Our zoos and gardens are awesome, but looking at the wildlife and forests in other parts of the world, it may appear that Singapore's got the shorter end of the stick. But it does mean all the more, the dedicated need to take care of what we have. After all, our nation building efforts were no different. Our founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew actively stood for a thriving biodiversity alongside nation building.

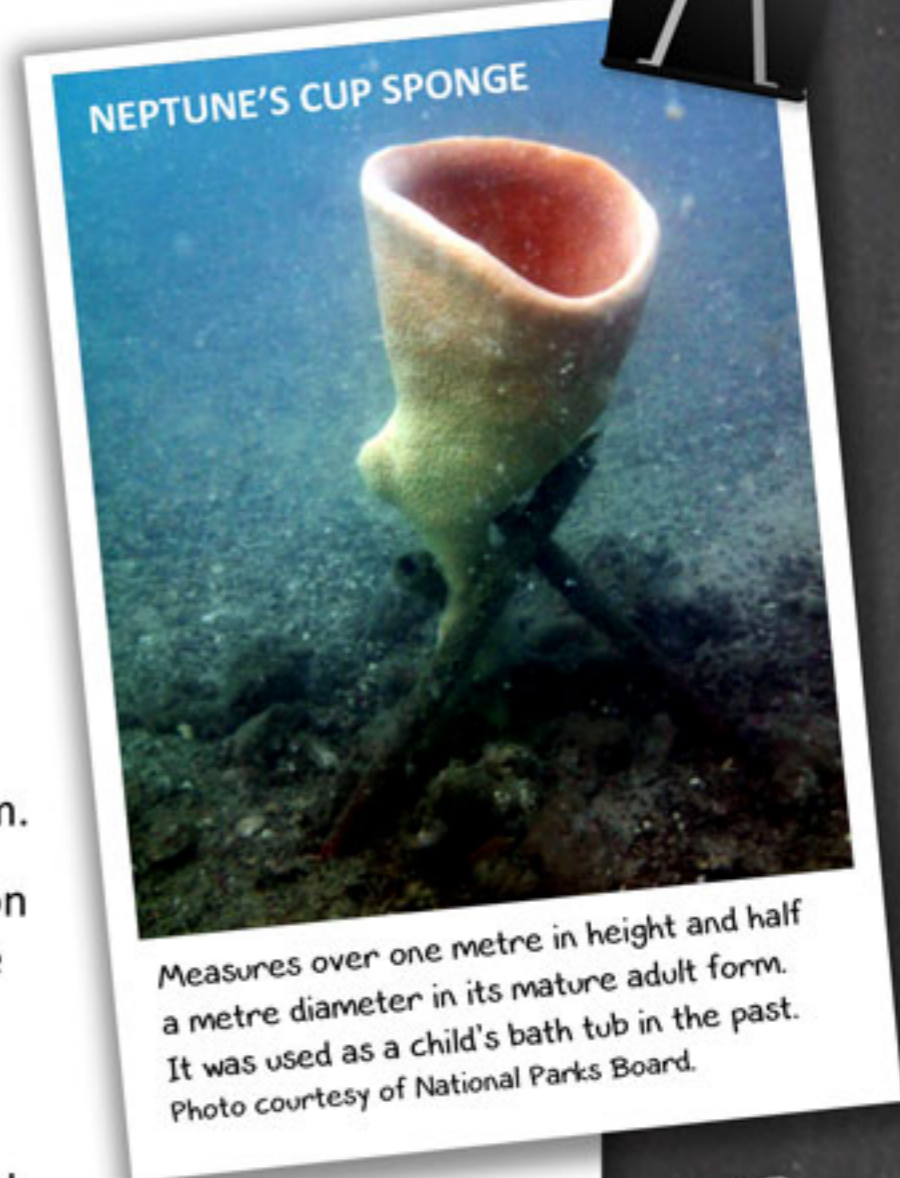
So what do we have then?

Singapore is home to a large variety of animal and plant species, which can be found in their natural habitats. The Neptune's Cup Sponge was thought to be extinct since early 1900s until it was rediscovered in Singapore in 2011! Since then, two more have been discovered, and one of these have been transplanted to the Sisters' Island Marine Park where research is underway to increase its population. There is also a preserved specimen of it featured at the Marine Cycle Zone at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum.

And if you're around the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and haven't won the lottery in a while, count yourself lucky when you come across the Johora singaporensis, one of the three species of freshwater crab endemic to Singapore. They recycle nutrients and act as important indicators of climate change and pollution as they are sensitive to changes around them. Listed as the world's top 100 most threatened species, that means it's off the list for our world famous Chilli Crab!

Whether flora or fauna, studies have shown how individual species contribute greatly to the quality of the ecosystem, our physical environment and even our health. As much as 50% of medicines we buy are derived from the chemical compounds of plants while other traditional remedies have long relied on herbs and plants like the Japanese Honeysuckle and Cat's Whiskers.

Singapore's progress the past 50 years has earned kudos the world over. We have always governed according to our unique small size by maximising the available land space, improving commuting while preserving our history. We must also govern our biodiversity with the same level of commitment and responsibility. Only then, will we keep our coveted title of City in a Garden.



Measures over one metre in height and half a metre diameter in its mature adult form. It was used as a child's bath tub in the past. Photo courtesy of National Parks Board.



Measures up to 3 cm when fully grown. Photo courtesy of Cai Yixiong, National Parks Board.



# GREEN THE RED DOT JOIN THE MOVEMENT

ECO ACTION DAY is calling for the public including all businesses and schools to join the national movement to green our Little Red Dot!

Launched in 2007, Eco Action Day is an annual national public awareness campaign organised by Ricoh, in partnership with NGOs, government and private sectors. Held on 5 June, it commemorates the United Nations Environment Programme's World Environment Day, and has seen the participation of more than 700 organisations, including multi-national corporations, government agencies, private companies and tertiary institutions.

This year, Ricoh Asia Pacific and Eco-Business will also be convening on 3 June for a panel discussion, featuring senior business, government and civic society leaders, in the hope that we come a step closer to reducing our carbon emissions.



● SINGAPORE





Encourage Singaporeans and inspire the rest of the world by simply pledging your commitment to **save energy** and **reduce consumption**.

## JOIN THE ECO ACTION AWARDS 2016!

Submit your entry by 9 May, 2016

Kindly contact our Eco Action Team [info@ecoaction.sg](mailto:info@ecoaction.sg) for campaign enquiries. Green tips posters and gifts such as bookmarks, postcards and magnets are available for giveaway.



[SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE](#)



# GREENING THE DEEP BLUE SEAS

- **MARITIME SINGAPORE**
- Our Maritime Industry connects more than 600 ports in over 120 countries and is home to over 130 of the world's top shipping groups. As a premier global hub port, the industry has played an integral part in Singapore's economic growth and is key contributor to the development of Singapore since its beginnings.



**A GIANT WITH SMALL FOOTPRINTS**  
Shipping carries 90% of the world's trade and has been the least carbon-intensive way to transport goods. A 2014 study estimated that international shipping emitted only about 2.2% of the global Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission.

## Maritime Singapore Green Initiative

The Maritime Singapore Green Initiative introduced by MPA in 2011 seeks to reduce the environmental impact of shipping and related activities and to promote clean and green shipping.



The Green Ship Programme encourages Singapore-flagged ships, to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and sulphur oxides emissions.



Qualified ocean-going vessels can get their port dues reduced by up to 25% under the Green Port Programme.



Receive 50% grants on green technological solutions and systems with the Green Technology Programme.

# SPOTLIGHT

GET YOUR CSR BENEFITS

Let SEC CONCEPTUALISE, PLAN and COORDINATE your next CSR activity!  
Credit Suisse and Volvo East Asia have found it a breeze with our customised programmes!

Contact Sharmine Tan at [sharmine.tan@sec.org.sg](mailto:sharmine.tan@sec.org.sg)  
or 6433 5385 to make CSR a fun, memorable  
and educational process.

Protect the Environment



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Create Team Bonding



COE NOT REQUIRED

Operate Responsibly



NOT YOUR USUAL EXCURSION

Enhance Learning and Creativity



HANDMADE GIFTS ALL YEAR ROUND

# ECO-LIFESTYLE

## REAPING THE "FRUITS" OF COMPOSTING

By Padmarani Srivatsan, Earth Helper and Kindergarten Teacher

My story on composting began when I saw rubbish bins being cleared of all kinds of trash. It may have been the odour that triggered my instincts to find out more about the wastes we dispose off, every single day.

Typically, about one-third of landfill consists of compostable materials. Composting therefore helps reduce the amount of waste in a landfill. With less to incinerate, less greenhouse gases will be produced. Other benefits include the drop in dependency on chemical fertilizers and fossil fuels.

Together with my young students, we started Wise of Waste, a programme which educates children in managing waste, composting and growing safe food. I have found these to be extremely important life skills which naturally lead children towards leading sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Perforated plastic tub / bin
2. Dried leaves or coconut husk (also known as "browns")
3. Fruit peels / vegetables / flowers / newspapers
4. A base for the bin to prevent leakage.



Collect your kitchen waste and twice the browns.



Black gold!



Scatter it around the base of the tree.

### METHOD:

1. Collect your leftover vegetables and fruit peels (about half a basket worth) and mix them with half a cup of buttermilk and twice the quantity of browns. Cut big peels into smaller pieces to speed up the compost, and DO NOT add cooked food, meat, oily stuff and dairy products.
2. Cover the mixture with newspapers or a perforated plate, so air can continue to pass through.
3. Turn the pile over every alternate day.
4. Ensure that it is neither too damp nor too dry, by topping up with dry leaves or sprinkling buttermilk.
5. Once the bin is full, turn the pile over every 5 days for a period of 30-45 days.
6. Use a sieve to separate the fine components which will be ready for use.



# RECYCLING AT HOME

## MAKING PAPER WITH PAPER

By Nuramirah Suyin Binte Zaihan, Environment Engineer (Training and Education)

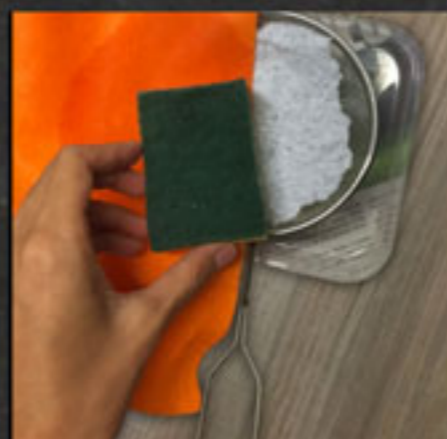
- Everyone's heard of recycling, but not many actually know what happens to all that glass or plastic during the recycling process, as it is usually out of sight in some industrial recycling plant.
- Today, you can try your hands at recycling paper, right in your home using materials and apparatus that's readily available. After this process, you will appreciate how recycling actually works, and have a final product which is truly recycled, with your own hands!

### TO START, PREPARE THESE ITEMS:



Step 1: Tear the paper to form a shredded mess.

Step 2: Put the shredded paper into the blender and fill it with water.



Step 3: Blend it until you have an 'oatmeal' texture.

Step 4: Spread this 'oatmeal' on the sieve and cover it with the cloth. Use the sponge to absorb the water by pressing it against the cloth. What is left behind should be a moist-looking layer of pulp.

Step 5: Place the pulp between two cloth sheets. With the iron on maximum heat, iron till all the moisture is removed from the pulp. There should no longer be any 'hissing' sound.

Step 6: Voilà! You have successfully recycled paper! We did up a mini polaroid album with our sheets, let's see what you can do with yours!