

# SECLITE

2017 ISSUE 3

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL



## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GREEN!

Go green this festive season with these eco-friendly tips!

PAGE 2

### INSIDE THE ISSUE

PAGE 5

4 COST-EFFECTIVE  
WAYS TO GO GREEN

NURTURING  
TOMORROW'S  
ECO-WARRIORS

PAGE 6

PAGE 8

LEADING SINGAPORE'S  
GREEN ECONOMY



### WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT BIODIVERSITY LOSS?

Biodiversity loss puts us and our future generations at risk.

PAGE 4



Singapore  
Environment  
Council

## SPOTLITE



# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GREEN!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE THRILLING ANTICIPATION OF UPCOMING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS TO GET US INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT.



Year-end celebrations are certainly exciting and magical, but they can be wasteful too. According to Zero Waste SG, food waste can go up by about 10 to 20 per cent during the festive season, as people tend to prepare more food. Besides food waste, many of the items we buy during the holidays – wrapping paper, holiday cards, extra batteries – just end up in the trash by the time January rolls around.

Fortunately, we can make the season a little lighter on the planet by making a few simple changes to the way we go about our year-end celebrations. So if you're looking to go green this season, here are some tips to help you.

### EATING GREEN

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A FEAST FOR YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS, HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING MORE ECO-FRIENDLY.



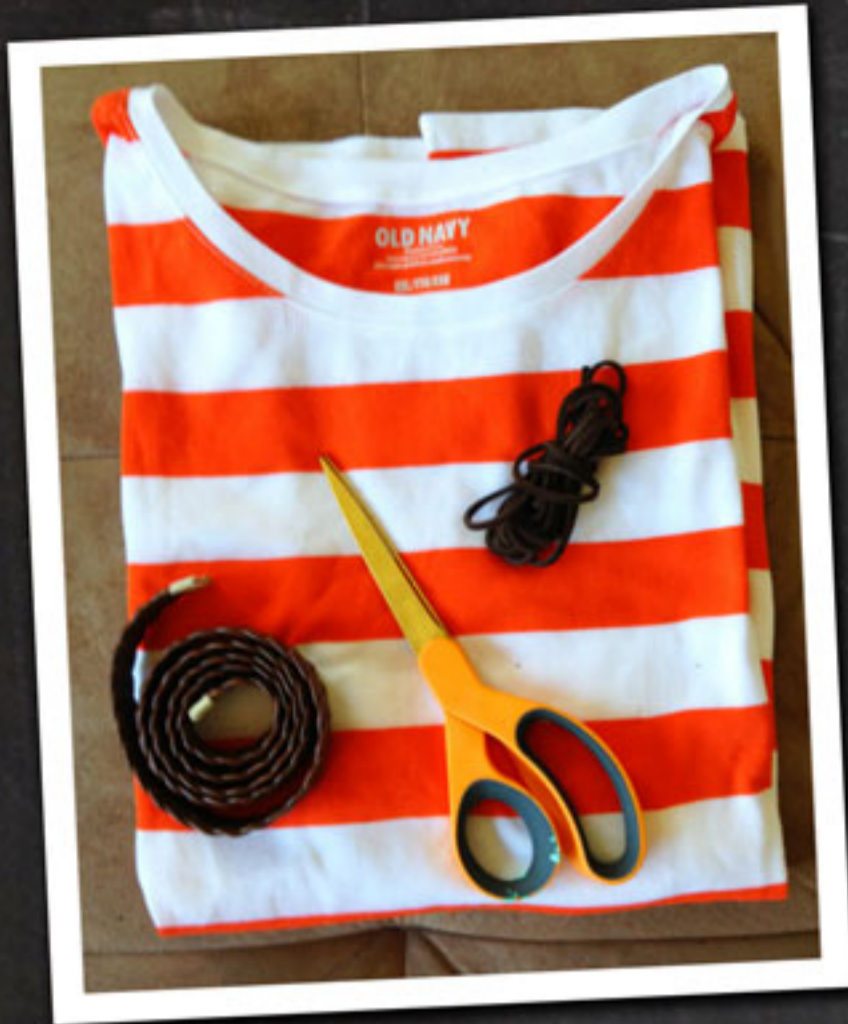
The further a piece of food has to travel to reach the market's shelves, the larger its environmental footprint. Purchasing locally sourced meat, dairy and vegetables is a good way to go a little greener. Local farms such as Bollywood Veggies and D'Kranji Farm are great places to source for local produce.

You can also reduce food wastage and save on food expenses by buying and cooking just what your guests need.

Dining out? Choose eco-friendly restaurants which embrace green practices in their daily operations. For a list of food establishments that have been eco-certified by SEC, you may visit our website [here](#).

# SPOTLITE

## GIVING GREEN GIFTS



SOURCE: [THEFASHIONCAMP.WORDPRESS.COM](http://THEFASHIONCAMP.WORDPRESS.COM)

With a little research and some creativity, you can get your friends and family great green gifts.

For example, your old shirts and jeans can be upcycled and remade into drawstring bags and accessories - serving as perfect gifts! For some ideas check out **The Shop City**, an online platform for handcrafters, designers and artists selling handmade and upcycled products.

Keen to learn how to upcycle simple household items? Contact SEC's Training & Education Team at [training@sec.org.sg](mailto:training@sec.org.sg) to find out more about our upcycling workshops!



IF YOU PREFER TO MAKE YOUR OWN GREEN GIFTS, YOU CAN GET SOME INSPIRATION FROM **TREEHUGGER'S** DO-IT-YOURSELF GIFT GUIDES. SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE UPCYCLED GIFTS, EDIBLE GIFTS IN MASON JARS, AND GIFTS OF EXPERIENCES RATHER THAN OBJECTS.

## DONATE YOUR PRE-LOVED ITEMS

Planning on clearing your old things for the new year? If they are in good condition, consider donating them to collection centres like The Salvation Army and MINDS Shops. You can also sell and buy used household appliances and items at Cash Converters.

Here's wishing you a wonderful and green Christmas and New Year!



# BIODIVERSITY

## BIODIVERSITY LOSS: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Biodiversity refers to the rich variety of life on Earth. More than just about counting the species of plants, animals and micro-organisms, biological diversity is the resource upon which we and our future generations depend.

### IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON BIODIVERSITY

According to Harvard Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment, climate change alone is expected to threaten with extinction 25 per cent or more of all

species on land by 2050. It is a threat because species have evolved to live within certain temperature ranges, and when a species cannot adapt to the new temperature ranges or loses its food supply, its survival

Species in the oceans and fresh water are also at risk from climate change, especially those that live in ecosystems like coral reefs that are highly sensitive to warming temperatures.



SOURCE: SHUTTERSTOCK

### HOW DOES BIODIVERSITY LOSS AFFECT US?

Individuals must help to conserve biodiversity by consuming resources responsibly. Singapore is a globalised country that imports over 90 per cent of our food, so this gives us added accountability for the impact of our actions beyond our borders.

Seafood and palm oil, for instance, are cited as priority areas in Singapore with pressing sustainability needs.

Did you know that 75 per cent of popular seafood species in Singapore are unsustainable due to overfishing and destructive fishing methods?



SOURCE: GOOD FISH PROJECT

The [Singapore Seafood Guide](#) is a good resource to help you make informed choices and choose sustainable seafood alternatives.

Unsustainable methods of producing palm oil have led to massive deforestation and harmful haze pollution. You can send a clear message to businesses by choosing sustainable palm oil.

You can also join biodiversity trails conducted by SEC to discover how you can help to protect the environment. For more on our trails, feel free to contact us at [info@sec.org.sg](mailto:info@sec.org.sg)!

## 4 COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO GO GREEN AT HOME

Making your home more eco-friendly may seem like a huge amount of work, not to mention expensive. But installing solar panels and temperature-regulating walls aren't the only ways to help your household adopt green practices.

Here are four easy and cost-effective tips to help you go green at home. Make it a habit to practise them for a greener home!



### Tip 1: Turn it off

Turn off the tap when you're not using it. Fix leaks immediately to prevent water wastage.

Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Turn off or unplug electrical appliances that you aren't using.

If you use an air conditioner, set the temperature at 25°C or above. You could save up to \$25 a year for every degree you raise!

### Tip 2: Keep it at 25°C

Allow hot food to cool before storing it in the refrigerator.



### Tip 3: Replace disposables

Switch from disposable to reusable products, including food and beverage containers, cups, plates, razors and shopping bags.

When ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws and plastic packaging.

### GREEN HOMES @ NORTH WEST

For more green tips to make your household more energy efficient, check out the Green Homes @ North West initiative at [www.greenhomes-northwest.sg](http://www.greenhomes-northwest.sg).

Green Homes @ North West is an initiative to encourage residents living in the North West District to embrace green living at home through eco-friendly practices.

It is part of an initiative jointly organised by the National Environment Agency, North West Community Development Council and SEC.

### Tip 4: Choose sustainable pulp and paper products



Purchase pulp and paper products, such as printing paper, toilet rolls and facial tissue that are produced in a sustainable manner. Ecolabels such as SEC's **Singapore Green Label** can help you to make informed choices on products that have less undesirable effects on the environment.

# THE GREEN JOURNEY

## NURTURING TOMORROW'S ECO-WARRIORS

Teach a child to see beauty in the environment, and you will help build a generation of people who will love, respect and care for Mother Earth.

The SEC-StarHub School Green Awards (SGA) seeks to do just that by getting students and teachers involved in greening their schools and spreading eco-consciousness among members of their community. This year's SGA saw a record number of 410 schools and more than 384,000 students taking part to conserve the environment, implementing measures to reduce resource usage and developing community outreach programmes to further spread the green message.

### AS PART OF SGA 2017, SCHOOLS COLLECTIVELY SAVED:



ENERGY TO POWER  
**1,094** FOUR-ROOM  
HDB FLATS FOR A YEAR



WATER TO FILL **52**  
OLYMPIC-SIZED  
SWIMMING POOLS



**47.3** TONNES  
OF E-WASTE  
(EQUIVALENT TO THE  
WEIGHT OF FIVE SBS BUSES)



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS PROUDLY DISPLAYED A RANGE OF GREEN PROJECTS - FROM UPCYCLED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO MAGIC CLEANERS MADE WITH CITRUS FRUITS AND VINEGAR.

"As future leaders of Singapore, youths have a major role to play. In today's digital age, I believe that these tech-savvy eco-warriors will go on to develop creative solutions and better ideas to today's challenges," said Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman of SEC.

"Platforms like the SEC-StarHub School Green Awards are important for students to put ideas into action, developing and showcasing innovative solutions to address environmental challenges. Through the process, our students will gain a better understanding of Singapore's environmental landscape and contribute to our nation's vision of a sustainable and more liveable Singapore," said Mr Ng Chee Meng, Minister for Education (Schools).

DO CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL GREEN DAY, WHERE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE SGA DISPLAYED THEIR GREEN PROJECTS AND IDEAS TO GUESTS, INCLUDING MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (SCHOOLS) MR NG CHEE MENG!



FANCY A SKIRT MADE WITH NEWSPAPERS? STUDENTS FROM ANG MO KIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TICKLED MANY WITH THEIR "SUSTAINABLE" FASHION SENSE!



MINISTER NG CHEE MENG GRACED THE OCCASION AS THE GUEST-OF-HONOUR. HIS FAVOURITE PROJECT WAS XINGHUA PRIMARY SCHOOL'S MAGIC CLEANING LIQUID - HE EVEN USED IT TO CLEAN HIS PHONE SCREEN!



THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS TO TEACH - BY SHARING THEIR PROJECTS WITH OTHERS, HOPEFULLY STUDENTS WILL REMEMBER THEIR GREEN LESSONS FOR A LONG TIME!



NOT FORGETTING TO THANK OUR EARTH HELPERS WHO JOINED US FOR SCHOOL GREEN DAY!



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL SCHOOLS, VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS WHO SUPPORTED US THIS YEAR! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN 2018!

### RECYCLING FOOD SCRAPS - WITH WORMS!



NJC STUDENTS (FROM LEFT) XIE WAN XIN, VANESSA CHAN AND JACQUELINE TAN EXPLAINED TO MINISTER NG HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO TURN EGG SHELLS, VEGETABLE SCRAPS AND OTHER FOOD WASTE INTO FERTILISER.

Most people would cringe at the sight of worms, but not these students from NJC.

Using "worm farms" filled with real creepy crawlies, they are able to turn food waste into liquid fertiliser through a process called vermicomposting.

The students shared their knowledge with residents of nearby Watten Estate, by showing them how they can create their own worm factories.

For their students and teachers' hard work and dedication to the environment, National Junior College clinched the Outstanding Environmental Outreach Project award at SGA 2017!

Other winners of the award include PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Pioneer Block 661B, Xinghua Primary School, Anderson Secondary School, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Tanglin Trust School and Minds Woodlands Gardens School.

For more information on the SGA, visit [www.sec.org.sg/sga](http://www.sec.org.sg/sga)

# THE GREEN JOURNEY

## LEADING SINGAPORE'S GREEN ECONOMY

The greenest companies and organisations in Singapore were recognised at the 20th annual Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards (SEAA). Among the awardees this year were shipping and logistics firm Orient Overseas Container Line, which received the top honour – the Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award – and North West CDC, the first CDC to receive an SEAA.



This year, together with our knowledge partner KPMG, SEC launched the inaugural SEC Conference Day. Themed “Ethical Green Consumerism – Our Responses”, the conference aimed to raise awareness of ethical green consumerism and how businesses respond to remain sustainable.

For more on SEAA 2017’s award winners and the SEC Conference Day, you can download a digital copy of the event booklet and conference paper on ethical green consumerism [here](#).

**CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEC CONFERENCE DAY, INCLUDING TWO PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND AN INSIGHTFUL KEYNOTE SPEECH FROM CEO OF NTUC FAIRPRICE, MR SEAH KIAN PENG!**



“While complex factors affect the entire supply chain, businesses have the choice to act responsibly, to pay a price for ethical practices, to contribute to social good or at the very least, not contribute harm. While businesses take a bold stand against unethical practices, the role of consumers is crucial in the entire support system for ethical consumerism.” – Mr Seah Kian Peng, CEO of NTUC FairPrice and Keynote Speaker at the SEC Conference Day

“The role of corporate champions leading the way in environment protection cannot be underestimated. While governments can do much, and individuals can do more, it is the corporate sector in Singapore which controls and uses many of our nation’s resources. Corporate Singapore has a duty to use these resources in a responsible manner to minimise waste, reduce pollution and to eliminate the negative impacts they have as a result of conducting their business.” – Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman of SEC



“Paying attention to environmental sustainability is not just good for the environment, it is also sound business! Consumers are scrutinising the environmental credentials of companies and choosing sustainable products. I would encourage more businesses to adopt sustainability planning and practices in their daily operations.” – Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Guest-of-Honour at the SEC Conference Day



# THE GREEN JOURNEY

The first panel discussion featured:

- **Mr Anuj Lal**, Group General Manager, Asia Pacific of Kimberly Clark Professional
- **Mr Chris de Lavigne**, Principal, Global Strategy Group of KPMG Singapore
- **Ms Esther An**, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited
- **Mr Kevin Teng**, Executive Director, Sustainability of Marina Bay Sands
- **Mr Simon Bennett**, General Manager, Sustainable Development of Swire Pacific Offshore as the panel's moderator



They shared on their market observations of changing consumer demands, its impact on their eco-system and how their businesses have responded to the changing consumer preferences in terms of refining their business strategy, as well as products and services.



The second panel discussion featured:

- **Mr Seah Seng Choon**, PBM, Advisor of Consumers Association of Singapore
- **Mr Andrew Buay**, Vice President, Group Sustainability & Talent Coach of Singtel
- **Mr Tan Yong Shao**, Director, Business Development of Prime Group International
- **Ms Wong Xin-Yi**, Sustainability Manager, H&M Southeast Asia
- **Mr J.D. Kasamoto**, General Manager, Service & Environment Division of Ricoh Asia Pacific
- **Ms Peta Latimer**, Partner of KPMG Singapore as the panel's moderator

They shared their views on the benefits and challenges arising from various forms of stakeholder engagement, and their expectations on how meaningful stakeholder engagement can influence business behaviours.

## SEAA 2017 AWARD WINNERS

- SEC-CDL Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award  
**Winner: Orient Overseas Container Line**
- SEC-Setsco Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Manufacturing)  
**Merit Winner: Pan-United Concrete Pte Ltd**
- SEC-CITIC Telecom Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Services)  
**Winner: Sunseap Group Pte Ltd**  
**Merit Winner: SystemNix Technologies Pte Ltd**
- SEC-Lee Foundation Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Public Sector)  
**Winner: North West Community Development Council**  
**Merit Winner: Dunman High School**
- SEC-MPA Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Maritime)  
**Winner: Orient Overseas Container Line**
- SEC Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards (Regional)  
**Winner: Chemfab Alkalies Limited**
- SEC-Senoko Energy Green Innovation Award  
**Winner: Hydroemission Corporation Pte Ltd**  
**Merit Winner: Housing & Development Board**

For more information on the SEAA, visit [www.sec.org.sg/seaa](http://www.sec.org.sg/seaa).



DEAR PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS  
AND FRIENDS OF SEC,

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR, AND  
WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR VALUED SUPPORT,  
GUIDANCE AND DEDICATION  
THROUGHOUT 2017.

FROM ALL OF US AT SEC, WE OFFER  
BEST WISHES AND HAPPINESS TO  
YOU AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
A SUCCESSFUL 2018!

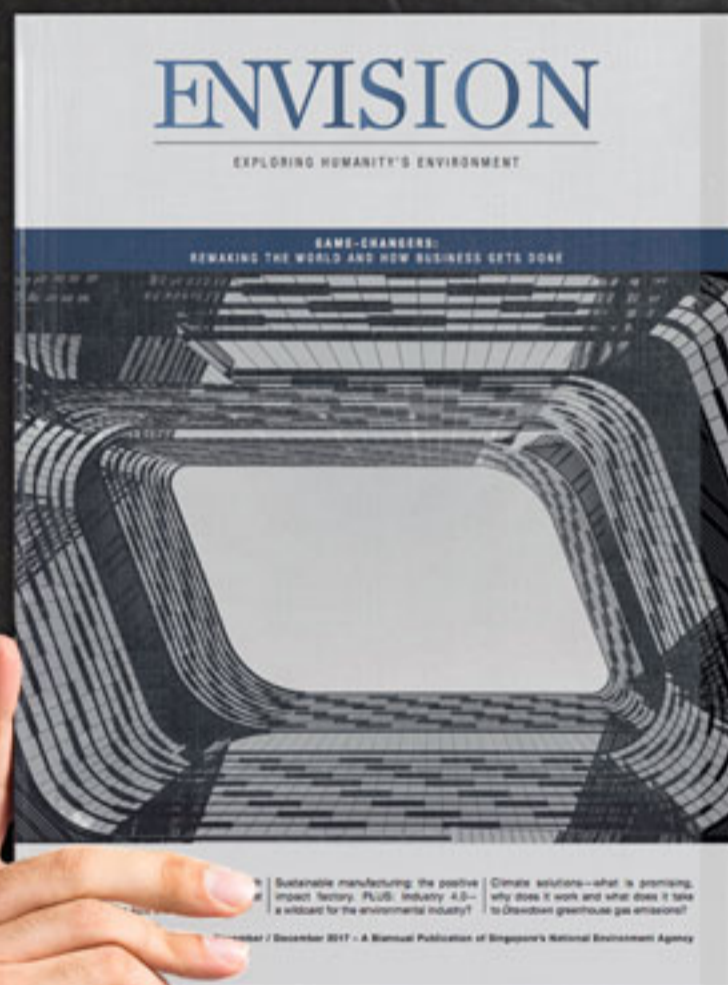
## SHOUT-OUT !

ENVISION Magazine is the National Environment Agency's bi-annual technical publication. It explores Singapore's unique experience and approach to environmental management issues.

The latest issue of ENVISION takes a closer look at the global push to adopt greener, low-carbon business practices and slash carbon emissions. To help enable this, a diverse group of players is advancing green finance, and also linking funding streams to a company's sustainability performance. Learn how this may transform the financial industry in the decades to come.

Plus, Industry 4.0 technologies will mean enormous disruption to business as usual. In what ways can businesses adapt and use them to improve environmental aspects of their operations?




Read the latest issue of ENVISION Magazine [here!](#)



**Singapore  
Environment  
Council**

**Contact:**

1 Kay Siang Road, #04-02  
Singapore 248922  
Tel: 6337 6062  
Fax: 6337 6035

 Singapore Environment Council  
 [www.sec.org.sg](http://www.sec.org.sg)  
 [communications@sec.org.sg](mailto:communications@sec.org.sg)