

PLASTIC STUDY CALLS FOR ACTION IN THE PLASTIC WASTE ECOSYSTEM

More than 820 million plastic bags, 467 million PET bottles and 473 million PP items used annually

SEC campaign calls on everyone in Singapore to reduce plastic use

Singapore, July 31, 2018: The population of Singapore is using a minimum of 1.76 billion plastic items each year, according to a new study released today by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC).

SEC commissioned a plastic waste study jointly with Deloitte & Touche Enterprise Risk Services Pte Ltd to evaluate the lifecycle and waste ecosystem of consumer plastic. It focuses on three segments of the plastic ecosystem, upstream producers' responsibilities including packaging; consumer lifestyles including recycling behaviour; and downstream processes including waste minimisation.

The study also reveals the extent of consumer plastic use as well as the way plastic items are reused, recycled or discarded.

According to the research, the population of Singaporeⁱ take 820 millionⁱⁱ plastic bags from supermarkets each year. This is two to four plastic bags per person for every shopping trip. When asked what they did with these bags, two-thirds of respondents reuse their plastic bags to bag and dispose of waste.

The study found the population of Singapore use 467 million polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles each year, or one to three per person per week. PET bottles are commonly used for drinks, sauces and marinades.

The study identified another major source of plastic waste – polypropylene (PP) plastic disposable items such as take-away containers. Every year the population of Singapore use 473 million PP items. This equates to one to three PP items per person per week.

The study results will be incorporated into a more extensive research report into consumer use of plastic and the waste ecosystem in Singapore. The full report will be made available during the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, held in conjunction with SEC Conference Day on 30 August 2018.

Ms Isabella Huang-Loh, Chairman of SEC said the study reveals gaps in the plastic ecosystem.

“The results of the study show that there are certain gaps in the plastic ecosystem. Strategically, the study will help focus public education, including 3P programmes that will drive towards reduction of plastic use. Key outcomes must be plastic reduction at every segment of the plastic ecosystem for individuals, businesses, communities, government agencies and statutory boards.”

“We need to address extended producers’ responsibility at the upstream too. We should take advantage of available innovation or seek new innovation to create a downstream market for recycling plastic in Singapore. For instance, there are already new technologies to convert plastic to fuel, and even use recycled plastic for 3D printing.”

“We need to connect consumers, businesses and the downstream to build a plastic ecosystem. SEC will be hosting the SEC Conference Day on 30 August 2018 to discuss and identify a clearer focus together with our 3P partners. This will help us to engage and educate every citizen at any age,” Ms Huang-Loh said.

Ms Jen Teo, Executive Director of SEC, said that SEC will work with corporate partners to encourage individuals to take action and reduce their plastic use.

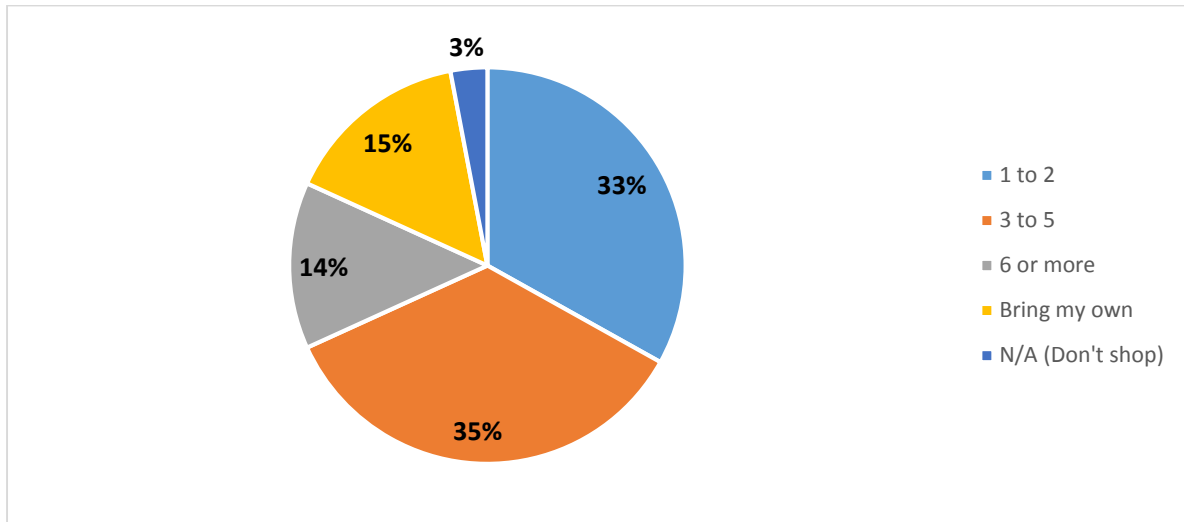
“SEC plans to have public education campaigns to reduce plastic use among individuals, businesses and communities. We are working with organisations to help educate consumers to reduce plastic waste. Among the first to come on board are NTUC FairPrice and Coca-Cola.”

“SEC is calling on every individuals in Singapore to use one less plastic item per day. We intend to encourage shoppers to use not more than two plastic bags per trip. This would eliminate some single-use plastic items from Singapore’s waste stream. The key is to choose reusable items – bring your own bag when shopping, avoid items packed in PP containers, use your own cutlery when

taking food away, and take a refillable water bottle with you instead of buying bottled water,” Ms Teo said.

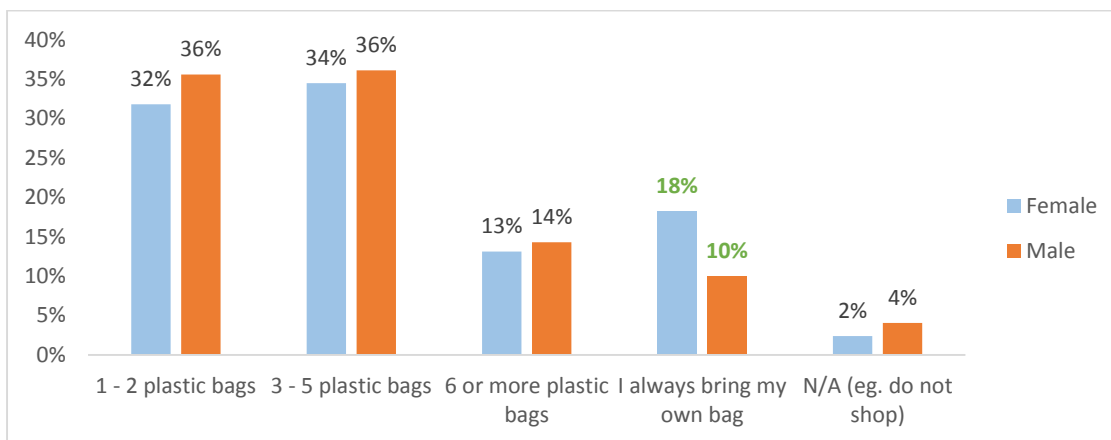
PLASTIC BAGS

Figure 1: Number of plastic bags used per trip to the supermarket



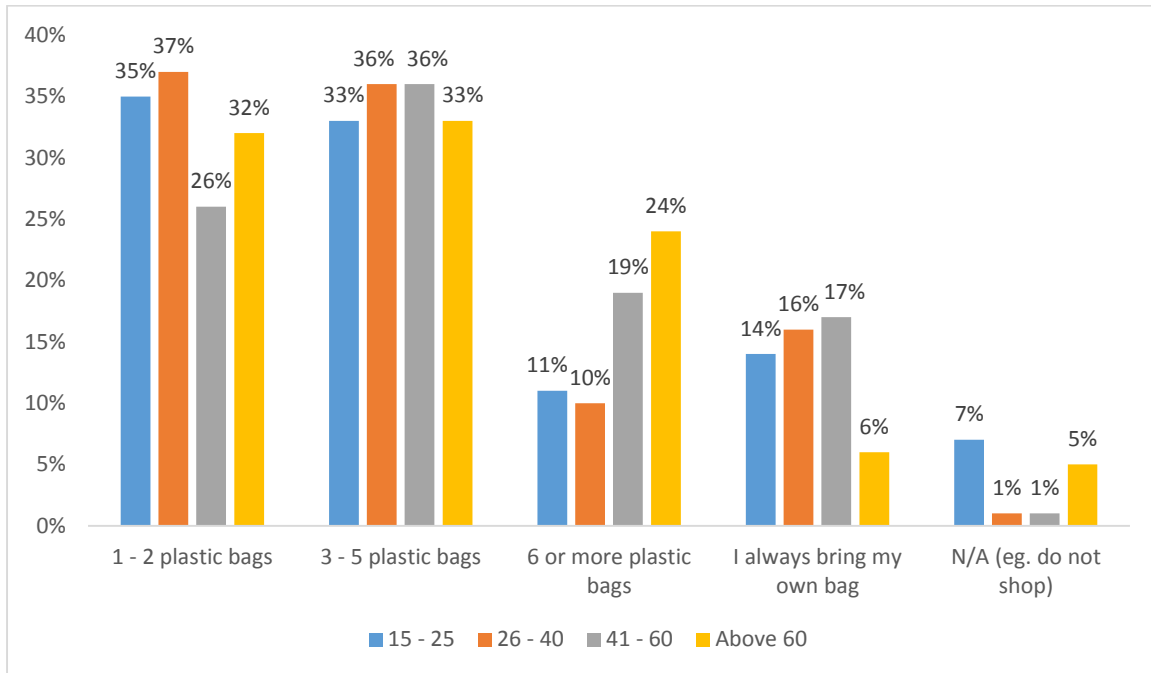
More than two million plastic bags are taken from supermarkets every day. Forty-nine per cent of respondents use three or more plastic shopping bags every time they visit the supermarket, including 14 per cent who use six or more each trip. Only 15 per cent bring their own reusable bags to do their shopping. The study found women were almost twice as likely to bring a reusable bag as men (18 per cent versus 10 per cent).

Figure 2: Plastic bag use by gender



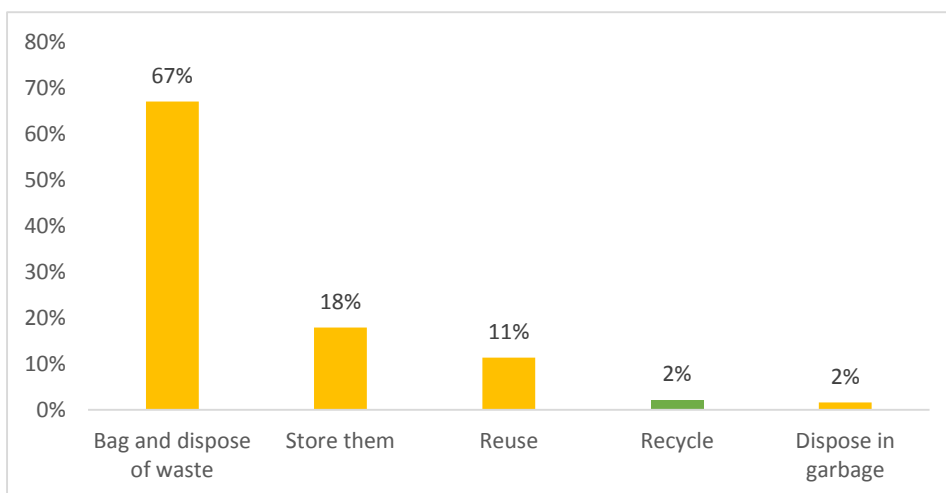
Twenty-four per cent of respondents who are above 60 years old take 6 or more plastic bags per shopping trip, and only 6 per cent bring their own bags to do their shopping. More than 40 per cent of all age groups take three or more plastic bags per shopping trip.

Figure 3: Plastic bag use by age



When asked about their preferred use of the plastic bags they had taken, a majority of respondents (67 per cent) bagged and disposed of waste, while 11 per cent reused them. Only two per cent said their preferred use of a plastic bag was to recycle it.

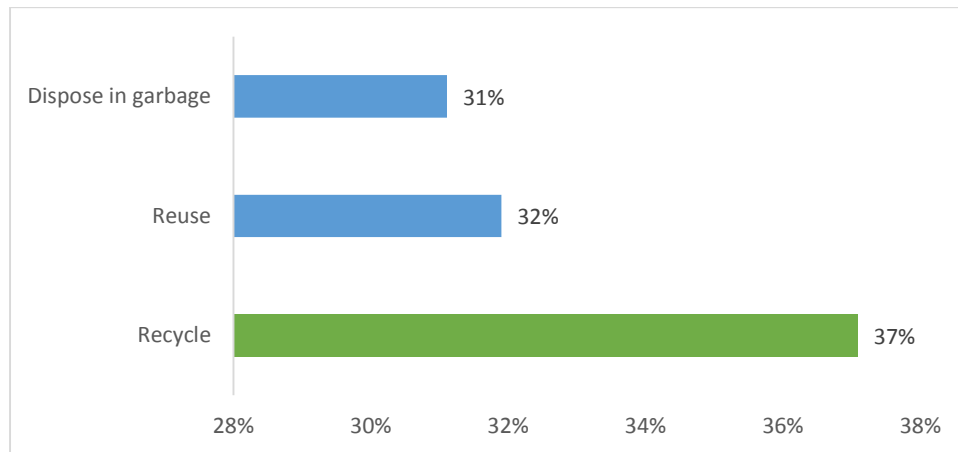
Figure 4: Preferred use of plastic bags



PET BOTTLES

More than one million PET bottles are used in Singapore every day. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents said their preferred use was to recycle PET bottles, while 32 per cent reuse them. The remaining 31 per cent dispose them in the garbage.

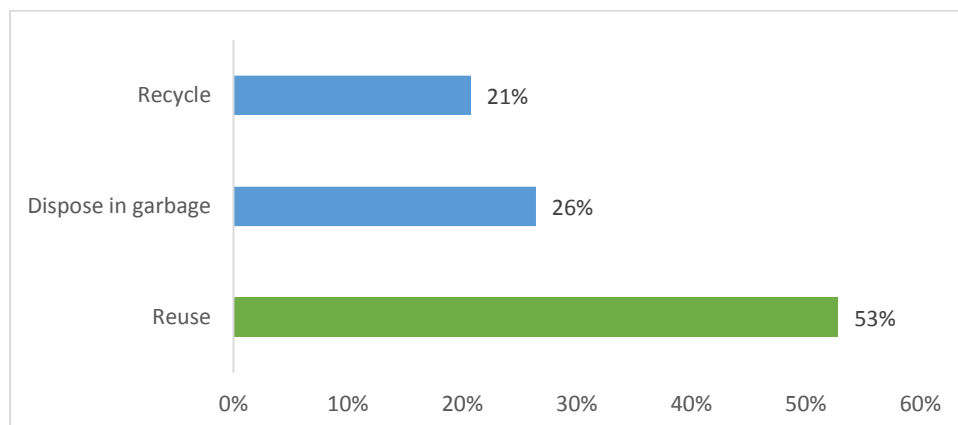
Figure 5: Preferred use of PET bottles



PP ITEMS

More than a million PP disposable plastic items are used in Singapore every day. More than half (53 per cent) of the respondents prefer to reuse their PP items, while one in five (21 per cent) recycle them. Throwing them into the garbage was the preferred action of one in four (26 per cent) respondents.

Figure 6: Preferred use of PP Items



SEC TO LAUNCH PLASTIC WASTE CAMPAIGN

SEC announced a new campaign to fight plastic waste in Singapore. The education campaign will target Singapore's plastic problem at its source – the items everyone uses every day.

The campaign calls on every individual in Singapore to reduce plastic waste by using one less plastic item per day. It encourages the use of reusable items such as reusable bags, cutlery and water bottles.

As part of the campaign, SEC is working with organisations to help educate consumers to reduce plastic waste. The first corporate partners on board are NTUC FairPrice and Coca-Cola.

A NATION OF PLASTIC

SINGAPORE'S PLASTIC CONSUMPTION



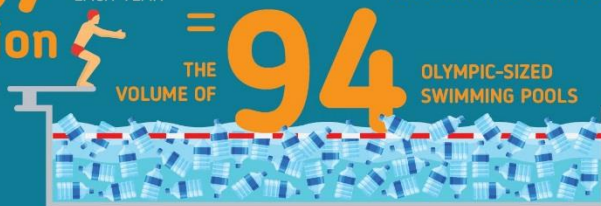
PET PLASTICS

LINED END TO END, PET BOTTLES COLLECTED IN A DAY FROM SINGAPORE WOULD STRETCH FOR 300KM, OR



1-3 PET BOTTLES USED PER PERSON / WEEK

467 million PET BOTTLES ARE USED IN SINGAPORE EACH YEAR



PLASTIC BAGS



2-4 PLASTIC BAGS TAKEN FROM SUPERMARKETS PER PERSON / TRIP

820 million SUPERMARKET PLASTIC BAGS ARE USED IN SINGAPORE EACH YEAR



473 million PP PLASTICS ARE USED IN SINGAPORE EACH YEAR



POLYPROPYLENE (PP) PLASTICS



1-3 PP PLASTIC DISPOSABLES USED PER PERSON / WEEK

IN SUNNY SINGAPORE, ONLY 6% OF PLASTIC WASTE GETS RECYCLED. IT'S TIME WE RETHINK OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PLASTIC BY REDUCING, REUSING, AND RECYCLING IT.



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**** END OF MEDIA RELEASE****




ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL


Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit and non-governmental organisation (NGO). As Singapore's first United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-accredited environmental NGO, we influence thinking of sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in the nation.

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: 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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新加坡环境理事会简介

新加坡环境理事会（SEC），成立于 1995 年，是非政府组织（NGO），也是非盈利机构。我们致力于推广新加坡可持续发展项目同时协调环境改善事务。在 2018 年，新加坡环境理事会被联合国环境规划署授

予认证。

我们是一个获得认可的慈善机构，捐赠者可享受税务优惠。通过举办一系列整体项目如新加坡环境成就奖 (Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards)、亚洲环境新闻奖 (Asian Environmental Journalism Awards)、SEC-星和校园绿化奖 (SEC-StarHub School Green Awards)、新加坡绿色标签计划 (Singapore Green Labelling Scheme)、绿化办公室计划 (Project: Eco-Office)、绿化商店计划 (Project: Eco-Shop) 和绿化餐饮计划 (Project: Eco-F&B)，新加坡环境理事会持续在社会各个领域发挥作用。

通过志愿环保战士 (Earth Helpers) 项目新加坡环境理事会组织了一支队伍协助和改善环境。我们的培训与教学部门旨在提高人民、政府部门及社会各领域的环保意识，知识与技能，并提供相关教材。多年以来，新加坡环境理事会一直支持并引导着新加坡的环保运动，通过与企业、政府机构和其他非政府组织建立密切的合作关系以更积极的行动达成改善环境的远景，这对于我们项目的可持续发展是至关重要的。

ⁱ Includes residents and non-residents

ⁱⁱ This total only includes plastic bags taken from supermarkets and does not include plastic bags from other sources such as retail and food outlets. This estimated figure is based on study findings and this is linearly scaled using Singapore's population aged 20 and above (mid-year estimate 2017 from Department of Statistics Singapore), which is the closest available demographic profiles of the survey respondents.