

Project - Zero Waste Drive By The Eco Warriors

Our aim is to encourage recycling and promote the significance of reducing waste to the residents of Singapore.

Team members



The Problem

Waste disposal is a global issue. With rapid population growth and urbanisation, annual waste generation is expected to increase by 70% from 2016, levels to 3.40 billion tonnes in 2050. Smaller cities like Singapore are at a greater risk. Singapore's main challenge has always been the limited land stock. The Pulau Semakau landfill was opened in 1999 and is expected to run out of space by 2035. Singapore waste disposal system is widely dependant on this. Therefore, in the recent years, Singapore has been edging towards a master plan - 'towards zero waste'. In Singapore we have noticed that people barely follow the 3Rs in households. A report by the Straits Times in 2016 showed that an average of 13 bags a day were thrown away per person. Singapore has been turning the non-recyclable waste into ash and has shipped other kinds of waste away. Despite this, in 2017, 763 thousand tons of plastic were disposed, with only about 6% being recycled. Additionally some households have people with special needs and may not be able to dispose waste in the recycle bins in the community spaces and some people are even financially unstable.

Our Solutions

The first of our solutions involved a swap drive, wherein people could come and exchange old but usable intensive in good condition. This way any unwanted waste, for example plastic bottles, could be given to someone else in return for items like stationery. A fair trade would be ensured throughout the process. The items given would also be observed, so that no unusable items or items in bad condition would be traded.

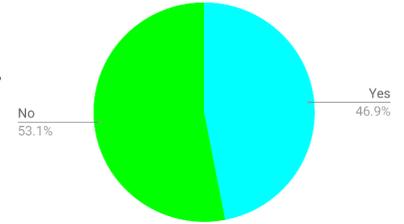
The second solution was a mix of fun and a way of educating people on the correct method of disposal of substances like plastic. Many a time people neglect the different recycle bins for paper, plastic and cans and simply dump their items, sometimes even biodegradable waste, into the bins incorrectly. This 'Bottle Flip Challenge' would have people throw items such as paper, plastic items and bottles into their respective cans for prizes. This fun method of disposal can be practiced anywhere and is responsible.

We wrote an article on medium entitled 'How to be a green warrior amongst the Covid-19 crisis.' It features the importance of recycling and fun activities to kill time as well as contribute to our mother nature. One such fun activity is DIY crafts out of recycled items like empty toilet paper rolls, plastic bottles, bottle caps, can tops, etc.

Survey analysis

We conducted a survey amongst our family and friends and received 50 responses. This survey helped us identify many problems our society is facing regarding waste management. Our survey helped us understand that despite the fact that most people know how important waste management is, they do not how to help reduce this problem and therefore do not take part in any such green initiatives. They also find proper waste disposal extremely tedious and therefore find it easier to dispose all of it in chutes or in general waste bins. We collated all results and arrived at the conclusion that our projects will impact the community positively in many ways.

Q. Do you find waste collection a tedious job?



Impact

Although we haven't really done much due to the circumstances, our small steps has impacted many. The school Bottle Flip Challenge version 1.0 recycled about 50 + Plastic Bottles just in our grade. The event was a great success involving more than 40 students across our grade to participate in recycling. Imagine how many bottles can be recycled in one school? Our blog on the social media app - 'Medium' has successfully reached out to more than 170 people across 20 countries over 5 continents in 1 week. In addition to that our survey on waste management has received over 50 enthusiastic responses in 2 days. The best way to make an impact in the times of Covid-19 is to spread awareness. This is shown through our blog viewers and survey respondents



Our blog viewers (represented by green bars)

SWAPOHOLIC WELCOME!

- ✓ **SWAPOHOLIC** is an initiative to encourage people to play their part in creating a Green Planet for our future generations.
- ✓ The concept is very simple. All a person needs to do is to visit our stall and bring items that they do not require anymore, which are in a good condition and could be of use to somebody else.
- ✓ Once at our stall, they can exchange their articles with others that other visitors have already donated.
- ✓ Our team members will ensure that there is a fair-exchange of goods - making this a WIN-WIN for all and for Mother Earth!

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Date - 9th & 10th April
Venue - HDB Blocks 86 to 92, Dawson Road, Singapore



1 NO POVERTY



Challenges and Learnings

Our journey so far has been full of obstacles. Being in high school, coping up with exams and loads studies, we found a way to spend time to make a change in our community. In our experience we learnt that passion is the key to drive a successful change. As we started off at a school level, the first challenge we overcame was to organise a small activity to encourage recycling. It was a new concept so we had to convincingly create awareness about it. It honed our communication and presentation skills, and the art of time management. Our turning point was after our first activity when the situation of Covid-19 got worse and the government put restrictions on gatherings. We had to cancel some of our events in school and in the community however we never lost hope. We continued to be resilient and took to the e-platform. We had to completely change our direction and couldn't do what had been planned. This was a boon in disguise for us to expand our roots into the world of social media. Overall we learnt to work as a team, learnt the dynamics of recycling and waste disposal. This really helped us to analyse the problem in different perspectives and now we understand so much about the issue in the local communities in Singapore and how our cause has and will impacted so many people's lives. It is just a small step and it has made us much better individuals in the world.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Testimonials

"It makes me feel so proud of you guys to see you involved in such a good cause at such a young age. Keep it up." - Ms. Jyotsna, Physics teacher at GIIS Singapore

"Very good initiative keep up the good work in saving the environment" - Omkar, Student at GIIS

Join our cause:

- 1) Website - <http://ecowarriorsgsl.wixsite.com/go-green>
- 2) Youtube Channel - <https://tinyurl.com/y7kk3sms>
- 3) Medium Blog - <https://tinyurl.com/y7ylelv>

Collaborations

We signed up for the Lively Places Fund programme by the Housing Development Board (HDB). This programme was a platform for us to carry out youth driven activities in the local communities to create an impact. We had made all preparations of posters and advertisements etc. Our form was in the process of receiving an approval when the government placed strict measures to combat the Novel Coronavirus. We therefore could not conduct any drives outside of our school.

Future Plans

In this prevailing situation of the coronavirus we plan to keep the public updated on waste management through articles on medium, youtube videos, instagram live and we are even planning to explore zoom as an online platform to give talks and spread awareness.

We plan to structure an app to educate the public about the correct ways of waste segregation and include games to create awareness through an interactive way.

Once the situation is better we plan to complete our series of 3-step drives on a larger scale in HDBs across Singapore and resume our initiatives in school too. The remaining items in the Swap for Life drive will be donated to the Salvation Army to help those in need.

We plan to give talks in the public about proper ways of recycling and would further work with the recycling companies to donate the items we would collect in the recycling matters initiative. We would go from house to house to collect recyclable items to donate to the recycling companies directly and we would reward the public with some money in exchange as an incentive. We would collaborate with existing recycling startups for this initiative.



Global Indian
International
School

Team Members:

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Aekas Singh Gulati
Pratyush Bansal

15 LIFE ON LAND



13 CLIMATE ACTION

