

✓ THE Greenlist

SDGs: 11, 12, 13, 15, 17

Our team:

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Data Collection, Analysis

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Data Collection, Analysis



Summary:

Our mission is to **raise awareness about, and to facilitate sustainable and proper waste management and recycling practices** in our school (POWIIS) and residential (Botanica CT, located in Balik Pulau, Penang) communities. We have created The Greenlist, a simple comprehensive **checklist** for all to use to help sort through their municipal waste. We plan on launching a **recycling station** in the Botanica residential area, as we have identified a lack of proper recycling collection in our area.

We hope to create lasting impact on our communities, setting us on a path towards sustainability; and by reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill, do our part in the global battle against climate change.



Survey results:

Why people here don't recycle:

Lack of knowledge of:

- where to drop off recyclables
- what can/cannot be recycled

They **must travel far** to drop off recyclables

Our solution:

- a checklist
 - educating others on how to dispose of paper, metal, electronic, plastic and textile waste, which includes Penang-specific information
- a recycling station
 - making recycling easily accessible to all in POWIIS and Botanica

Working as a school:

POWIIS is collectively working towards becoming a sustainable and eco-friendly community. Our project is part of POWIIS' drive to tackle waste management.

Members of our recycling team sort through recyclable waste collected from school and student households, and redirect them to either recycling, or up-cycling clubs in our school while referencing our checklist.

The Eco Club used our checklist as a reference when creating video guidelines for a recycling game, which will ultimately contribute to POWIIS' application for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

Members of our community can drop their recyclables off at our recycling station, which is launching in June, further fostering a sense of community responsibility.

On our journey, we have:

- Sent out surveys to the POWIIS and Botanica communities
- Researched and liaised with field experts and contacted various companies to learn about local waste statistics, recycling in general and local recycling programmes
- Distributed our checklist to the school recycling team and Botanica residents
- Set up a temporary recycling point with crates
- Set up our Instagram profile with the advice and aid of our school marketing team
- Created infographics and posters from data we collected
- Communicated directly with Botanica residents through WhatsApp to share our knowledge and plans
- Raised RM2,000 (GBP365) from selling recycled plastic items, and received a total of RM15,000 (GBP2,730) in sponsorship from both our school board and MTT Shipping for a shipping container that will serve as a recycling station
- Contacted the district councillor of Balik Pulau for funding

Parties involved:

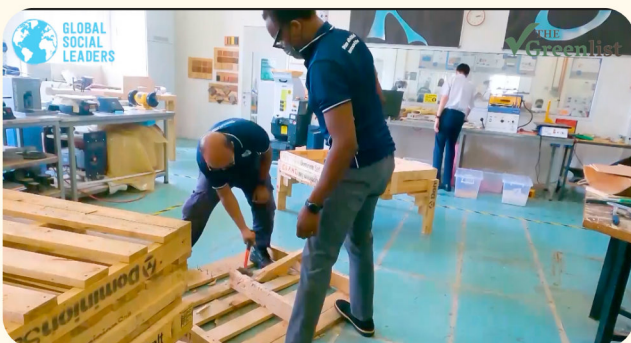
- **RIICYCLE** (recycling company)
 - The collection of recyclables from POWIIS will be in collaboration with them
 - We enquired about recycling locally; they provided us with information about recycling battery, electronics, and more
- **MTT Shipping** (owner of school, Botanica)
 - We have secured from them sponsors for the shipping container and the land where it will go
- **Penang Green Council (PGC)**
 - POWIIS is part of Penang Green Hub, and an official partner of PGC; our project is part of this larger green movement in school
 - We enquired about waste statistics and recycling in Penang
 - They introduced us to RIICYCLE, the local district councillor of Balik Pulau, and Tzu Chi Foundation
- **District Councillor**
 - After emailing our district councillor, we secured a meeting with him to ask for sponsorship for the recycling station



Sorting through plastics to be processed



Items made from plastics collected from students, staff



Making crates for recycling point

Next Steps:

- Launching the recycling game in school, where our checklist will be the main guide for students to manage waste and recycle responsibly
- Designing the shipping container/recycling station and officially launch it to the residents on June 25, with support from the PGC
- Having a door-to-door collection of recyclables from Botanica households

What we learned:

- **Waste management knowledge—globally and locally**
 - Through research and correspondences, we vastly expanded our knowledge of recycling and waste management, especially of the many local recycling programmes and initiatives.
- **Perseverance**
 - Trying to create change is hard and time-consuming. We faced many setbacks due to COVID restrictions and other delays that came with working with others. Nevertheless, the team stayed resilient and found solutions to combat problems.
- **Communication skills and teamwork**
 - We have corresponded and coordinated with many people either through phone calls, email, or text. We learnt to communicate with strangers in a formal context, and gained confidence to approach known organisations for support.

Testimonials:

“My neighbours and friends separate our trash and recyclables in different bins to show indication of recyclables and normal trash. However, we were disappointed seeing that both separated bins were thrown together with general waste.

Having a recycling station would clearly show where residents could recycle, knowing that all recyclables would be recycled instead of being thrown in the trash. It would give us a sense of security and peace of mind.”

—Dave Khaw, Botanica resident

“The guidance is clearly categorised with detailed instructions. Included almost all types of waste items for school and community.”

—Sherry Hu, POWIIS Recycling Team (Teacher)

The Greenlist has helped the residents and school community understand what we can do better with clear communication with our recyclers and with reviews on our performance. They have achieved so much in only 3 months and now secured the funding and support to increase our recyclables, compost, e-waste and reusable materials - they are helping communities manage waste more responsibly.

—Samuel Hodge, Mentor, POWIIS Assistant Principal