

# Green Gazette

Green Gazette is a new e-newsletter by Green Clan, an NIE volunteer group focused on environmental sustainability. We aim to **support an eco-conscious NIE community** and **celebrate staff and students' contributions** to reducing environmental impact.

Through thoughtful actions, even those as small as **saving the use of one plastic bag a day**, we can help preserve our beautiful world for future generations. Let's go green together!



## Recent Green Initiatives at NIE & NTU

### NIE



- **First e-waste recycling bin at NIE**

Time to drop off those old wires and gadgets: NIE's first official electronic waste recycling bin has been installed at the U.iD NIE Student Hub (Student Services Centre).

This e-waste recycling effort is supported by ACIS, with the arrangement of the bin initiated by Prof Paul Teng from NIEI and coordinated by CUS. The bin is part of the nationwide [RENEW programme](#), a collaboration by Starhub, DHL and TES to help the public recycle their e-waste.

- **BYO (Bring Your Own) at the Staff Lounge**  
Free coffee tastes even better when you BYO! To reduce the use of disposable cups at the Staff Lounge, CPDO has encouraged staff to BYO mugs and provided communal mugs in the lounge.

## NTU

- **Ban on free plastic bags from 1 Oct**  
NTU has announced a measure to promote sustainability as part of its ECHO initiative. From 1 Oct, a fee will be charged for plastic bags at all campus events, retail outlets and food outlets. [[NTU press release](#)]



At the NTU townhall, it was also announced that the university will be tackling the excessive use of plastic disposable bottles on campus.

**Know of a campus initiative to feature? Let us know at [greenclan@nie.edu.sg](mailto:greenclan@nie.edu.sg)!**

## Sustainability in the News

- [New BCA benchmark for energy-efficient buildings](#) (The Straits Times, 6 Sep 2018)
- [Kopitiam says straw situation could have been handled better](#) (The Straits Times, 5 Sep 2018)
- [7 in 10 people in Singapore do not know what plastics to recycle: SEC report](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 30 Aug 2018)
- [1.76b plastic items used here yearly: Poll](#) (The Straits Times, 1 Aug 2018)

## Green FAQ

**Q: "I'd like to use fewer plastic disposables when dining. Is switching to paper or biodegradable disposables always a better option?"**

**A: No, according to a [life-cycle assessment](#) commissioned by NEA.**

The study found that since waste in Singapore is incinerated and not left to degrade, promoting certain types of disposables (e.g. paper or biodegradable disposables) may not be better for the environment. Instead, a better way for consumers to reduce their



environmental impact is to opt for reusable bags and food containers.

## Share Your Green Initiatives

Tell us how you or your colleagues are promoting the 4Rs (refusing, reducing, reusing, and recycling)! Email [greenclan@nie.edu.sg](mailto:greenclan@nie.edu.sg).

### SEEDS FOR THOUGHT

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*"I have met people who say 'I don't know what you're doing, but I need my air con, I need my comfort.'.... I always tell people 'You don't have to be like me, you just have to do it bit by bit.'"*

– Tay Lai Hock, founder of Ground-Up Initiative

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#### **About Green Clan**

Green Clan was formed in 2017. We are an informal group of research, faculty and admin staff interested in sustainability matters and supporting evidence-informed initiatives for sustainability. [Connect with us](#)