

# Green Gazette

Supporting a culture of sustainability at NIE

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## Green Scene

In April, **GreenNIE Week 2019** was organised by Green Clan to mark Earth Day!



Activities included a freecycling event held at the NIE canteen, where staff and students reduced waste by giving away usable unwanted items to others. Another highlight was an upcycling workshop led by NSSE faculty that taught participants how to creatively turn food packaging into a handy pouch.

A big thank you to the NIE staff and students who contributed their time and expertise towards a more sustainable way of life!

## Green FAQ: Cotton Vs. Other Types of Bags

**Q: "Are cotton bags more environmentally friendly than plastic bags?"**



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD OF DENMARK, 2018

**A:** No, cotton bags can be much more harmful to the environment if factors such as the water used to produce the cotton are taken into account. Adding to previous research, a 2018 [Danish life-cycle assessment](#) of common types of carrier bags found that a cotton bag would need to be reused thousands of times more than a plastic bag to equal its environmental performance.

The study excluded the effects of marine litter since it was regarded as a negligible factor in Denmark (similar to other countries with well-managed waste systems). The study ultimately showed that other types of bags, e.g. paper and non-woven PP plastic carriers, were more eco-friendly than cotton bags.

Therefore, if you need to source carrier bags, e.g. for an event, it may be greener not to use cotton.

## Sustainability in the News

- [NDP 2019 funpack goes green](#) (The New Paper, 21 Jun 2019)
- [Nationwide push to reduce disposables, encourage reusables](#) (The Straits Times, 9 Jun 2019)
- [The 'convenience store' that is not so convenient](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 6 Jun 2019)
- [Tharman urges firms to invest in more green innovations](#) (The Straits Times, 9 May 2019)
- [60% of Singaporean households recycle regularly, but many not doing it right: Surveys](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 29 Apr 2019)

## 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).

### 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. [Follow us on Facebook](#) | [Join the team](#)