

# Green Gazette

*Supporting a culture of sustainability at NIE*

*Issue 7 | Sep / Oct 2019*

## #OurOnlyPlanet

The NIE/NTU community share their thoughts on caring for #OurOnlyPlanet. In this issue, we chat with Dr Tricia Seow.



**Q: Tell us about your work linking up environmental NGOs and teachers.**

**A:** I had the opportunity to speak on a panel recently where environmental NGOs were present. Many of them seemed keen to work with educators, so I decided that it would be useful to organize a forum next February that brings educators and NGOs together for a good cause.

**Q: Why should people in Singapore care about protecting the environment?**

**A:** Because there isn't anywhere else for us to go. We are part of an inter-connected world. If we are heedless about issues like climate change, all the planning, money and technology at our disposal can only alleviate environmental problems at best. And at increasingly higher opportunity cost to individuals and society.

**Q: In your experience, what can encourage individuals and organisations to take climate action?**

**A:** I think people and organisations may not know what actions to take that are strategic and effective. There is a lot of information out there, and not all of it is

applicable to our context. I think if we knew what would work, we might be more willing to do it. This website provides a link to different environmental groups as well as events and activities taking place in Singapore which might be useful:

<https://lepakinsg.wordpress.com/lepak-kakis-database/>

**Q: Tell us about your research in climate change education.**

**A:** I conduct research into teachers' knowledge and practice of climate change education. What comes across from the research is that teachers' classroom practice is affected by their values, regardless of the prescribed curriculum. To address climate change through education, we must go beyond knowledge dimensions to address individuals' beliefs and values too.

Dr Tricia Seow is the Assistant Head of Humanities & Social Studies Education. She is currently organising a sustainability forum for educators that will be taking place at NIE next February.

## Recent Green Initiatives at NIE & NTU

### Book Donation Drive at NIE



Good books belong on book shelves and not the landfill. On 23 October 2019, NIE staff and students generously donated their pre-loved books to the first Green Clan Book Donation Drive. A total of 557 children's and adult books were collected and given to the Singapore Prison Service!

### E-Waste Recycling Event at NTU

Until 30 October 2019, you can drop off your e-waste at [10 locations](#) around NTU. You can also drop it off with ECHO on 1 November 2019 at North Spine, LT1A Foyer.

Those who bring two or more items to recycle can redeem a collapsible water bottle (terms and conditions apply). [Learn more!](#)

## 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).

## Green FAQ: Paper Recycling

### Q: What types of paper products can be recycled?

A: Paper recycling has one of the higher [rates of household recycling](#) in Singapore - about 50% vs. just 4% for plastics.

At NIE and elsewhere, you often see newspapers, office papers, flyers, and cardboard in the recycling bin. Slightly less common items that can be recycled include envelopes (with or without the plastic window), empty tissue boxes, empty toilet paper rolls or towel paper cores, and paper receipts (See the complete list of items that can or cannot be recycled from [Zero Waste SG](#)).

However, not all paper products can be recycled. According to a [household recycling survey](#) conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) and the National Environment Agency (NEA) in 2018 - 2019, soiled paper packaging is commonly mistaken as recyclable. Why can't we recycle soiled paper packaging? When paper products are recycled, they are mixed with water and chemicals to break them down into pulp. That makes paper products such as wax paper, soiled paper, pizza boxes, or disposable cups and plates unrecyclable. Remember, water doesn't mix with oil!

## Sustainability in the News

- [NTUC's plastic bag charge trial ends; 'too early' for meaningful data](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 17 Oct 2019)
- [Asian metropolises, including Singapore, top list of world's greenest commuter cities](#) (The Straits Times, 16 Oct 2019)
- [Leaders have a duty to youth to act on climate change: PM Lee](#) (The Straits Times, 28 Sep 2019)
- [10% less waste discarded by large shopping malls last year than five years ago](#) (The Straits Times, 24 Sep 2019)
- [Biodegradable plastic alternatives not necessarily better for Singapore, say experts](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 9 Sep 2019)

### **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](#)