



Supporting a culture of environmental sustainability at NIE

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Textile Waste: Why Does it Matter?

According to the National Environment Agency, textile waste, such as an old t-shirt or dress that we no longer wear, can fill approximately 67 Olympic-sized swimming pools in Singapore last year! This is equivalent to [168, 800 tonnes of textile waste, with only 4% that can be recycled.](#)

Fast fashion is second only to oil as the world's largest polluter, and workers in the textile industry are often subjected to unsafe working conditions with minimal pay.

What can we do? Donation alone will not solve the textile waste problem. First, donation centres often cannot handle the sheer amount of donated clothes. Second, not all donated clothes are wearable. Donating clothes is a good first step, but it does not solve the problem. Slow fashion does. **We can all reduce textile waste by buying less, repurposing old clothes, and buying higher quality clothes that will last longer.**



Photo credit: GESL Group 6 (2020)

If we do not change our fast fashion habits now, the Semakau landfill, projected to run out of space in 2035, will not be able to accommodate textile waste in the future.

Green Scene

GESL Group Project on Textile Waste

Passionate about the textile waste problem, a group of NIE students, named "Viva Slow Fashion", has recently started a Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) project on sustainable fashion. They advocate for slow fashion, and have started an [Instagram page](#) featuring NIE students in second-hand clothes or shoes. Check out some of their stories here!

Mom's Closet & Thrift Store

Q: What got you into sustainable fashion?

A: I didn't realise my thrifting habits and love of hand-me-downs were in line with leading a sustainable lifestyle until recently, as I have always enjoyed the experience of chancing upon or inheriting something unique or quirky. I really enjoy a more slower-paced kind of shopping experience because it keeps my wardrobe distinctively my own, making sure that I actually wear the clothes that I have :)



Reworking Clothes

Q: Where did you buy these clothes from?

The pants is a reworked cargo pants from... Taiwan... I thrifted the Nike sweater and decided to add a lil touch to it. We have been exploring with tie dying and bleach dying for months and have decided to do an asymmetric bleach dye to this black sweater.

Q: What got you into sustainable fashion? I

started thrifting when I visited a night market in Bangkok and found lots of interesting pieces... Wearing vintage tees provided me an avenue to relive my childhood and at the same time reduce my consumption of fast fashion items.



Clothes Swapping

Q: What got you into sustainable fashion? I have always been interested in how I can recycle or upcycle my items and started to be more conscious of making more responsible choices where it concerned sustainability about 2 years back. While cleaning out our wardrobe, I realized that my sister and I had accumulated clothes that we no longer wore but were still in good condition. At the same time, I knew of friends who swapped preloved clothes and decided to give it a try.



Sustainability in the News

- [Bjorn Low: 'Every Singaporean can help Singapore become more food resilient'](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 16 Aug 2020)
- ['Canary in the coal mine': Greenland ice has shrunk beyond return, study finds](#) (TODAY, 15 Aug 2020)
- [Plans for new association, centre to boost plastics recycling in S'pore](#) (The Straits Times, 13 Aug 2020)
- [Commentary: This new Ministry of Sustainability and Environment looks pretty promising](#) (Channel NewsAsia, 29 Jul 2020)
- [How Singapore can tap carbon capture technology to fight climate change post-Covid-19](#) (TODAY, 21 Jul 2020)

Survey: Share Your Ideas on Sustainability

Help Green Clan plan sustainability activities relevant to the NIE community!

[Take our 2-minute survey now.](#)

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](#)