

**3R Portfolio**  
**- Good Practices to Promote the 3Rs -**

**Country: Singapore**

**Major Activities**

1. National Targets for Recycling

- The targets and goals on waste recycling are published in the Singapore Green Plan (SGP) 2012. The SGP2012 is Singapore's 10-year blueprint for environmental sustainability and was launched by the Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) in 2002.
- Under the SGP 2012, the target and goal for waste recycling are as follows:
  - To increase overall recycling rate from 44% in 2002 to 60% by 2012
  - To strive "towards zero landfill"
- Recycling rate in Singapore has increased to 48% in 2004.

2. Supporting Infrastructure

- Two sites have been set aside for waste recycling facilities to facilitate the setting up of waste recycling facilities. Singapore now has the capability and capacity to recycle electronic waste, food waste, wood waste, horticultural waste, used slag, construction and demolition waste, ferrous waste and plastic waste.
- A Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) was set up in 2001 to provide a platform for the waste management and recycling companies to collaborate and develop the industry through partnerships and joint projects, and to raise the professionalism of workers in the industry through setting of skills standards.

3. Research and Technology Development

- To promote development and adoption of innovative environmental technologies, the National Environment Agency (NEA), Singapore, a statutory board under the MEWR, set up an S\$20 million "Innovation for Environmental Sustainability (IES)" Fund to provide financial support for companies to carry out test bedding projects.
- The NEA also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the universities in Singapore to carry out joint R&D projects

4. Recycling in Households

- In 2001 NEA launched the National Recycling Programme (NRP) for households to recycle waste. Under the NRP, recycling bags or bins are distributed to each household for residents to separate their recyclables from refuse. The recyclables are collected every fortnightly on a scheduled day by the appointed recycling companies.
- Participation rate by households increased from 22% in 2001 to 54% by end 2004.

5. Public Recycling Bins

- To supplement the NRP, some 5,200 recycling bins for paper, plastic, metal cans and

glass bottles, have been placed at public areas such as outside mass rapid transit stations, food courts, airport terminals, shopping centers, pedestrian malls, etc to encourage the public to recycle waste.

#### 6. Recycling in Schools

- In 2002, a recycling initiative called “Recycling Corner Programme” for schools was launched with the aim of inculcating good 3R habits in students. Recycling bins for paper, drink cans and plastic bottles are placed at Recycling Corners located within the school premises. Students carry out activities on the 3Rs and put up interesting information and display on 3R at the Recycling Corner.
- To instill ownership of the recycling programme, students are trained to be Environmental Champions. Environmental Champions take the lead to promote the 3R in their schools.
- Schools are also encouraged to form Environmental Clubs. Financial support in the form of grants is given to Environmental Clubs to organize environmental related activities. The NEA also provide other forms of support such as providing educational aids to these clubs

#### 7. Public Awareness Programmes

- NEA and the 3P (Public, Private, People) partners carry out public awareness programmes and activities to sustain and reinforce the 3R messages. Special events and activities such as competitions, awards, field trips and carnivals are held to showcase achievements and share best practices practices.
- Recycling Day – the first Recycling Day was held on 21 Nov 04 by the NEA in partnership with the community and the private sector to raise awareness and educate the public on recycling. Awareness and educational activities on 3R were held at public libraries and communities centres at different parts of the city-state.
- Events and activities to raise awareness on the 3Rs are also organized during special occasions such as Singapore’s annual Clean and Green Week, Earth Day and World Environment Day.

#### 8. Partnership and ownership.

- NEA sets up a S\$1million fund - 3P Partnership Fund - to encourage partnership in the 3P sectors to foster environmental awareness and ownership of the environment.

#### 9. Recycling in Industrial Estates and Commercial Buildings

- Introduce recycling programme to small and medium size factories at industrial estates to recycle wooden pallets, carton boxes, plastics and metals, etc.
- NEA together with Singapore Retailers Association and the Singapore Environment Council launched a campaign to educate stores and shoppers to avoid wastage of plastic bags.
- NEA collaborated with the Singapore Hotel Association, Singapore Retailers Association and shopping centres to carry out projects and programmes to promote recycling and waste minimisation in the commercial sector.

#### 10. Singapore Green Labeling Scheme

- The Singapore Green Labeling Scheme (SGLS) was launched by the MEWR in 1992. Since 1999, the SGLS has been administered by the Singapore Environment Council. The scheme helps consumers identify and buy environmentally friendly products.

#### 11. 3R-related Information

- Information on 3R that may be useful to the community, schools, industrial and commercial sectors are made available in various forms such as brochures, newsletters and the NEA web site <http://www.nea.gov.sg/>

#### 12. Regional Environmentally Sustainable Cities Programme.

- The “Regional Environmental Sustainable Cities Programme or RESCP is an ASEAN initiative which was endorsed by the ASEAN Environment Ministers on 4 Mar 03.
- RESCP seeks to help ASEAN cities meet the goal of environmental sustainability. An ASEAN Working Group chaired by Singapore has developed a Framework for Environmental Sustainable Cities in ASEAN.
- The Working Group has devised a 2-phase work plan to operationalise the Framework. The first phase is to compile best practices and identify gaps and the second phase is capacity building.

#### 13. International Cooperation

- Under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, training courses on waste management and other environmental topics have been conducted for the regional countries.
- Singapore has also set up a Third Country Training Programme to collaborate with developed countries, regional partners, or an international organisations to provide training on environmental issues such solid waste management and pollution control for developing countries. Our partners include Australia, Japan, Norway, Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

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