



WEST COAST TOWN COUNCIL
**SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT 2021**

MAKING WEST COAST OUR BEST HOME, TOGETHER.



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION

Our little red dot of a country has always punched above our weight – from third world to first, to world-leading ports and being a global business hub. But what are all these accolades if our environment cannot sustain us?

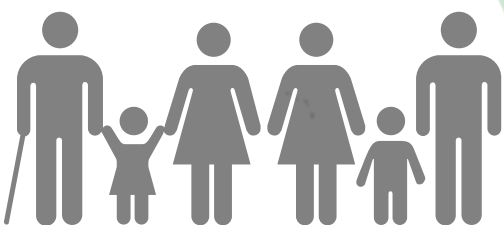
My aspiration is for our little red dot to be a little green dot! Over the past few months, we have been exploring ways to grow sustainability efforts in its operations and among our grassroots, to create a better living environment for our residents. Embarking on Action for Green Towns (AGT), our team at West Coast GRC will focus on 3+1 pillars: Zero Waste, Energy Efficiency, Green Environment and Education.

To start, we have our Town Councils across Singapore share their existing projects and best practices with each other, which included clean energy initiatives, recycling programmes, sustainable transport initiatives and adding more green spaces in our neighbourhood.



Over the past few months, I have had the joy of getting to know many volunteers and environmental experts who are passionate about contributing to the sustainability effort in our Town. We facilitated many sessions, discussed new possibilities and will start to embark on the implementation. A big thank you to our residents who have come forward to lend their expertise and volunteer their time, we are grateful for your perspectives and willingness to serve!

With our collective effort, I am confident that we can work towards a zero waste, energy efficient and greener Town and make West Coast our best home, together!



MS RACHEL ONG

**Sustainability Champion
West Coast Town Council**



Zero Waste is a holistic approach to addressing the problem of unsustainable resource flow through the conservation of resources. The methods of conservation cover the concept of the five Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot–through responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products without burning and no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

ZERO WASTE

Blue Recycling Bins

Under the National Recycling Programme by National Environment Agency (NEA), commingled blue recycling bins are provided by NEA-licensed Public Waste Collector at open areas within the HDB estates that are convenient and accessible to the residents. Generally, common household items made from paper, plastic, metal and glass can be recycled. To ease the recycling process for our residents, recyclables need not be sorted prior to disposal as they will be sorted centrally, after collection. However, we urge residents to clean recyclable items such as bottles or food containers with a simple rinse before being placed into the blue bins.



SG Clean Day

Traditionally held once a year, the SG Clean Day, an initiative by the Public Hygiene Council (PHC), aims to encourage residents to be more vigilant about littering, waste generation and disposal. On this day, Town Councils cease general cleaning on ground floors common areas and open spaces of the public housing estate. This is so that residents could observe the actual state of cleanliness and hygiene in their estate before and after the general cleaning has been suspended for a day. Many Residents' Networks (RN) also takes this opportunity to organise litter picking events at various locations in the neighbourhood to support this initiative.

Moving forward, the frequency of this initiative will be increased to once every quarter and subsequently, once every month in hopes to engage the community and reinforce the need of taking personal responsibility.



ZERO WASTE

CASH FOR TRASH

Starting this July, **bring clean recyclables** to our collection stations at designated timings, and **get paid** for helping us save the environment.

A WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMME BY
ALBA **WEE**
Step up for a zero waste nation



List of Locations

Ayer Rajah- Gek Poh
Blk 32 Teban Gardens Road

Boon Lay
Blk 679C Jurong West Central 1

Nanyang
Blk 953 Jurong West Street 91

West Coast
Blk 511 West Coast Drive
Blk 608 West Coast Street 1
Blk 708 West Coast Street 2
Blk 731 West Coast Street 2

Pioneer
Blk 697 Jurong West Central 3
Blk 640 Jurong West Street 61
Blk 652 Jurong West Street 61
Blk 608 Jurong West Street 65
Blk 613 Jurong West Street 65
Blk 658B Jurong West Street 65
Blk 662C Jurong West Street 64
Blk 986B Jurong West Street 93
Blk 692 Jurong West Central 1

Cash for Trash Programme

Cash for Trash is an incentive programme by the NEA's Public Waste Collector (PWC), ALBA, in collaboration with the Town Council and RNs. Under this programme, residents bring their recyclables to the Cash for Trash stations and cash is given in exchange for recyclables. Residents can now take a step towards saving our environment by visiting any of the 16 collection points around West Coast and Pioneer Town.

E-Waste Recycling

E-Waste Recycling is another initiative organised by NEA, in conjunction with ALBA. These bins can usually be seen in commercial areas like malls, supermarkets and public libraries. West Coast Town currently has 8 such bins in our housing estates.

While the Town Council currently offers free removal of bulky waste, NEA and ALBA will be collecting and recycling e-waste appliances that the Town Council removes for the residents. NEA and ALBA also have plans to do quarterly e-waste collection drives in about 16 locations in West Coast Town HDB estates.



ZERO WASTE



Blangah View RC

17 Jan 2020 • 🌐

Eco Recycling Day on 19 Jan 2020 (Sun) from 0900 hrs to 1200 hrs



Clean Up South West!

Organised by the South West CDC, Clean up South West! Is an annual flagship trash-for-groceries initiative by South West CDC that aims to foster good recycling habits among residents. Under this programme, RNs work with South West CDC to conduct various recycling events and set up various recycling points where residents can exchange their recyclables for coupons that can be redeemed for groceries.

Community Fridge

Reducing food waste while benefitting financially challenged families is how the idea of the Community Fridge came about. West Coast Town will soon see one of such community fridges at Block 190 Boon Lay Drive. The community fridge will be jointly run by KampungKakis and Food Rescue SG. While the community fridge will be regularly supplied from food rescues from the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Market, residents are also welcomed to contribute to the community fridges.



ZERO WASTE

Paper Recycling Machines




The Paper Recycling Machines, supplied by SG Recycle, a social recycling initiative by SG Paper Recycle Pte Ltd, is a programme that allows members of the public to conveniently recycle wastepaper and earn a token sum when doing so- \$0.06 per kilogram of paper waste recycled.

The paper recycling machines have seen a steady trend of adoption from more users and more wastepaper recycled since its inception in March 2021. The result was a whopping 40% reduction in carbon footprint. The percentage reduction of carbon footprint is set to increase when these machines are introduced to our estates in early December 2021.

West Coast Town Council plans to have at least one of such recycling machines in each division to provide residents with convenient access to more environmentally sustainable initiatives. Adopting such practices not only help to save our environment but assist our elderly to earn cash from wastepaper with convenience as they can now collect and deposit with ease.



A graphic featuring a battery icon with yellow, orange, and red segments, and a solar panel array in the top right corner, set against a yellow background.

ENERGY EFFICIENT

To be energy efficient is to have the goal to maximise energy usage while minimising individual carbon footprints. However, utilising less energy does not mean a compromise in quality or comfort. West Coast Town has embarked on several new infrastructure and technology that reduces the amount of energy expended to fulfil the same services. These initiatives benefit our socio-economic landscape by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering costs on an organisational and economy-wide level.

ENERGY EFFICIENT

LED Light Fittings and Motion Sensors

To make our Town energy efficient, West Coast Town Council has made a switch from fluorescent lighting to LED lightings for all light fittings at common areas such as common corridors, lifts, link ways, multi-storey carpark and open spaces. With the switch, we saw a 60% decrease in energy usage. To further save electricity, motion sensors have also been installed at areas such as the half-staircase landings and stairwells.

Town Council is looking to progressively replace all our lights located within the HDB estate to the Smart Lighting System (SLS) upon the expiration of the current LED contracts. The SLS is a network of motion sensors and dimmers connected to every LED light that automatically adjusts the brightness so that only the route the person is travelling on will be brightly lit.

Conversely, LED lights remain dimmed for areas where no motion is detected. Apart from the smaller carbon footprint from the overall reduction in our power consumption, the SLS allows Town Council to obtain the real-time status of the lighting performance in the estate and carry out predictive maintenance.

This encourages greater efficiency in Town Council operations and helps mitigate rising operating costs.



ENERGY EFFICIENT

Rooftop Solar Panels

Furthering our commitment to cut back on carbon emissions to fight climate change, Town Council is working closely with HDB on clean energy generation through the use of solar power. Under batch 3 of HDB Solar Nova tender, West Coast Town will see approximately 450 blocks with rooftop solar panels installations. About 200 blocks have been completed thus far with the remaining expected to complete in the near future. The energy generated is first used to power common services such as lifts, pumps, and lights in common areas in the daytime, then excess energy generated is contributed back to the grid. These solar panels contribute about 1.27mil kWh back to the grid each month.

Utility Saving Fittings

Most of our Hawker Centres are already installed with or are planning to install water taps with sensors to minimize wastage and for hygiene purposes. Our Hawker Centres will be upgrading their fans to low speed, high volume fans that are more efficient at cooling the area, where possible.



ENERGY EFFICIENT

Elevator Energy Regenerative System

All new lifts will incorporate an energy regenerative system. This system converts the energy generated when lifts descend to electricity, instead of heat. This can conserve anywhere from 19% to 40% of energy, lowering overall net energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, less heat is generated by the equipment in the lift motor room, which slows down the rate of wear and tear. This helps increase the lifespan of the capital equipment.

Lifts with Energy Saving Features

All lifts replaced in recent and coming years have some energy savings features, which may include features like LED displays, LED lights with sensors, automatic turning off of lights and fans when idle, homing to different floors in the block to reduce travel distance and response time. The features adopted are subject to different site conditions.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

West Coast Town has around 20 sites in HDB estates with Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Currently, most of these charging stations are utilised by the electric car-sharing company, BlueSG.

As Singapore pushes for the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EV) over petrol or diesel vehicles, there will be an increasing number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points around the island. Based on the Land Transport Authority (LTA)'s plans, Jurong West and Queenstown are among the 8 EV-Ready towns with EV charging points at every HDB Carpark by 2025. Other Towns will follow suit by the 2030s. We can expect to see more EV Charging Points in West Coast Town in the future.



GREENER ENVIRONMENT



“Green Environment” relates to the concerns for environmental conservation and improved health of the environment. Our focus on conservation would be to introduce more green spaces in our Town through more tree planting, converting underutilised spaces into green spaces like community gardens and farms to enhance our food sustainability. We also seek to protect the health of our environment by introducing cleaner and greener ways for our residents to carry out their activities.

GREENER ENVIRONMENT

Community Gardens/ Green Roof (MSCP)/ Urban Farming

With the launch of the Singapore Green Plan 2030, we aim to make West Coast a greener town by including more green spaces within the estate. Currently, West Coast Town has over 50 community gardens and counting run by RNs at ground floor open spaces and MSCP rooftop gardens. 2 blocks in West Coast Town have also been shortlisted for the building of MSCP Rooftop Urban Farm by the HDB. In land-scarce Singapore, having urban farms aims to grow more with less to enhance our food sustainability and security in the long run.

Working closely with the RNs, Town Council also studied the suitability of spaces for setting up allotment gardens in the estate. Under the allotment garden programme, residents can ballot for a small plot of land to grow their own garden. Not only does this exercise bring about more green space, but residents also get to bond with other members of the community and enjoy the physical and psychological benefits that come from gardening activities.

There are plans underway by the HDB to convert more underutilised MSCP roof decks to Green Spaces, such as community gardens, urban farms and general green spaces which residents can look forward to.



GREENER ENVIRONMENT



Tree Planting Events

The OneMillionTrees movement seeks to foster strong community stewardship by engaging all Singapore residents to plant a million trees across the island by 2030. In support of the movement, a total of 327 residents planted over 600 trees at 8 tree planting events organised by NParks and PA across the divisions in West Coast GRC between last year to this year. Working alongside NParks and PA, we strive to continue attaining our goal of planting 600 trees every year.

Prior to the movement, the Town Council has been conducting tree planting events on an annual basis and aims to continue this tradition for years to come. In November 2021 alone, the Town Council planted 37 trees in conjunction with the Clean and Green Singapore event.

Through such events we are able to educate residents on the significance of planting, the benefits that trees can bring to our living environment and the impact of climate change on Singapore. Hopefully, residents can develop a sense of ownership of the environment around them and recognise the significance of conservation and sustainability.



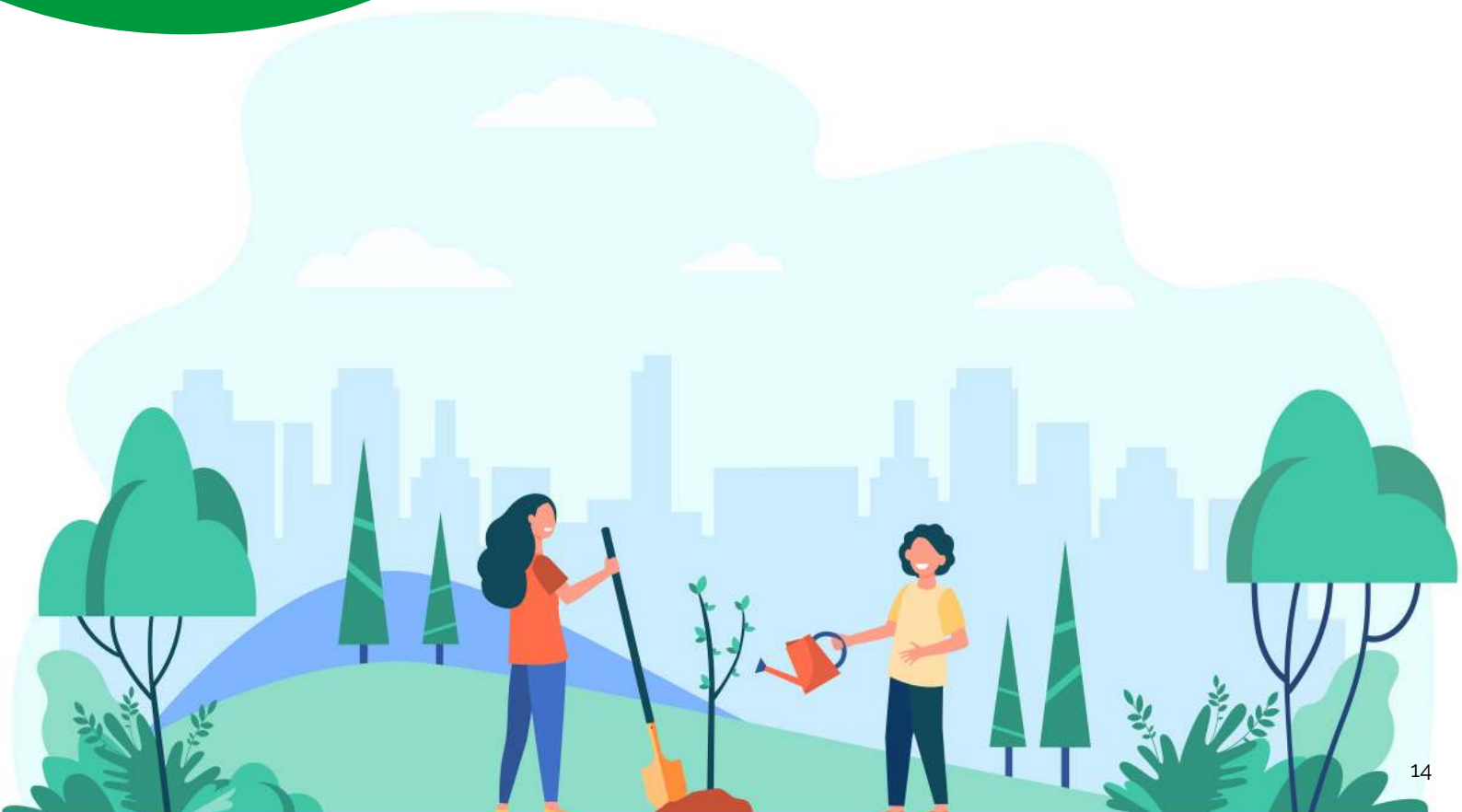
GREENER ENVIRONMENT

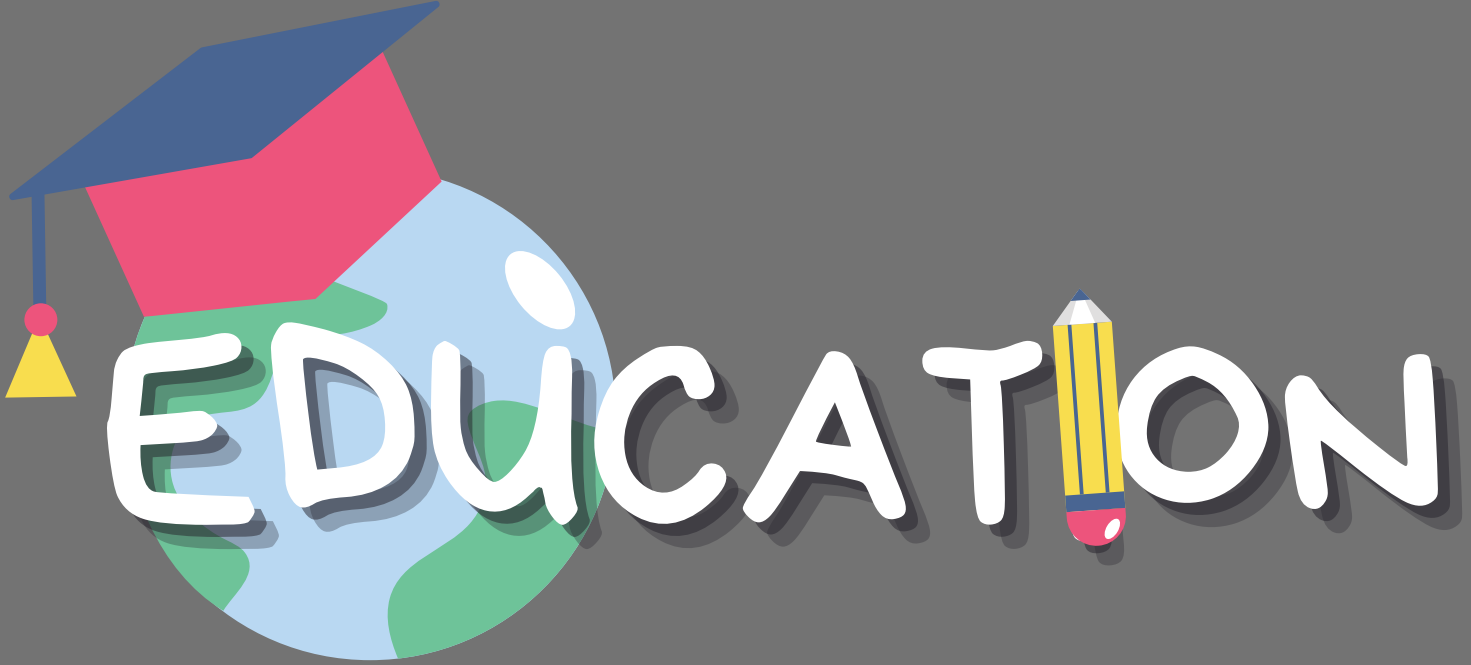


Eco Burners

Besides greening spaces through planting activities, Town Council also looked into ways to keep the environment clean and green by keeping pollution levels in check. West Coast Town introduced low-emission Eco Burners which helps cut down on the smoke by about half during burning activities. Currently, the eco burners make up more than 50% of the burners in the estates.

The eco-friendly incense paper burners have lids to prevent ash from flying out and holes to improve airflow for more efficient burning. Compared to conventional open-top metal burners, only 3% of ash is produced with the eco-burners.





We recognise the importance of communicating the measures we have taken to work towards our goal of a zero waste, energy efficient and greener Town by 2025. This is so that residents are aware of the ongoing initiatives as well as what they can look forward to and how they can participate in the Town's sustainability efforts. The Education pillar aims to do that by engaging and educating residents on anything sustainability related.

The setting up of the Action for Green Town (AGT) is to fulfil this very purpose of getting the word out on sustainability. In each Town Council, a Sustainability Committee is set up with a dedicated Sustainability Officer to drive implementation in the Town. While the committee leads and facilitates sustainability efforts, residents play a key role in entire process from feedback and ideation to implementation.

West Coast Town Council frequently works with a group of volunteers to discuss issues and share ideas to facilitate our sustainability journey. We are also looking into involving other Town stakeholders, like schools, local businesses and residents in sustainability efforts. If you are keen to join us on this journey or have any ideas or suggestions on how to make West Coast a more sustainable town, please write to wctccl@wctc.org.sg.

Besides outreach efforts, West Coast Town Council will tap on the Digital Display Notice Boards (DDNB) in lifts and at ground floor lift lobbies across our HDB estates to push out messaging on green & sustainability efforts to reach a wider group of residents. Frequent updates and campaigns concerning AGT and Sustainability could also be found on our website at wctc.org.sg.



ECO-SUSTAINABILITY TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

West Coast Town Council has also set up an internal Eco-Sustainability team, under the branch of the Sustainability Committee to kick start and pledge our commitment towards our sustainability journey. With this internal eco-sustainability team, the Town Council aims to increase eco-consciousness amongst staff and implement more effective sustainable measures. We are also pleased that our efforts have been recognised with WCTC(CL) being awarded the Eco-Office certification by the Singapore Environment Council for the period of 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2023 for our green efforts.

ECO-SUSTAINABILITY TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Reducing, Reusing and Recycling

We encourage all our staff to think before they print and have reduced the printing of documents. All our printers are also set to double-sided with smaller margins and grayscale colour print. Single-sided non-confidential documents are also kept for staff use as draft papers to cut down on paper waste.

West Coast Town Council is also looking into digitalising our day-to-day operations. This will allow most of the paperwork to be done digitally, thereby cutting down the use of papers. As the digitalised system is implemented, staff will undergo training to familiarise themselves with the new workflow before the Town Council gradually adopts the digitalisation.

Apart from the recycling of non-confidential documents, West Council Town Council also practices recycling old newspapers and empty toner cartridges.

With the onset of COVID-19, taking away food has become a new norm. To reduce our environmental footprint, staff are issued reusable utensils and encouraged to use reusable bags and containers for taking away food.

Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation

Like the light fittings in our Town's common spaces, West Coast Town Council offices are also equipped with energy-saving LED light fittings. Most electrical appliances such as lights, air-cons, computers, and printers are switched off when not in use. When in use, all our air-conditioner temperatures are set to 25 degrees Celsius for optimal energy efficiency, saving electricity and cost.

All Town Council offices also abide by an office eco-hour when lights are turned off during lunch hour on working days to save energy. In efforts to become more energy-efficient, the Town Council is also progressively replacing electrical appliances with more energy-efficient models.

Conserving the use of water is another aspect the Town Council is working on to become more sustainable. Currently, bathrooms in all offices are fitted with auto self-closing water taps and a dual flush system for toilets.

