

Initiatives at North West CDC

About Budding Greenies @ North West

The Budding Greenies @ North West aims to inculcate green values in the young so that they can practise good green habits and develop an appreciation and care for the community spaces. The programme is in line with North West CDC's approach to inspire and excite children about Green Living in their formative years, so that they would be empowered with the knowledge and passion to make a difference in sustainable living.

North West CDC partnered an expert who is well versed in environmental studies and early childhood education, to co-create and curate the programme Budding Greenies @ North West. The programme complements preschool learning by nurturing children's curiosity using real-world scenarios in localised context and developing critical thinking skills; consisting of two main components that facilitate a multi-pronged education in sustainability: (i) an engaging and interactive activity book titled '**Go Green with Betty the Butterfly**', supported by a Teacher's Guide to provide guidance on lesson plans and learning outcomes; and (ii) a Teacher's Guide To Green Corners where preschoolers learn to create a Green Corner on-premise and apply the knowledge on sustainability that they have learnt through imaginative play.

One of the two components is an activity book 'Go Green with Betty the Butterfly' which helps preschoolers learn about various environmental issues. An environmentally conscious butterfly, Betty, as the activity book's main character, will bring preschoolers on a learning journey covering different environmental themes consisting of real life issues such as the importance of biodiversity, minimising waste, 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), water conservation, hygiene and health, energy conservation and climate change, as well as dengue awareness. These thematic content highlight concerns and resources that are current to Singapore's environment. In 2020, North West CDC launched a second edition of 'Go Green with Betty the Butterfly' activity book and an accompanying Teacher's Guide to support teachers in their lesson plans and learning outcomes. The refreshed activities and learning points encourage critical thinking and decision making, to ensure students understand why sustainability is important.

Secondly, the programme also includes an annual one-time grant to support the purchase of materials used to set up the Green Corner and a Teacher's Guide to Green Corners where the young students are guided to create a physical Green Corner in the preschool. The setting up of a Green Corner encourages active learning in young children through imaginative play and allows children to explore solutions to a sustainable future.

The Budding Greenies @ North West programme utilises a multi-pronged approach – experiential and hands-on activities as well as a structured teaching aid to educate young children in sustainability, as well as instil in young children a love for nature and local biodiversity. The programme has been in Singapore's context, with scenarios tailored to local issues and challenges. This eliminates the need for teachers to modify content of educational books commonly sourced from overseas, which typically showcase sustainability topics from a global perspective. It also puts emphasis on biodiversity awareness in children to promote the value of nature in Singapore.

About Green Homes @ North West

Our environment is constantly affected by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, excessive usage of energy to generate electricity and extraction of natural resources to

produce consumer goods. These activities can cause climate change, resulting in extreme weather conditions and disruption to food supply. It is important for us to mitigate climate change and there is no better way than starting at home.

Green Homes @ North West is a programme to encourage North West residents to embrace Green Living at home through eco-friendly practices and purchasing of energy efficient appliances. To qualify as a Green Home, you will need to fulfil at least three of the following criteria. Residents who wish to sign up for the programme can apply at the following link, with the necessary supporting documents: <https://go.gov.sg/greenhomes-nw>.

To qualify as a Green Home, the home has to meet at least three of the following criteria:

 air-conditioner with 3-ticks energy rating*. This criteria is also fulfilled if no air-conditioner is installed	 refrigerator with 3-ticks energy rating*	 washing machine with 3-ticks on water efficiency label	 television with 5-ticks energy rating
 recyclable collection corner at home	 instantaneous water heater in the home. This criteria is also fulfilled if no water heater is installed	 natural ventilation in common living space^	

* Appliances with 4-ticks energy rating bought before 1 September 2014 are also eligible
 ^ No air-conditioner installed in the living and dining room

Incentives & Awards

Platinum award Fulfilling all 7 criteria	\$300 vouchers
Gold award Fulfilling 4 out of 7 criteria	\$80 vouchers
Silver award Fulfilling 3 out of 7 criteria	\$50 vouchers

All certified Green Homes will also receive, up to \$300 grocery vouchers. In addition, participants stand to win prizes worth up to **S\$10,000** in an incentive lucky draw.

About Green Homes @ North West – Support for 1 to 3 room units

To provide additional support and offset the cost of purchasing energy and water-efficient appliances for residents living in 1 to 3 room HDB units, the CDC will be tailoring the existing Green Homes @ North West programme for this particular segment of the community. Smaller units tend to have less space and lesser household members, and consequently less need for as many as 7 different energy-efficient appliances. As such, the eligibility criteria have been reduced to three, making it easier for residents living in 1 to 3 room flats to start their Green journey. Residents who meet the following criteria can sign up at: go.gov.sg/ghnw-123rooms.

Award tier	Criteria:
Platinum Award \$300 Vouchers	Purchase or already owned all three appliances: i) a refrigerator with 3-ticks and above energy ratings, ii) LED lightbulb and iii) shower fittings with water efficiency label
Gold Award \$200 Vouchers	Purchase or already owned a refrigerator with 3-ticks and above energy ratings, and either a i) LED lightbulb or ii) shower fittings with water efficiency label
Silver Award \$150 Vouchers	Purchase or already owned a refrigerator with 3-ticks and above energy ratings

In addition, the CDC encourages residents to tap on National Environment Agency's (NEA) Climate-Friendly Household (CFH) vouchers to enjoy further incentives. Residents living in 1 to 3 room flats could benefit from on-site discounts of up to \$225 to defray the cost of their purchase at up to 13 retailers.

Illustration of Incentives

Example A – Resident in a 4 Room Flat

Mark and his wife have recently moved into a new 4-room HDB flat; and had purchased five home appliances with 3-ticks and above energy efficient rating to save on electricity bills in the long run. However, they did not install an air-conditioner in their living room and a 5-ticks energy efficient ratings television as they found them too expensive. The couple participated in the Green Homes @ North West programme and having met 5 out of the 7 criteria, they were presented the Gold award and received \$80 of grocery vouchers.

Example B – Resident in a 2 Room Flat

Karen lives in a 2-room flat with her mother, and they have been using a refrigerator with 3-tick energy efficient rating since they moved in 2 years ago. She learnt about the NEA's CFH programme and decided to make use of the vouchers to purchase shower fittings with water efficiency label and LED lightbulbs, entitling her to benefit from \$75 of on-site discounts.

To enjoy further incentives, she also participated in the Green Homes @ North West – Support for 1-3 room HDB units, and was rewarded \$300 in grocery vouchers for achieving all the 3 requirements to earn the Platinum award.