



17TH ECOFRIEND AWARDS 2026

**Every Eco-Hero's Imprint
Shapes A Better Tomorrow**

Portfolio Of Recipients

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Introduction

Some footprints disappear.

Others become a path for generations to follow.

The individuals we honour tonight have chosen to leave footprints that matter.

They give their time, energy and resources not for recognition, but out of deep care for our environment.

Every initiative they start, every programme they lead, every action they take leaves a lasting mark – shaping a cleaner, greener Singapore for the next generation.

Since 2007, the National Environment Agency has recognised such changemakers through the EcoFriend Awards.

At the 17th EcoFriend Awards 2026, we celebrate 14 outstanding individuals from across the Private Sector, Public Sector, Non-Government Organisations, Grassroots Volunteers, Educational Institutions, as well as Youths and Students.

Though they come from different walks of life, they share one common purpose – to protect the Earth we call home.

This year, these Eco-Heroes remind us that every step we take leaves a legacy.

May their examples inspire all of us to walk with intention – and to leave behind a path worth following.

For more information, visit:
www.nea.gov.sg/programmes-grants/grants-and-awards/ecofriend-awards

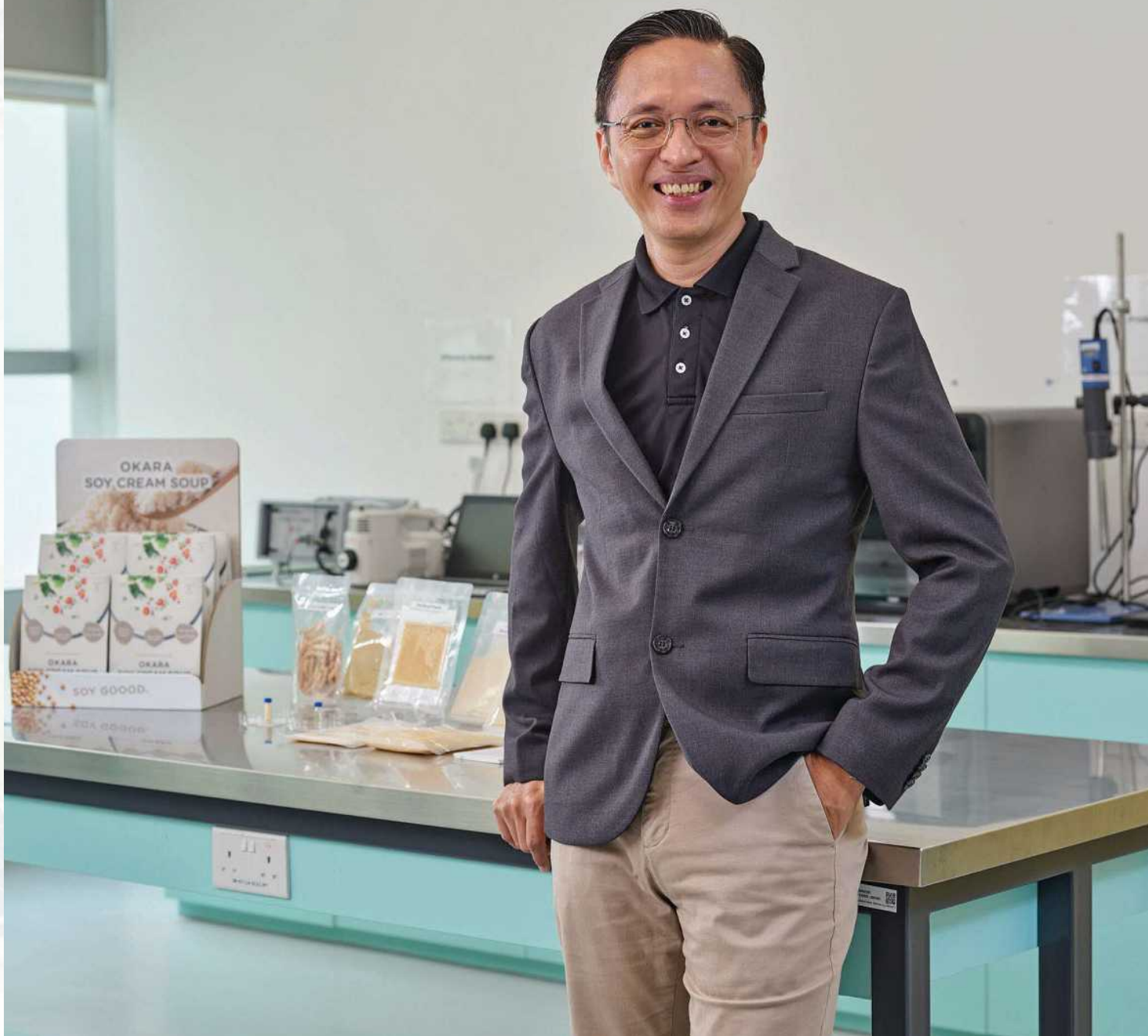


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Mr Heng Kiang Soon, PhD

Specialist (Food Innovation)
Republic Polytechnic

" For researchers and educators who want to embed sustainability into their work and inspire the next generation, it is key for us to keep our minds open and dare to try out bold ideas - be it in research, education or communications. "

Kiang Soon's environmental journey began in 2016 when he joined Republic Polytechnic (RP), supporting research initiatives at the Formulation and Nutrition Science Technology Centre. With a background in nutrition and a childhood spent on the paddy fields of Kedah, Malaysia's "rice bowl", he formed an intimate connection with farming and nature. Encouraged by his late father to pursue academics, Kiang Soon's passion for food cultivation and sustainability remained a constant inspiration.

Singapore's "30 by 30" food security vision further shaped his path, linking nutrition science with urban farming and circular economy solutions. A pivotal moment came during a visit to a soymilk manufacturer, where Kiang Soon witnessed okara by-product cascading into a collection chamber "like snowflakes". Struck by its fragrance and untapped potential, he began analysing okara in the lab, uncovering its rich nutritional content. This discovery ignited Kiang Soon's mission to fully valorise food side streams, neutralise the stigma of food waste, and transform waste into opportunity.

From 2017 onwards, he spearheaded research that unlocked okara's potential, leading to innovations such as soy-based cream cheese, soups, protein isolates and bioactive peptides. His team demonstrated that every kilogram of okara could be fully valorised without generating new waste. Kiang Soon also developed an okara-based plant biostimulant that improved crop yields by up to 50 percent, offering sustainable alternatives to chemical-based products.

Beyond research, Kiang Soon has mentored over 50 RP students, encouraging entrepreneurship and challenging them to think further on food waste valorisation. Several student start-ups now repurpose food by-products, reflecting his belief that experiential learning drives innovation. Guided by patience, creativity and a love for reading and knowledge, the food innovation specialist continues to champion circular economy solutions. His aspiration is to establish a Food Sustainability Innovation Hub, training more scientists and colleagues in sustainability research, and positioning Singapore's youths as regional leaders in environmental innovation.

Achievements

Community Centred Food Waste Valorisation

Kiang Soon has led pioneering research that transforms okara, a high-volume soy by-product, into valuable applications that advance Singapore's sustainability goals. As Principal Investigator, he developed a solubilisation approach that unlocked nutritional potential and enabled the creation of 14 diverse okara-based products across food and agricultural sectors, embodying a "complete upcycling" mindset.

Kiang Soon forged strong industry partnerships with local soy producers such as Mr Bean, Fortune Food and Leong Guan, establishing circular pathways where by-products become inputs for new innovations. His leadership extended to translation and commercialisation, with intellectual property licensed to SoiLabs Pte Ltd, building local capability while anchoring environmental benefits in Singapore. Kiang Soon's work demonstrated significant tangible impact, with significant projected annual cost savings to companies, alongside reducing waste disposal.

Okara-derived innovations also reached sustainable farming, with his Okara Biostimulant adopted in commercial and community settings. Local trials reported vegetable yield improvements of up to 50 percent, while reducing costs of production. Further breakthroughs, including okara protein isolate and bioactive peptides, expanded impact and scalability, showcasing Singapore-grown solutions as models for wider circular economy adoption.

Nurturing Tomorrow's Environmental Champions

Kiang Soon incorporated sustainability as part of Republic Polytechnic's ecosystem by transforming real waste challenges into authentic learning opportunities. He mentored more than 50 RP students in their final year projects, led institutional industry projects and internships to apply their knowledge to environmental outcomes. By integrating food waste valorisation into teaching modules, Kiang Soon enabled learners to appreciate both scientific principles and the responsibility of designing waste-reducing systems. He also strengthened institutional capability through staff workshops and technical sharing, equipping colleagues with practical skills to initiate sustainability-oriented R&D. This sustained leadership created a pipeline of graduates and staff ready to contribute to greener industry practices and circular economy solutions.

Communicating Environmental Awareness

Beyond research and teaching, Kiang Soon actively shaped sustainability conversations across academia, industry and the wider public. He presented at regional and international conferences, collaborated with research partners, and advanced knowledge exchange on by-product valorisation. In Singapore, he drove public engagement through lectures, media features and multilingual outreach, translating complex science into accessible insights. His communication consistently positioned food waste valorisation as a credible and scalable solution that supports food security, reduces environmental impact, and strengthens circular economy culture across communities.



Ms Janice Tan Yuan Zhen

Senior Officer, Student Development
Institute of Technical Education (College West)

“ To student leaders who want to champion the environmental movement rooted in collaboration and practical action, I would tell them to grab every growth opportunity that comes their way whether it be boot camps, workshops, or competitions. You won’t know without trying, so taking the first step is key. ”

Janice’s journey as an eco-advocate began with the simple yet profound desire to plant incipient thoughts in people to care for the environment. Inspired by her mother – a grassroots leader who conserved water, composted food scraps and nurtured a thriving garden, Janice grew up seeing sustainability as a daily habit and a way of life. This early influence shaped her conviction that the environment must be preserved for future generations, and that each individual can be a steward of the earth.

Her turning point came after university, when she decided to take greater ownership and lead in various initiatives. Janice’s knack for connecting people has been central to her journey. Whether linking farmers to restaurant owners to promote sustainable food practices or motivating students to take part in workshops, Janice inspires others to see themselves as part of the solution. A memorable moment that deepened her commitment was watching a video on animal cruelty, which led her to reduce meat consumption and embrace mindful living.

Janice’s passions lie in gardening and greening spaces – she finds joy in planting trees with her family and students, and in nurturing office plants in repurposed containers. These acts, both symbolic and practical, reflect her belief that sustainability is therapeutic and transformative. Her greatest achievement to date is spearheading the inaugural Brickland-ITE Green Festival in 2023, which mobilised youths to lead sustainability booths and has since become an annual community fixture.

Through her work, Janice hopes to inspire long-term cultural shifts in Singapore, where daily habits, from composting to recycling, become second nature. She envisions a future where young people grow up with a motivation to impact others positively and be part of a greener, more resilient environment for the future.

Achievements

Youth For Community, Spearheading Change

Janice spearheaded the Brickland-ITE Green Festival, co-created with Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College West’s Green Ambassadors Club and the Brickland Constituency Sustainability Workgroup. Conceived as a “youth-for-community” platform aligned with the Singapore Green Plan 2030, the festival reflects her leadership in theme development, event coordination and stakeholder engagement. She oversaw workshops, booth showcases and volunteer training, while mentoring student leaders to ensure continuity and growth. The inaugural edition in 2023 mobilised 162 ITE student volunteers across four schools, attracting more than 1,500 participants over two days. Over 400 residents engaged directly in sustainability workshops, including hands-on activities such as “No-Sew” Tote Bag making and upcycling PVC banners.

These practical experiences moved participants beyond awareness into action, and helped them realise that waste reduction practices are achievable. Janice extended the festival’s impact through ongoing outreach workshops, sustaining greener habits within the Brickland community.

The festival’s success contributed to Brickland-Tengah winning the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities Award 2025, recognising community-led initiatives such as eco-festivals and upcycling programmes. Feedback highlights cultural shifts, with residents adopting hydroponics, composting and upcycling at home. Janice continues to refresh her programmes, such as Hydroponics-at-Home and PVC pouch upcycling, ensuring relevance and growing participation year-on-year.

Janice is part of the Brickland Sustainability Workgroup. As a Grassroots Leader in Sustainability Management, she champions residents’ ownership of shared goals in waste reduction, energy conservation and biodiversity protection. Her role spans organising and co-organising constituency events, including One Million Tree Planting, sustainability carnivals and upcycling workshops. She also supports recurring initiatives such as Brickland Green Village and renewable energy projects. By pairing youth leadership with resident participation, she strengthens resilience and keeps sustainability visible, practical and inclusive.

Nurturing Green Advocates and Eco-Stewards

At ITE College West, Janice leads the Green Ambassadors Club as Staff-in-Charge, shaping it into a vibrant platform for conservation and advocacy. She guides student-led initiatives ranging from herb garden enhancement and hydroponics workshops to sustainability competitions and learning journeys. Through training and mentorship, she develops students as environmental stewards, equipping them to design and deliver service-learning programmes with the wider community.

Janice’s leadership has yielded tangible outcomes in environmental education and behaviour change. Students translate learning into practice through recycling drives, tree planting and advocacy campaigns, influencing peers towards greener habits. Strengthened partnerships with community organisations and agencies amplify the reach of these initiatives. Her contributions were formally recognised with the ITE Sustainability Advocate Award 2024, affirming her role in embedding sustainability values across the college community.



Mr Tay Guan Hock, Marcus

Director, Group Environmental Sustainability
Singtel Group

“ Environmental conservation is such a neglected field that there is always something more we can work on and improve. The opportunities for making a difference are boundless. ”

Marcus’ journey as an eco-advocate has been shaped by both conviction and consistency. Inspired by his Chinese teacher’s call to serve community before self, he has resolved since his early secondary school days to make a meaningful contribution in a field few had yet embraced. Though trained as an environmental engineer, Marcus looked beyond end-of-pipe pollution control to tackle issues upstream, setting the course for a career that integrates professional expertise with personal passion.

Beyond the workplace, this nature lover enjoys hiking, guiding, trail-building, and volunteering with citizen science groups such as NUS ToddyCats! of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. His action-oriented spirit has seen him organise coastal clean-ups, participate in biodiversity surveys, and help communities appreciate their living environment. In his personal life, Marcus makes deliberate choices: going vegetarian for one meal a day, supporting environmentally conscious brands, and donating a portion of his income to sustainability causes. These lifestyle decisions reflect his pragmatic belief that caring for the environment also enriches his health, finances, and integrity.

Professionally, Marcus has advanced sustainability across diverse sectors - from engaging customers at IKEA, to fostering wildlife conservation at Mandai, and now shaping industry-wide climate action at Singtel. His leadership style and beliefs emphasise collaboration and stakeholder engagement, ensuring solutions endure even after projects conclude. He has championed initiatives such as the Singapore Emissions Factor Registry and Singtel’s community e-waste drives, bridging corporate strategy with grassroots impact.

What drives Marcus is the conviction that sustainability is an often neglected field, yet it presents boundless possibilities where every effort contributes to real change. His passion for waste management and sustainable procurement reflects a desire to tackle challenges at their source, while his love for the outdoors fuels his commitment to give back to nature. Through consistency, pragmatism, and vision, Marcus exemplifies how one individual can inspire collective progress towards a better world.

Achievements

Asian Lens, Global Implications

As Singtel’s representative on the Global System for Mobile Association (GSMA) Climate Action Taskforce, Marcus plays a pivotal role in shaping industry-wide climate strategies. He contributes actively to project groups and discussions, ensuring that guidance is grounded in operational realities and adaptable across diverse markets. By bringing forward an Asian and Singaporean perspective, he highlights practical barriers and opportunities - ranging from advancing a circular mobile device ecosystem to strengthening Scope 3 accounting and renewable energy adoption. His efforts have supported the development of industry tools, practical guidance and shared best practices that enhance capability across mobile operators and accelerate progress towards net zero. Marcus also sustains strong working relationships with the GSMA Climate team, hosting engagements in Singapore to foster collaboration and exchange of implementable solutions across Singapore telcos.

Converting Data, Empowering Action

Marcus was instrumental in advancing the Singapore Emissions Factor Registry (SEFR), a centralised database that converts business activity data into greenhouse gas emissions. By addressing the limitations of overseas emission factors, the registry strengthens the accuracy and credibility of local emissions reporting. Developed through a public-private partnership led by the Singapore Business Federation and A*STAR, with support from agencies and corporates including Singtel and PwC, SEFR enables organisations to calculate Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions with greater confidence. Its integration with NetZeroHub.SG further enhances accessibility for emissions tracking and sustainability planning.

As a voluntary knowledge contributor and reviewer, Marcus provided practitioner insights throughout development. He surfaced real company challenges, identified priority needs, and recommended emission factors to improve relevance across industries. His input ensured the registry’s usability and alignment with evolving reporting expectations, reinforced through workshops and industry consultations.

Closing the Recycling Gaps

Marcus held overall accountability for Singtel’s Community E-waste Collection Drives, leading the programme from concept to execution. He guided his team in shaping a service that addressed household recycling gaps, working closely with partners such as the People’s Association and Institutes of Higher Learning to coordinate logistics, recruit volunteers and maximise reach.

Under his guidance, more than 60 volunteers conducted door-to-door collection in landed estates, making recycling accessible to residents with limited bin access. Volunteers were equipped to deliver concise doorstep education, leaving residents with practical calls to action. Marcus also ensured responsible outcomes: collected items were channelled to ALBA for proper e-waste recycling, while functional devices were refurbished and redistributed to families in need – extending product lifecycles and fostering inclusion.

Non-Government Organisations



Mr Lim Jin Tee (Danny)

Director
SL2 Impact Limited

" In a society where instant gratification is a mainstay, one of our greatest challenges is getting people to invest in the dynamic space of sustainability that takes so long to bear fruit. Therefore, it gives me a lot of hope to see more people adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. "

From dismantling household gadgets as a child to leading a community repair movement, Danny's journey reflects a lifelong curiosity and a refusal to accept waste as inevitable. His turning point came when he witnessed the surge of discarded mobile phones for newer fancier models during the influx of cheaper imports – a stark reminder of consumerism's toll. Inspired by a friend's involvement in Repair Kopitiam, Danny embraced the challenge of relearning repair skills, discovering that his heavy engineering expertise did not easily translate into domestic fixes. Patiently, he spent months mastering the repair of household items, proving that perseverance and humility are the foundation of resilience.

During the pandemic, Danny transformed crisis into opportunity, pioneering Repair Kampung to sustain safe, trust-based community repair practices. His philosophy is clear: repair is not merely about saving objects, but about restoring empathy, dignity, and collective intelligence. By engaging both youths and seniors, Danny has built intergenerational bridges where knowledge is shared, resilience is strengthened, and every successful repair becomes a testament to community spirit. His initiatives have achieved a remarkable repair success rate, while instilling confidence that anyone, regardless of background, can contribute meaningfully.

Danny believes repair culture is a vital counterweight to consumerism, linking reduced consumption to climate action, active ageing and community contribution. His greatest impact lies not in the items restored, but in the capabilities nurtured: teaching others to teach, empowering communities to solve problems together, and reframing sustainability as a joyful, inclusive practice. His work exemplifies how one individual's passion can spark a movement that builds resilience for Singapore's future generations.

Achievements

Championing Community Repair

Launched as a small pilot in 2014, Repair Kopitiam has grown into a long-running volunteer-led initiative that champions the circular economy through community repair. Residents bring household items such as fans, lamps and small appliances to monthly sessions, where volunteers guide them to diagnose faults and complete repairs. By normalising repair as a shared skill, the programme reduces waste and promotes responsible consumption through learning by doing.

Danny is the architect of the Repair Kopitiam's current structure and expansion. He transformed the trainer-led model into a peer learning approach that builds confidence among volunteers and residents. He developed a formal syllabus, aligned materials and a train-the-trainer system, enabling each site to sustain its own volunteer training. Under Danny's leadership, the programme expanded from two to the current 10 locations, with the latest 11th location opened in July 2026. Danny remains hands-on in daily operations, mentoring volunteers and ensuring safety and repair quality.

Decentralised Empowerment in the Heartlands

Conceived during the COVID-19 period, Repair Kampung was Danny's response to restrictions that disrupted access to centralised repair events. Recognising the challenges of older estates, he designed a decentralised neighbourhood-based model that embeds 'gotong royong' values and enables safe, consistent repairs within residents' immediate surroundings. Danny led resident onboarding, training, toolkit design and safety protocols, personally supporting early visits and mentoring emerging leaders. The programme now operates across two clusters: Lorong Lew Lian and Bishan - Sin Ming, covering 27 HDB blocks. More than 200 household repair visits have been completed, supported by 34 training sessions reaching around 700 attendees. Outcomes include sustained local repair capacity, reduced disposal, and strengthened neighbour-to-neighbour support.

Senior-Friendly, Active Ageing

Introduced in 2023, Repair Club embeds repair learning within Active Ageing Centres (AAC). Designed for seniors, the weekly sessions combine hands-on activities with a supportive pace that keeps learning safe, engaging and cognitively stimulating. Danny initiated and operationalised the programme, creating senior-friendly learning flows, training kits and safety practices. He trained facilitators, mentored participants and used data collection to refine delivery. Now a weekly fixture at centres such as Jia Ying AAC and NTUC Health Mount Faber AAC, Repair Club empowers seniors to learn, practise and share repair skills, linking sustainability with active ageing and community contribution.

Non-Government Organisations



Mr Low Swee Seh

CEO

Buddhist Compassion Relief
Tzu-Chi Foundation (Singapore)

" Leaving behind a clean earth for the next generation is our utmost mission. Whilst we are here, we hope to tread lightly, lest the ground would hurt. "

Swee Seh has devoted more than twenty years to advancing environmental stewardship, a journey that began when he joined Tzu-Chi Foundation (Singapore) in 2003, moved by Tzu Chi's founder Master Cheng Yen's gentle reminder to "tread lightly, lest the ground would hurt." Even in the face of scepticism and resistance, Swee Seh chooses to press forward by labouring humbly, but speaking boldly for the planet. Witnessing an increasing occurrence of natural disasters and extreme weather events has forged a growing sense of urgency in him to advocate for sustainability. Anchored in the principle of serving others, Tzu Chi, under his direction, has expanded and deepened its community-based initiatives to mobilise volunteers and residents to take consistent action for the environment.

Swee Seh's leadership has been instrumental in raising awareness of the 5R concept: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle, and inculcating the values of simplicity and resource mindfulness into everyday life. With a passion for extending product lifecycles and cutting carbon emissions, he leads by example: using his own utensils, avoiding disposables, and adhering to a plant-based diet.

From grassroots recycling efforts to community-focused events, Swee Seh has led initiatives that sparked ripple effects and magnified change, affirming his belief that "one small step can impact the earth's future". With a conviction that environmental protection is a moral duty, Swee Seh hopes for everyone to embody the same sustainability consciousness - to participate, to support, and to advocate for the earth. Through persistence, collaboration, and compassion, he and his team have empowered communities to treasure the earth, ensuring that generations to come inherit a cleaner, greener world.

Achievements

Forging Partnerships for A Greener World

Swee Seh has played a pivotal role in shaping Tzu Chi Environmental Sustainability Day into a values-driven movement spanning 39 Eco Points across Singapore. Under his leadership, the initiative evolved decisively from a volunteer-led collection and sorting effort to a movement that builds residents' capabilities and sense of responsibility. Engaging thousands of residents and volunteers annually, this initiative now diverts over 10 tonnes of recyclables from incineration each month, with more than 10 million kilograms collected since 1999. He also guided the nationwide Environmental Sustainability Education Promotion, which delivered 34 mobile outreach sessions between 2024 and 2025, reaching more than 11,000 participants.

The Environmental Educational Outreach at the NTUC Income Eco Run is a collaborative effort between Tzu Chi and event organisers to transform a traditional running event into an impactful sustainability learning platform. Swee Seh oversaw educational booths, waste-sorting demonstrations, and zero-waste operations, while introducing features such as the Green Bazaar and an on-site dishwashing station to clean reusable cutlery. Tzu Chi's continued involvement in 2025 contributed to the Eco Run achieving its highest 4-LEAF Eco Event certification.

Spearheading Sustainability Platforms

Swee Seh led the establishment of the Glow On Gallery at the Tzu Chi Humanistic Youth Centre (HYC), a permanent showcase of sustainable living. Featuring interactive exhibits, upcycled installations, and hands-on learning zones, the Gallery is managed by volunteers and youth facilitators. With regular content updates aligned with the Singapore Green Plan 2030, it has become a flagship hub for youth engagement and community empowerment.

First created as a practical community mechanism to normalise sustainable consumption and circular habits, the Zero Market, an event at HYC, has since evolved into a recurring eco-lifestyle marketplace advocating "Zero Meat, Zero Plastic, Zero Waste" under Swee Seh's direction. By demonstrating how sustainable habits can be integrated into daily life, the market promotes reuse, circular consumption, and showcases eco-friendly products alongside activities such as fashion swaps.

Positioning the SYNC. Festival (short for "Synchronise") as a flagship community-driven event at HYC, he kept sustainability at the core of creative showcases, workshops, and eco marketplace activities while empowering HYC's youth teams to lead planning and execution. Recognising the power of digital platforms, Swee Seh also led the facilitation of Tzu Chi's collaboration with the PaGamO Environmental Education E-sport World Cup. This partnership integrated environmental curriculum into gamified learning, and spurred youth participation across borders.

Grassroots Volunteers



Mr Arunraj S/O Chidambaram, PhD

Chairman
Zhenghua Youth Network

" You don't need to go out there to change the world, just start right where you are - at home. For starters, don't succumb to consumerism - reuse, repair, recycle, and repurpose to extend the lifespan of any item you have at home. "

Arunraj's journey began 15 years ago as a grassroots leader, inspired by his mother's example of community service and a childhood influenced by numerous BBC documentaries on the impact of climate change. Guided by the belief that sustainability must be a lifestyle rather than a one-off event, Arunraj has dedicated himself to leading ongoing initiatives that develop into long-term programmes. By mobilising youths and residents to take practical action that reduces waste and strengthens community bonds, he has shown steadfast, hands-on leadership in advancing environmental sustainability.

Since 2022, Arunraj has driven weekly food rescue efforts across Zhenghua, saving 100 to 200 kilograms of surplus produce each week and redistributing it to residents. By coordinating volunteers, partners, and grassroots organisations, he ensures the initiative runs smoothly while educating participants about responsible consumption. Arunraj's emphasis on teaching the difference between "Best Before" and "Expiry" dates has helped destigmatise rescued food and empowered households to reduce unnecessary waste. Since 2017, he has organised regular litter-picking sessions involving students, families, and residents. These sessions go beyond cleaning shared spaces; they foster pride and ownership and raise awareness by showing participants the hidden trash which are often overlooked. Arunraj educates the public on the diversity of waste and the importance of consistent habits through meaningful post-event reflections.

Arunraj's leadership is marked by strong communication, collaboration, and mentoring. He pairs youth volunteers with senior members to build confidence and resilience, empowering them through role-modelling. His minimalist lifestyle - bringing his own containers, repairing items, and destigmatising sustainable practices - further exemplifies his values. Through perseverance and vision, Arunraj continues to inspire collective action, proving that sustainability is most powerful when rooted in community and lived as a daily habit.

Achievements

Leading with Conviction

Arunraj demonstrates steady, hands-on leadership in advancing environmental sustainability by mobilising youths and residents to take practical action that reduces waste and strengthens community bonds. As Chairman of Zhenghua Youth Network, he leads with the conviction that sustainability begins with the day to day choices we make, and he translated this belief into impactful programmes that combine education, participation, and long-term habit-building. Arunraj's leadership has earned recognition from teachers and grassroots leaders, reflecting visible improvements in neighbourhood pride and ownership. His work exemplifies how youth-driven initiatives can embed sustainability into daily life, cultivating a stronger, more resilient community.

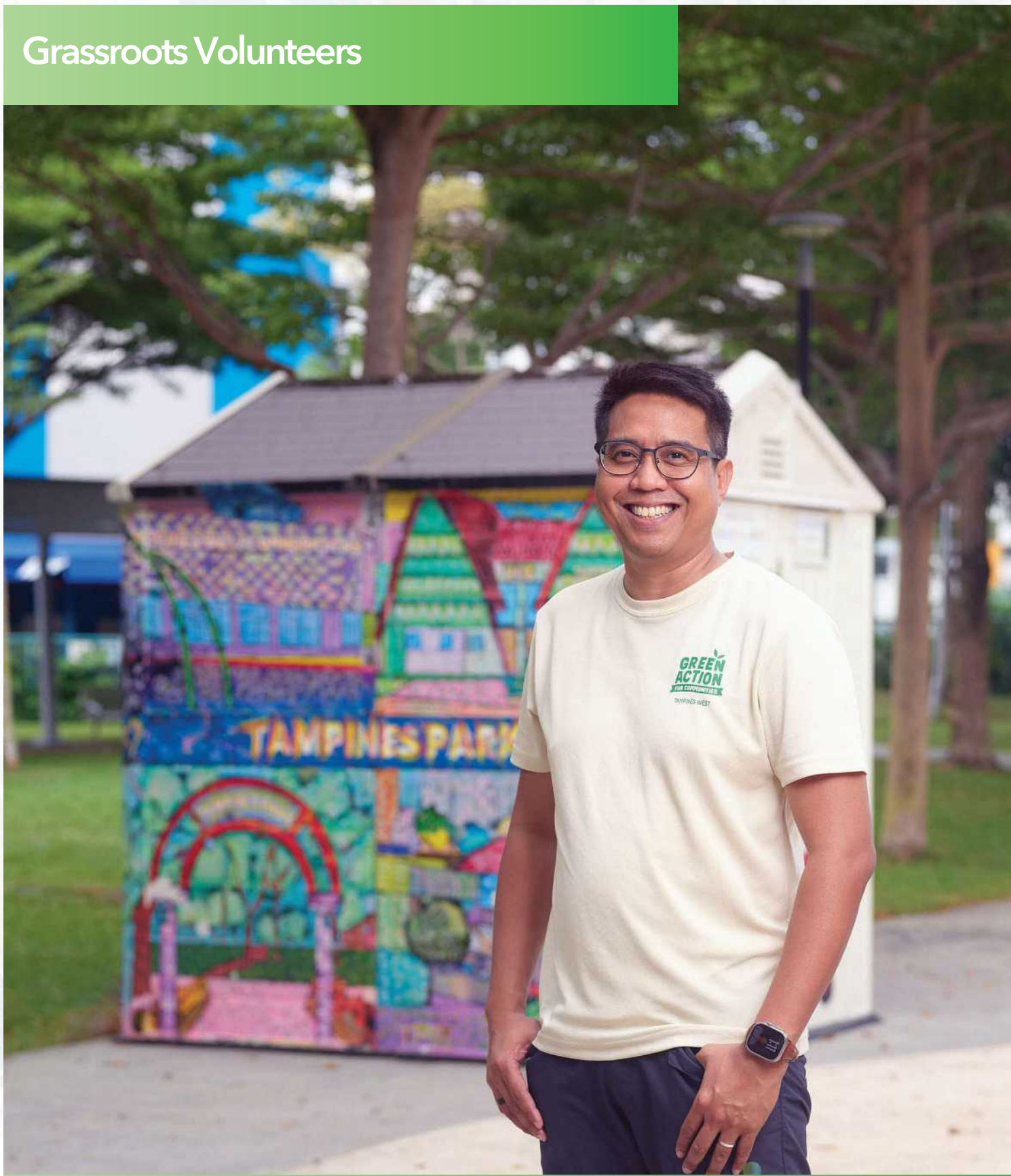
Rescuing Food, Extending Use

Since September 2022, Arunraj has played a pivotal role in the Zhenghua Food Rescue initiative, which reduces food wastage while easing cost-of-living pressures for families. The programme rescues close to 200 kilograms of surplus groceries weekly, including fruits and vegetables that would otherwise be discarded. As Chairman of Zhenghua Youth Network, he provides oversight and guidance, strengthens collaboration with grassroots partners such as Zhenghua Green Pillar and the Zhenghua CC Indian Activity Executive Committee, and ensures reliable operational support. Arunraj has also increased youth volunteer participation by 30 percent since the first event, positioning Food Rescue as both a distribution platform and an educational effort. By teaching residents and volunteers the difference between "Best Before" and "Expiry" dates, he empowers households to make informed choices and prevent unnecessary disposal of safe food.

Cleaning Up Our Shared Spaces

Arunraj also serves as chief organiser of Clean Up Zhenghua, a structured neighbourhood litter-removal programme launched in May 2022. Designed to be hands-on and community-facing, the initiative engages youths, students, and volunteers in regular 2.5-hour sessions that improve the cleanliness of shared spaces while fostering civic responsibility. He actively expands participation by reaching out to schools such as West Spring Secondary, Greenridge Primary, and Zhenghua Secondary, creating opportunities for students to interact across institutions and develop a shared commitment to protect shared environmental resources. Through clear planning and volunteer management, Arunraj ensures participants gain practical guidance on maintaining cleanliness and building consistent habits beyond one-off events.

Grassroots Volunteers



Mr Iswandie Wanhar

Founding Chairman
Tampines West Green Action for Communities

" The drive for sustainability must start from within oneself. Only when we continue with this lifestyle, will these practices become sustainable. "

From childhood weekends at Kallang River and East Coast beaches, Iswandie's father instilled in him a keen awareness of waste and its impact on nature. Those early lessons shaped his conviction that every individual can make a difference to the environment through their actions to reduce waste or recycle. Today, he lives that belief – driving an electric car, guiding his daughter to recycle and conserve energy, and embracing sustainability in both his professional and community life. For the latter, he founded Tampines West Green Action for Communities (GAC) in 2023, building a three-tier leadership model that empowers grassroots leaders, residents, and youth in sustainability efforts.

His ability to motivate others defines his leadership style as he mentors youth volunteers, grooms residents into community champions, and creates opportunities for people from all walks of life to volunteer. Iswandie considers his most impactful projects to be those that engage schools and polytechnics, where litter-picking challenges and beach cleanups inspire young people to influence their families and peers.

Iswandie acknowledges that his key challenge is sustaining interest beyond one-off events, reminding all that incorporating sustainability into daily life is a continuous practice. Guided by his motto, "Start Small", he believes simple actions can ripple into lasting change. Motivated by the future generations, his mission is clear: building resilient communities that care for the environment, led by empowered youths and inspired by acts of stewardship and sustainable practices.

Achievements

Driving Meaningful Change From the Ground Up

In 2023, Iswandie took the bold step of founding the Tampines West Green Action for Communities (GAC), envisioning it as a rallying point for residents who are eager to champion sustainability. As its inaugural Chairman, he laid down a clear roadmap that transformed GAC into a dynamic platform for collaboration and resource-sharing. His ability to forge sustained collaborations with agencies such as NEA, PUB, NParks, and the Public Hygiene Council helped translate national sustainability priorities into meaningful neighbourhood programmes like World Water Day in Tampines West.

Under his stewardship, GAC has become synonymous with active participation from residents and students alike. From litter-picking drives and beach cleanups to composting workshops and nature walks, residents have embraced immersive initiatives that nurture both environmental awareness and social cohesion. His innovative project, the Tampines West CleanPod, stands out as a pioneering model of grassroots action. The results are impressive: over 1,000 residents engaged, multiple schools reached, and a growing corps of trained volunteers now capable of running programmes independently. Under Iswandie's purposeful and sustained leadership, GAC has become a living testament to how community spirit can drive meaningful environmental change.

Igniting Eco-Champions With An Early Spark

As Project Director, Iswandie also spearheaded the Tampines West Eco Fest, a signature event that brought sustainability to life through creativity and fun. Partnering with youth groups from Temasek Polytechnic and Tampines West Nature Kakis, he introduced an intergenerational mentorship model that empowered young volunteers to teach and inspire their fellow residents.

The festival blended education with entertainment - upcycling workshops, microgreen cooking demos, eco-quizzes, and music performances - making sustainable living engaging for all ages. With more than 500 participants and collaborations with 15 organisations, Eco Fest created a lasting network of eco-champions. Beyond a single day, it established a replicable framework for resident-driven action, ensuring that the momentum continues to contribute to Singapore's wider environmental goals.

Educational Institutions



Mdm Ong Xuan Wan

Head of Department of Science and Head of Greenovators ALP
Dazhong Primary School

“ I hope we can be archers of sustainability,
aiming for a greener tomorrow! ”

Xuan Wan’s sustainability journey is rooted in her calling as a teacher, where she transforms classrooms into living laboratories of environmental consciousness. With creativity and joy, she gamifies lessons, weaves science topics with sustainability, and harnesses digital innovation to curate VR-enabled interactive eco trails that spark curiosity and action among her students. Her school’s unique vision to nurture “greenovators” reflects her belief that children can be empowered to design inventive solutions for pressing ecological challenges.

Guided by mentors including former Principal Mdm Yap Siu Lin, current Principal Mr Chris Loh and former Head of Department of Science Mr Caleb Leong, Xuan Wan has embraced holistic thinking by introducing zero-waste practices. Ducks, black soldier flies, and hydroponic gardens form a circular ecosystem in the school that inspires students to see sustainability not as theory, but as lived experience. Her partnerships with NEA, NParks, PUB, as well as immersion trips for regional exposure have helped broaden the horizons of young minds, while projects like coding robots that tackle real-world green issues showcase the integration of STEM and environmental stewardship.

Even as she acknowledges the daunting challenge of shifting mindsets from indifference to commitment, Xuan Wan sees her greatest leverage and joy in sharing best practices across schools and communities, impacting young lives upstream and augmenting the ripple effect of their youthful energy and heart for sustainability. Her advice to others is simple but profound: start small, and journey with like-minded people. Motivated by meaning and inspired by sustainability influencers, Xuan Wan’s vision is clear: to amplify impact across schools, nurture future change-makers, and cultivate a generation for whom sustainability is second nature.

Achievements

Creating a Holistic Approach

As Head of the Greenovators Applied Learning Programme (ALP), Xuan Wan designed and led Dazhong Primary School’s sustainability education, leveraging MOE’s 4C Framework (Curriculum, Campus, Culture and Community) and the school’s 3A Approach (Awareness, Action and Advocacy) to drive sustainability outcomes through the intentional integration of sustainability across subjects, levels and school-wide experiences. Pupils engaged in maker-based projects to identify environmental issues, devise solutions, and advocate for change. Hands-on STEM learning with tools such as Lego Spike Prime, school-wide advocacy campaigns, and overseas immersion trips further deepened its impact. Xuan Wan’s leadership has nurtured environmental literacy, creativity, and confidence, empowering pupils as eco stewards who act meaningfully within school and the community.

Blending Science, Gamification, and Sustainability

Xuan Wan also spearheaded authentic outdoor learning through structured Science journeys and eco trails. She anchored a shared green culture by transforming school learning spaces with Sustainability Wall Murals, which were used in engaging ways through gamified DaZhongmon (DZmon) eco trail experiences infused into the curriculum. DZmon, inspired by Pokemon characters and reimagined as sustainability mascots, further enriched these learning experiences. She also curated learning experiences at the Zoo and Sungei Buloh, supported by scaffolded Student Learning Space resources and literacy-focused pupil booklets to deepen learning. To heighten engagement, the eco trails culminated in an AI and VR-enabled trail at Gardens by the Bay. These initiatives connected biodiversity and conservation to lived experience, while her sharing of project design on professional platforms inspired peers to adopt student-centred sustainability learning.

Connecting Knowledge to Action

Xuan Wan also forged partnerships with citizen gardeners from Bukit Batok Cosy Garden, highlighting hands-on gardening in school, which led to the school’s participation in a community edibles competition. She introduced vermicomposting into Science lessons and built staff and student capacity in urban farming.

Her Urban Farmers Programme expanded to include hydroponics systems in the classrooms, reinforcing service through the gifting of produce to staff. By integrating hydroponics into Primary Four lessons and enhancing the garden as a learning space, Xuan Wan strengthened applied Science learning, food sustainability habits, and a culture of care and giving. Through innovation, collaboration, and vision, the passionate educator has advanced sustainability education, empowering pupils to connect knowledge with action and cultivating a generation ready to steward a greener future.

Educational Institutions



Mdm Wang Binxin

Teacher
Tao Nan School

"I am driven by the positive influence I have had on others, evident in their adoption of more sustainable habits. Such meaningful changes serve as a constant source of motivation and fulfilment."

At a young age, Binxin was deeply moved by images of animals threatened by climate change, sparking a lifelong conviction that even small steps can create collective impact. Today, as the teacher in charge of her school's Green Activist Programme, she channels this passion into shaping the next generation of sustainability leaders. Guided by Singapore's 2030 Green Plan, Binxin applies a holistic 4C approach – curriculum, campus, culture, and community - to design lessons and initiatives that prepare students for tomorrow's world.

Her journey has been shaped by family influences, especially her mother, whose creativity in recycling for community gardens inspired Binxin to see waste as an opportunity for recycling. Supported by her environmentally-conscious family and encouraged by colleagues, Binxin has built a strong network of like-minded collaborators with similar ideas for change. With humility and dedication, she continues to persevere, motivated by the joy of seeing students embrace change – whether choosing public transport, bringing reusable lunch boxes, or reminding family members to recycle.

Among Binxin's proudest milestones is the 2024 One Earth Challenge, where she partnered with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and industry stakeholders to gamify sustainable commuting. Timed with the opening of Marine Terrace MRT station, the initiative engaged students, parents, and community partners, achieving meaningful shifts in behaviour. She also redesigned the Green Activists Programme into a three-tier leadership pathway, empowering students progressively to model habits, lead peers, and design community projects.

Binxin's philosophy is simple yet powerful: start small, persevere, and inspire others. Through her work, she hopes to influence a generation of empowered youths who bring sustainability into their homes, communities, and future.

Achievements

Making Every Mile Green

As team lead, Binxin spearheaded an innovative sustainable transport programme in partnership with the LTA and OneEarth Challenge. Timed with the opening of Marine Terrace MRT station, the initiative blended classroom learning with real-world experiences – train journeys for Primary 1 students, interactive booths, and exposure to electric buses. Green Activists led assemblies, while families embraced the "Drop and Walk" campaign. Participation was strong, with car usage falling from 41 to 21 percent and more than half of the students trying car-lite commuting. Through gamified engagement in the OneEarth Challenge, students earned "energy" points for sustainable travel, reinforcing habits in a fun, measurable way. The programme not only reduced emissions but also instilled lasting awareness and responsibility.

Plastic Possibilities

Binxin also translated Singapore's plastic waste challenge into a whole-school action plan. Guided by her 4C strategy – curriculum, campus, culture, and community – she coordinated lessons, workshops, and upcycling projects, supported by external partners for authentic learning. Green Activists were trained to lead peer advocacy, culminating in exhibitions and a school-wide recycling drive. Families and staff joined in, resulting in the collection of over 2,000 bottles and 3,000 caps, reducing more than 100 kilograms of plastic waste, turning awareness into tangible impact.

Inspiring Leaders of Eco-Stewardship

Recognising the need for structured leadership development, Binxin designed a three-tier Green Activists Programme to nurture sustainability advocates across age groups. Lower primary students modelled daily green habits, middle primary leaders drove school-wide messaging, and upper primary teams identified solutions extending beyond campus. Learning was enriched through customised training, workshops, journeys, and external engagements such as sustainability tours. Post-activity personal reflection deepened ownership, while peer influence amplified impact. The programme has empowered confident student leaders who embody sustainability in action, integrating eco-stewardship as part of the school's culture and future.



Mrs Padmarani Srivatsan

Former Teacher - Environment Lead
Global Indian International School, Punggol Campus

“ People can easily fall into the trap of thinking the small daily efforts we make for the environment don’t matter. We need to educate everyone that each small act matters, and we can all play our part. ”

With a firm belief that “catching them young” is key to shaping lifelong habits of care for the environment, Padmarani has dedicated 18 years to nurturing young eco-stewards in Global Indian International School. As a kindergarten teacher, she introduced young children to the concept of sustainability through their daily routines and to bring home the message that every family can do their part for the environment. Citing composting and recycling as two of the most underrated sustainable practices, the composting enthusiast first started influencing the next generation through teaching classroom composting - transforming food scraps into valuable resources. This initiative has since expanded into school gardens and campus-wide programmes that inspire both students and local communities.

Her hallmark programmes include Wise on Waste (WOW), which equips students with practical composting skills and instils an understanding of circular waste management. Padmarani also led the beverage carton recycling project in partnership with Tetra Pak Singapore, training students as recycling advocates and extending outreach to kindergartens across the community. Through initiatives such as Plastic Warriors, she introduced simple, replicable solutions - like replacing plastic bin liners with newspaper alternatives - that align daily habits with environmental goals.

Persistence and passion define Padmarani’s leadership. Inspired and mentored by supportive principals and colleagues, she has continually introduced new projects to keep students engaged, from the Five Senses Garden to creative sustainability awards that reward participation. Her efforts have empowered children to see themselves as agents of change, whether sowing seeds in the school garden or mentoring peers in recycling practices.

Beyond the classroom, Padmarani shares her expertise through public workshops and cross-border exchanges, amplifying impact across communities. She hopes to eventually establish her own composting enterprise that repurposes temple offerings of flowers and food waste, further advancing Singapore’s circular economy. Having nurtured a generation of young leaders ready to steward a greener future, the former teacher wishes to see a future and a world where many more young people would step up to become responsible for the environment through their actions.

Achievements

Perpetuating Virtuous Cycles

Padmarani has been a driving force in advancing circular waste management through her aerobic composting initiative. Recognising its practicality for schools and homes, she introduced a low-cost, hygienic, and replicable system using simple perforated bins and upcycled containers. She designed hands-on workshops where students learned to sort organic waste, manage the composting process, and appreciate how compost enriches soil and plant growth. By extending outreach to public workshops, Padmarani widened access and built confidence in adopting composting practices. The programme has reduced organic waste sent for disposal, while nurturing student leadership and inspiring families to adopt responsible waste habits.

In partnership with Tetra Pak Singapore, Padmarani launched a train-the-trainer project to strengthen beverage carton recycling. She guided students and teachers to understand the recyclable layers within cartons and established clear routines across the school. By mentoring students as recycling advocates, she empowered them to influence behaviours at home and in the community. In 2024, students recycled 1,704 cartons, achieving a more than 40 percent increase in recycling rates, with targets set for further growth. The initiative also extended impact through workshops conducted for 13 local kindergartens, amplifying awareness among younger learners.

Lasting Impact, A Culture of Care

To reduce single use plastics, Padmarani introduced newspaper liners as alternatives to plastic bin liners in classrooms as she noticed the classroom litter was minimal, dry and mostly paper-based. She piloted the approach, trained students to fold and fit liners, and ensured the method was simple, hygienic, and sustainable. This practice reduced reliance on disposables, promoted mindful consumption, and built student ownership of environmental responsibility. Outreach workshops further reinforced the message, extending behaviour change beyond the classroom. Through innovation, education, and persistence, Padmarani empowers students to lead by example and inspiring communities to adopt greener habits. Her initiatives highlight how small, practical actions can create lasting impact and cultivate a culture of care for the environment.



Youths

Mr Carlo Charles
Founder & CEO
Flint

“ Sustainability should not be an option, but a default setting. I wish to change the perception and expectation that sustainable green products would always come with performance trade-offs or at higher prices. To that end, I aim to have all Flint batteries perform and be priced the same as any lithium battery out in the market. ”

A sustainability entrepreneur and youth leader, Carlo’s journey is deeply shaped by lived experience. Growing up in the Philippines, he witnessed the devastation of typhoons and superstorms, seeing the environment destroyed and communities injured. At eight years old, discovering that climate change was human-driven left a lasting impression. A natural tinkerer and nature lover, Carlo resolved to harness technology to protect the planet, later collaborating with organisations such as Google on ocean research, energy generation, and marine pollution solutions.

His defining achievement is the Flint Paper Battery, a breakthrough innovation that replaces toxic lithium, nickel, and cobalt with safe, compostable materials such as zinc and manganese. This technology reduces carbon emissions by up to 90 percent compared to conventional batteries, while addressing the global challenge of electronic waste.

Despite initial scepticism and detractors, Carlo persevered – working through evenings during his National Service, investing his own savings, and building prototypes that eventually gained recognition from international institutions and start-up grants in the United States. Today, Flint is scaling production to deliver sustainable batteries for consumer electronics and electric vehicles, proving that green products can match conventional performance without higher costs.

Equally committed to community engagement, Carlo actively inspires young people to take action through workshops, hackathons, and outreach programmes. His ability to connect innovation with education has motivated hundreds of youths to initiate their own sustainability projects. By linking entrepreneurial drive with mentorship, he ensures that environmental responsibility is not only a technological pursuit but also a shared social mission. Motivated by grit, vision, and values, Carlo’s long-term goal is clear: to make sustainability the default setting worldwide, ensuring that future generations inherit a cleaner, greener, and more resilient planet.

Achievements

Pioneering Sustainable Solutions in Energy

Carlo exemplifies the spirit of innovation in sustainability. As Founder of Flint, he has spearheaded the development of groundbreaking paper battery technology that redefines energy storage. Unlike conventional lithium batteries, Flint’s paper batteries are crafted from safe, compostable materials, offering a solution that is both eco-friendly and accessible. This innovation reduces carbon emissions by up to 90 percent and addresses the pressing challenge of electronic waste, setting a new benchmark for sustainable energy systems. Recognised by international organisations including the United Nations, the US State Department, and the European Union, Carlo’s leadership has positioned Flint as a catalyst for a greener future.

Inspiring Youth Engagement

Beyond technological advancement, Carlo is committed to empowering young people. Through workshops, hackathons, and community initiatives, he has inspired hundreds of youths to take action on environmental issues. His ability to connect innovation with grassroots engagement motivates students to embark on their own sustainability projects, nurturing a new generation of eco-leaders. Carlo’s approach demonstrates how entrepreneurial vision can be harnessed to foster collective responsibility and community resilience.

Carlo embodies the qualities of a sustainability entrepreneur and youth leader. His pioneering work in energy demonstrates how innovation, when coupled with social commitment, can deliver transformative impact. Through his leadership, Carlo continues to inspire educational communities to adopt practical solutions for environmental sustainability, reinforcing Singapore’s vision of a resilient, eco-conscious society.



Ms Rebecca Tan Tze Shuen

Former President, Conservation Interest Group,
School of Applied Science
Republic Polytechnic

“ My passion lies in connecting sustainability to daily life – through habits like using reusable containers and bottles, and not succumbing to fast fashion. Whenever I get discouraged in this journey, I will focus on the future and tell myself there is a better way. ”

Rebecca has demonstrated remarkable leadership and creativity in advancing sustainability among youth and communities. Her journey as an eco-advocate began with a childhood fascination for Animal Planet wildlife documentaries and was deepened during the 2015 haze crisis, when she witnessed the effects of climate change. Inspired to act, she pursued the Diploma in Environmental & Marine Science at Republic Polytechnic, where she served as President of the Conservation Interest Group, and led her first major project to reduce textile waste and fast fashion.

Rebecca’s passion lies in connecting sustainability to her daily life – encouraging simple yet impactful habits such as reusing containers, extending the lifespan of clothing, and making conscious fashion choices. Her most notable achievement was spearheading a campus-wide clothes collection drive, which redistributed thousands of garments to underprivileged communities and channelled unsuitable items into upcycling projects. The initiative not only diverted significant textile waste away from the landfill but also raised awareness among donors and volunteers, sparking thoughtful conversations about fast fashion and consumer responsibility.

She has also contributed to innovative projects such as upcycling polypropylene woven bags into functional products for youth in Vietnam and explored the use of incineration bottom ash in construction materials to support Singapore’s circular economy. Despite challenges in shifting mindsets and overcoming apathy, Rebecca remains undeterred, believing that role-modelling and persistence can inspire change.

Now pursuing the Bachelor of Environmental Studies at the National University of Singapore, she continues to champion youth engagement through outreach programmes and symposiums. Rebecca’s greatest satisfaction lies in witnessing the long-term impact on individuals – whether it be donors, beneficiaries, or volunteers. By planting these seeds of awareness, she has empowered others to adopt greener habits and to take the first step to bridge the gap between intention and action.

Achievements

Extending the Shelf Life of Fast Fashion

At Republic Polytechnic, Rebecca spearheaded a major initiative to address textile waste through a clothes collection and redistribution drive. She oversaw the project from planning to execution, mobilising student volunteers, coordinating logistics, and building partnerships with sustainability organisations. Under her leadership, 3,732 pieces of clothing were collected from the drive. Of these, 2,956 wearable items were redistributed to underprivileged communities, while the rest of the items were channelled into upcycling projects. By diverting an estimated 1,866 kilograms of textile waste away from the landfill, the initiative achieved significant environmental savings in water and carbon emissions. Rebecca further amplified impact by leading Conservation Fortnight 2023, engaging industry speakers through talks to raise awareness on sustainable fashion and inspire long-term behavioural change among Republic Polytechnic students and staff.

A New Lease of Life in Bags and Concrete

Rebecca also led “Reweave”, an innovative upcycling project that transformed discarded polypropylene woven bags into functional products. Partnering with a local supermarket, she secured materials and guided weekly prototyping sessions, training peers in sewing and upcycling techniques. Old clothing and accessories were repurposed to minimise waste, resulting in 100 polypropylene woven bags upcycled into tote bags, pouches, hats, and shoe bags. Selected items were donated to underprivileged youth in Vietnam, while public showcases reached 600 participants, promoting sustainable consumer habits and circular design.

In another pioneering effort, Rebecca was involved in a research project with Republic Polytechnic and an industry partner to repurpose incineration bottom ash into sustainable construction materials. She designed experiments, led laboratory testing, and ensured strict adherence to safety protocols. By combining ash with waste glass and cement, her team produced concrete suitable for non-structural applications such as pavements. The project demonstrated a viable pathway to reduce landfill waste and extend Semakau Landfill’s lifespan, contributing to Singapore’s circular economy goals. Through innovation, collaboration, and technical rigour, Rebecca has advanced sustainability solutions that reduce waste, empower communities, and inspire responsible consumption.

Students



Mr Pek Bo Ren Boston

Former CCA Leader,
Environmental Science Society
Westwood Primary School

" Some people think sustainability is just about reducing consumption, but that's a misconception. We also need to find solutions for the root issues. One of the easiest ways to get started is to research and then try to solve the problem that interests you most. "

Boston's environmental journey began in kindergarten, when gardening with his father sparked a curiosity about nature's role in sustaining life. An avid nature lover who spends his free time exploring the flora and fauna of his nearby park, this early passion grew steadily as Boston joined the Environmental Science Society in primary school, where he eventually led peers in projects that combined and demonstrated innovation, empathy, and practical impact as the CCA Leader.

As a lover of greenery, Boston deemed his most meaningful initiative to be the taking care of food waste digestors in the school canteen, which transformed discarded food into fertiliser for plant growth. This project not only reduced waste destined for the Semakau Landfill, but also highlighted his commitment to protecting greenery and making sustainability accessible.

Equally impactful was his leadership in the Westwood Primary School (WWPS) School Advisory Committee (SAC) Design Thinking Competition, where Boston guided his team to design a robot vacuum cleaner from recycled materials. Inspired by his observations of his school cleaners' daily challenges and growing fatigue, Boston's solution helped ease their workload while promoting reuse and affordability, earning the Best Prototype Award.

He also championed the Used Uniforms and textbooks exchange and distribution drives, encouraging families to donate and exchange items responsibly.

Through structured planning and outreach, Boston fostered a culture of sharing and reduced unnecessary consumption. His "Go Green" staffroom initiative raised awareness among teachers and peers alike. This initiative resulted in large quantities of paper being recycled and his schoolmates learning to sort reusables for donation to the needy.

Supported by dedicated teachers and like-minded friends, Boston has shown perseverance, creativity, and solution-based thinking. Now in secondary school, he continues to influence sustainability efforts through the Student Council, determined to inspire his new community. His journey exemplifies how youthful passion, guided by empathy and innovation, can be an inspiration for other likeminded students.

Achievements

Design Thinking for Sustainability

As Group Leader of the WWPS 2025 SAC Design Thinking Competition, Boston spearheaded the creation of "WWPSVacBot," a robot vacuum cleaner built from recycled and repurposed materials. Guided by empathy and user-centred design, he initiated interviews with school cleaners and teachers to understand real challenges in classroom cleaning. Leading his team through multiple prototype iterations, Boston balanced sustainability, affordability and functionality. The final prototype featured improved movement, safer wiring and a removable dust cover, directly benefiting school cleaners by reducing physical workload. Showcased to the school community, the project earned the Best Prototype Award, reflecting both innovation and social impact.

Reducing Waste in a Sharing Culture

Boston played a key leadership role in the annual collection and distribution drive for used textbooks, storybooks and uniforms. By encouraging families to donate and exchange items, the initiative reduced paper and textile waste while supporting students with affordable resources. As project leader, he coordinated end-to-end operations, working with student volunteers and the Parent Support Group to establish clear workflows for collection, sorting and distribution. Boston also led outreach through school assemblies, guiding students on responsible contributions. The drive strengthened a culture of sharing and responsible consumption, cultivating sustainable habits across the school community.

Raising Green Awareness in Staff

Boston spearheaded the School Staffroom "Go Green" project, initiated as a meaningful graduation contribution. He coordinated peers in a hands-on cleanup and sorting exercise, ensuring recyclable and reusable materials were diverted from disposal. Functional items were consolidated for donation or redistribution, while recyclables were properly separated. The project raised staff awareness of environmental issues and normalised sustainable practices in school life. By championing recycling and reusing where possible, Boston helped to foster a stronger culture of environmental responsibility amongst the teachers.

Students



Ms Ung Helen

Former Vice President,
Science Ambassadors Environmental Science Club
Swiss Cottage Secondary School

" Look for like-minded people who will push and inspire you as you kickstart your own sustainability journey. If you have an idea, do your research and implement the solution without delay. Setting project deadlines is important as it helps me keep the momentum going. "

Creative, optimistic, and kind, Helen embodies the spirit of youth leadership in sustainability. From her earliest years in primary school, she was influenced by her teachers to save water, reduce plastic usage, and recycle more – habits that have shaped her thinking and inspired her to transform problems into solutions. Volunteering in her community and learning from environmental activists further deepened Helen's resolve, while memorable influences such as the lone cleaning robot in film WALL-E impressed upon her the dire urgency of protecting the planet and a firm reminder of how every ounce of effort counts.

As Vice President of the Science Ambassadors Environmental Science Club at Swiss Cottage Secondary School, Helen has grown into a consultative empathetic leader who values teamwork and inclusivity. She welcomes ideas from peers, assigns roles that excite them, and ensures smooth processes that empower others to contribute meaningfully. A creative crafts hobbyist, Helen's D.I.Y. pet projects also see her repurposing Pringles cans into pencil holders and crocheting coasters from plastic bags.

Helen's favourite projects include Earth week celebrations, where she turned plastic bottles into musical instruments and engaged peers through photo booths and themed activities. She also helped upcycle old clothes into wearable items, fostering awareness on fashion waste. Spearheading RePET, Helen helped lead the design of a DIY PETamentor machine that converted PET plastic bottles into 3D-printing filament, opening fellow students' minds to new possibilities in recycling.

Though indifference from others sometimes discouraged her, Helen persevered through these challenges by focusing on one person at a time and drawing strength from the encouragement of like-minded peers. Now a junior college student, her next passion project is developing an app to address fabric waste, continuing her mission to inspire creative, solution-driven sustainability.

Achievements

Turning Waste Into Possibilities

Since 2024, Helen has exemplified service-oriented leadership in sustainability at Swiss Cottage Secondary School, advancing practical, student-led solutions to solve challenges. Guided by the belief that meaningful impact begins within one's immediate environment, she mobilises peers and engages the wider school community to adopt small but lasting shifts in mindset. As Vice President of the Science Ambassadors Environmental Science Club, she supports about 160 ambassadors in conducting termly sustainability sharing sessions, ensuring environmental learning remains active year-round. Helen also leads school-wide activities and workshops, reinforcing sustainability as a shared commitment across the campus.

Helen initiated and led RePET, a pioneering project to reduce plastic waste by transforming PET bottles into usable material. She organised a school-wide collection competition, gathering over 50 bottles, and led a team of three to design and build a DIY PETamentor machine that converted bottles into 3D-printing filament while raising awareness of plastic pollution through research presentations. Helen's leadership demonstrated how innovation and resourcefulness can turn waste into opportunity.

Edible Gardens, Edenic Spaces

As part of the nine-member Home a Herb team, Helen promoted food sustainability by encouraging the school community to grow edible plants. She coordinated logistics, designed outreach materials and ensured smooth communication between students and teachers. At the school's Open House, she supported potted herb giveaways and hands-on seedling activities, complemented by posters highlighting each herb's benefits, care tips and recipes. Families left with practical tools to begin their own home gardens.

Helen played a central role in Earth week, leading the Decoration Team and contributed across the three-day celebration. She created eco-themed spaces using recycled materials, supported the Eco Fashion Show by upcycling old clothes, and worked alongside peers to prepare booths, props and even orange peel candies. Her willingness to stay hands-on fostered teamwork and strengthened the spirit of shared responsibility.

Special Thanks

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Chairman

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Professor Emeritus, National University of Singapore

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Executive Director, Singapore Environment Council

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and

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Director, Character & Citizenship Education Branch, Ministry of Education



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