

# PFD Articles:

## **Article 1: What we can do to live more sustainable lives.**

Sustainability is extremely important for the future of everyone on the planet, however, it is not only the responsibility of larger companies and governments, but also the contribution of everyone is important. Although it might seem that individual contribution will not amount to much, if everyone plays their part, the overall contribution to the global shift towards sustainability will be huge. Thus, it is important for people to play their part in leading more sustainable lives for the future generations.

Some small ways in which this can be done is by:

### Shopping for little but often.

A large portion of the waste that we generate is when we 'over-buy' groceries due to large chain supermarkets having discounts or deals where they offer a lower price if you were to buy more. However this leads to many people realizing that they are unable to use up all the groceries that they have purchased which leads to wastage of the products purchased as they usually are unused especially if you plan to eat out.

Instead, you should shop for the products that you know that you need and only for that. This would help to cut down on the unnecessary purchases that are eventually thrown away. In addition, it will help to cut down on costs as less products are thrown away without being used. One way you can do this is by working through the week and when you plan to use those products, for example on meals and to purchase groceries based on what you are planning to make.

### Planning ahead.

To add onto the previous point, you can purchase groceries that have bulk deals, however, you should plan ahead and freeze them and use them at a later time. You can make some meals like pasta sauce in bulk and freeze the remainder in serving sized packets that can be used in later meals. This would not only allow you to take advantage of discounts and sales but to also ensure that you do not waste any of the food that you buy.

### Minimize package

In Singapore, you should choose to purchase fruits and vegetables that come without packaging like those at the markets instead of those at the supermarkets will reduce the overall amount of plastic that you'll consume. You can bring your own reusable containers to places when ordering takeaway from those areas to reduce the usage of disposable packaging. This is also applicable to places like hawker centers as it is more commonplace to see people bringing their own takeaway for certain hawker centers.

## Recycle as much as you can

Singapore has many different areas to recycle, as the government has ensured that there are proper recycling bins for the different housing areas in Singapore, especially those who live in HDBs. You can do your part by separating the trash that can be recycled from those which cannot and throwing it into those designated bins for recycling.

## **Article 2: What ways has Singapore committed to creating a more sustainable country.**

### Green Buildings

Green buildings are buildings that are designed to be environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout the building's lifecycle, from their planning to the design, the construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and lastly the demolition. As such, Singapore has plans to ensure that 80% of the total building gross floor area will be green by 2030. Singapore implemented the BCA Green Mark Scheme in January 2005 to promote efficient resource efficiency and reduce potential environmental impact in the build environment.

### Green Transport

Singapore has already promoted the use of public transport and encouraged active mobility transportation like walking and cycling. Singapore has built on-top of this by encouraging a shift to greener and cleaner vehicles like that of electric cars. Singapore has implemented the Fuel Economy Labeling Scheme which provides information on the fuel efficiency of each vehicle model and introduced a scheme that provides rebates for low-emission vehicles and levies surcharges for high-emission vehicles.

Additionally, BlueSG, an electric car-sharing programme, was rolled out in 2017 which introduces 1000 shared electric cars and 2000 electric charging stations all across the country by 2020. There have also been plans for 50 hybrid buses to be deployed in the first quarter of 2019 and 60 electric buses by mid-2020 for trials.

### Green Spaces

Singapore has planned to dedicate 10% of its land to be set aside for parks and nature conservation. As such more than 80% of households live within 400 meters or ten minute walk from their place of residence. This has been planned to be expanded to 90% of all households by 2030 by creating more neighbourhood and regional parks.

This is part of Singapore's famous transformation to become a City in a Garden, additionally the National Parks Board has identified six key areas to fulfill the vision of the City in a Garden:

1. Establish world-class gardens
2. Rejuvenate urban parks and enliven our streetscape
3. Optimise urban spaces for greenery

4. Enrich biodiversity in Singapore's urban environment
5. Enhance competencies of our landscape and horticultural industry
6. Engage and inspire communities to co-create a greener Singapore.

These are the 6 key areas in which the government plans to work on to ensure that their 'City in a Garden' vision to further ensure the creation of green spaces and the overall progress of ecological progress in Singapore.

## Encouraging the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse & Recycling)

Singapore, as a first world country, produces a large amount of waste and one area of focus is the recycling of e-waste in the country. With faster product replacement periods and turnover, the amount of electronic waste produced is set to increase with the years. The government has partnered with some private companies to create a network of collections centers that spans the entire country. Citizens are able to visit these centres across the country to deposit their electronic waste which is then given to licensed recycling centres. The government also plans to implement a mandatory e-waste management framework to ensure that more of the current electronic waste is reused instead of being thrown away.

One third of Singapore's waste are made of packaging materials, as such to conserve the resources that are being used to produce such plastics for packaging as well as to reduce the total amount of waste placed into the landfills. As such the government will make it mandatory for businesses to report on the type and the amount of packaging they put on the market and their plans for reduction by 2021 and to have more engagement with stakeholders and businesses to cut down on excessive use of plastic bags and disposables.

Singapore's households as well as the food industry also generates a large amount of food waste. One example of this would be the waste generated from retail food manufacturers and supermarkets whose products may not fully sell and end up being wasted due to the lack of sales. Such food is then thrown away, however, such businesses can be encouraged to donate excess stock that is not easily sold to charities. Consumers are also taught to be more cautious with their purchases via outreach initiatives as well as to teach them more about being smart and prudent with food preparation and storage habits.