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**Repurpose, Don't Discard:
Students Show Alternatives to Bulky Waste Problem**

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC)'s sustainability initiative creates real community solutions through youth innovation, and promotes shared environmental responsibility on SG Clean Day

SINGAPORE, 26 OCTOBER 2025 – Demonstrating how creativity can address Singapore's bulky waste challenges, the top innovative designs out of 83 entries from secondary school students were presented this morning at the finals of the Public Hygiene Council (PHC)'s Bulky Waste to Wonder (BWTW) Competition 2025. Graced by Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State (SMS), Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) & Ministry of Education (MOE), the event was held at South Beach Tower, in conjunction with SG Clean Day.

2 Organised by PHC in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE), this nationwide initiative encourages youths to explore creative ways to address Singapore's bulky waste challenges. Now in its third run, the competition continues to inspire young Singaporeans to transform and repurpose unwanted bulky items into functional community resources, thus demonstrating practical alternatives to improper bulky waste disposal whilst promoting shared environmental responsibility.

Addressing Bulky Waste Challenges

3 Such student-led innovation remains highly relevant, given Singapore's ongoing challenges with bulky waste disposal. Large unwanted household items are often improperly discarded at Housing & Development Board (HDB) void decks and lift lobbies, cluttering shared spaces and posing health and safety risks – including pest infestation, fire hazards, and obstructed emergency evacuation routes.

4 While Town Councils provide free removal for up to three bulky items monthly, many residents remain unaware of these services or that abandoning large items at common areas constitutes littering. This lack of awareness continues to impact the cleanliness, safety, and liveability of our residential communities.

5 To address this persistent challenge, PHC works closely with Town Councils and Grassroots organisations to promote proper disposal practices and raise awareness of available removal services. These efforts aim to drive behavioural change and foster shared responsibility for maintaining clean and safe living environments, while demonstrating that creative repurposing offers a valuable alternative to disposal. This also aligns well with SG Clean Day's message that maintaining clean public spaces is everyone's responsibility.

Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2025

6 To complement community outreach efforts, PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition helps secondary school students to understand the impact of improper disposal of bulky items, while inspiring them to explore innovative repurposing solutions. The competition forms part of PHC's school outreach initiatives, which aim to instil in our children a sense of responsibility and care for our shared spaces, from a young age.

7 Launched in May 2025, the third edition of the competition attracted strong participation from students nationwide, with **83 entries received from 13 schools**. This represented a **22 per cent increase** from the 68 entries received in 2024. This significant growth reflects the deepening interest among Singapore's youth in adopting sustainable practices.

8 To support their learning process, students were given the exciting opportunity to attend an in-person design workshop, which was conducted by PHC's furniture designer partners – E3 Design, Comm Interior, WeLead, and TCG. The workshop equipped students with practical design techniques and creative insights for transforming discarded items into functional furniture pieces. Participating in these projects showed the students how their creativity can address real community needs, while promoting sustainable practices.

9 The 10 shortlisted finalist teams subsequently collaborated with expert industry partners to bring their concepts to life. A panel of distinguished judges selected the top five winners this morning at the finals event, where the students showcased and presented their innovations.

Celebrating Creativity and Sustainable Solutions

10 Guest-of-Honour Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State (SMS), Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) & Ministry of Education (MOE), presented prizes to the following five competition winners:

Winners of PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2025

Award	Project Title	Designer / School
1st Prize (\$750 cash)	Community SocialSpace Table	SocialSpace (Gedeon Koh Jing Yi, Yoshioka Lili, Arnab Ghosh) School of Science and Technology, Singapore
2nd Prize (\$500 cash)	DriftDesk	Jazil Zafri Bin Johari Canberra Secondary School
3rd Prize (\$300 cash)	UrbanFit	Kyra Seow, Natasha Lee Raffles Girls' School

2 x Merit Prizes (\$100 each)	Tables Turned	Marshall Chen Miaoxin, Kelly Goh Ning Xin Kranji Secondary School
	Regalia Nightstand	Chua Hui Xuan Valencia Bedok Green Secondary School


11 Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council, said, " Now in its third edition, PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition has grown into a movement that redefines how we see waste – not as a problem, but as a valuable opportunity. Our students have shown that with creativity and commitment, discarded items can be transformed into useful and meaningful pieces. When schools, corporates, and communities come together in this way, there is a big ripple effect that will inspire more Singaporeans to take responsibility to build a cleaner, more sustainable future. PHC is proud to champion initiatives like this, which foster creativity, responsibility, and shared ownership of our environment".


12 Mr Kenneth Lee, Director of the Character and Citizenship Branch, Ministry of Education (MOE), added, "PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition is invaluable because it extends learning beyond the classroom, providing a real-world platform for students to apply critical thinking, innovation, and community engagement. By challenging them to find creative solutions to bulky waste management, we are equipping the next generation with the skills and mindset to be proactive and responsible stewards for a sustainable Singapore."



13 For more information on PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2025, please refer to the ANNEXES or visit the PHC website at: <https://www.publichygienecouncil.sg>.


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BULKY WASTE TO WONDER COMPETITION 2025 – TOP 10 FINALISTS' DESIGNS


S/N	TEAM	SCHOOL	DESIGN TITLE	DESCRIPTION
1	Chai Wen Le	Bedok Green Secondary School	ChordBoard	<p>Designed for students with limited space at home, ChordBoard combines a functional study table with an integrated electronic keyboard, making it easy to switch between study mode and music mode. Whether it's a quick jam session after homework or a way to relax between revision, the built-in keyboard encourages creative expression without needing a separate setup. Compact, smart, and inspiring, it's the perfect combination of study and play.</p> 


2	SocialSpace (Gedeon Koh Jing Yi, Yoshioka Lili, Arnab Ghosh)	School of Science and Technology, Singapore	Community SocialSpace Table	<p>Our design is inspired by the need to rekindle real-world connection in increasingly digitalised homes.</p> <p>In Singapore, long work and school hours often lead family members to unwind separately through screens. The Community SocialSpace Table transforms this pattern.</p> <p>Crafted from repurposed bulky waste and enhanced with modular 3D-printed parts, it reimagines discarded furniture into a shared, multifunctional L-shaped table. It morphs into a dining corner, game zone, workspace, or rest nook—fostering offline bonding, conversation, and creativity.</p> <p>By blending sustainability with social design, we hope to offer an inviting tech-free space where families or flatmates can reconnect, recharge, and rediscover the joy of presence.</p>	
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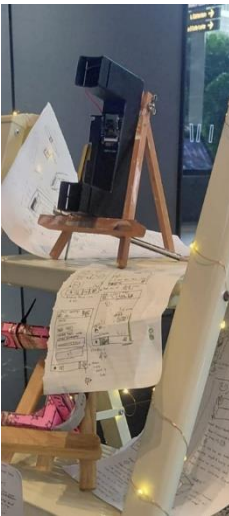
3	Jazil Zafri Bin Johari	Canberra Secondary School	DriftDesk	<p>Inspired from a drift cart. I hope that people in work could use it for their daily lives to make their workplace more fun.</p> 
4	Jovan Toh Wei Hong	Greenridge Secondary School	Mobile Stepper Chair	<p>Through research and observation, I realised small ones have a hard time reaching items placed high on top of shelves. Sometimes they would pull a chair to climb on, which could be dangerous depending on the type of chair used.</p> <p>My design hopes to improve on safety by making a step stool that would be more stable when used. They would have a proper step instead of climbing over the seat of a chair, thus reducing probability of falling.</p> <p>My design takes into consideration how to make it more user-friendly for children.</p> 

				<p>1. Portable wheels which lock automatically when weight is applied upon stepping. When no weight is applied, the wheels allow children to easily push the product around instead of dragging a normal chair and damaging the flooring.</p> <p>2. My design also has a dual purpose. Steps are concealed when not used and it becomes a chair for children to sit on.</p>
5	Chua Hui Xuan Valencia	Bedok Green Secondary School	Regalia Nightstand	<p>The Regalia Nightstand is an elegant bedside table that blends royal charm with purposeful functionality. Lift the flip-up panel to reveal a vanity-style mirror and a hidden jewellery storage compartment, perfect for keeping your royal regalia (jewellery) organised and close at hand.</p> <p>A stylish pegboard section on the side offers easy access for hanging accessories, hair tools, or daily essentials. Designed for those who appreciate beauty and order in one graceful form, the Regalia brings a touch of the royalty right beside your bed.</p> 

6	Jiang Kai Wei, Chow En Yi, Toh Yuxin	Nan Hua High School	Scoot n' Park	<p>The design was inspired by the increasing use of scooters as a quick, eco-friendly mode of transport, especially among students and young commuters. We noticed that many people don't have a proper place to park or secure their scooters, which leads to cluttered walkways and increased risk of theft or damage. Our aim was to create something that not only solves this problem but also blends in well with the surroundings and encourages responsible use. We wanted something simple, durable, and easy to use.</p> 
7	Marshall Chen Miaoxin, Kelly Goh Ning Xin	Kranji Secondary School	Tables Turned	<p>Our design was inspired by observing the space tables in our classroom took up just to fit two people, whilst the tables in our canteen could seat 6 people with a bench. The thought of making the table a fixture in classrooms for young children to draw, play and learn together occurred.</p>  <p>Combining our observations and points of improvement, we had the idea of designing a compact desk which had flippable tables and a bench so that at least 2 people could be seated. Our hopes</p>

				for the design are that it would make a more convenient, cleaner and more enjoyable experience for kids in a classroom.
8	Kyra Seow, Natasha Lee	Raffles Girls' School	UrbanFit	<p>We transformed an L-shaped office desk into UrbanFit, a sleek, space-smart workstation designed for modern urban living.</p> <p>Inspired by the challenges of small flats and rising remote work, UrbanFit repurposes bulky furniture into a compact, multifunctional station that makes the best of limited space.</p> <p>Features include a vertical storage tower for storing stationery or decor items, custom organiser drawers, a side pegboard panel to hang headphones, keys or tools, an integrated whiteboard and corkboard where reminders can be written or pasted, a cable routing system, and a built-in overhead light.</p> <p>We chose the colours blue, green, and cream: blue aids focus by enhancing mental clarity, green reduces stress and brings in natural calmness, and cream balances the colours. All materials come from the original desk, with added wood if needed.</p> 

9	Eco Warriors (Goh Le Xuan, Kim Jaehyo, Tey Jia He)	Canberra Secondary School	Burrow & Bureau	<p>"Burrow & Bureau" transforms a wooden pedestal into a multi-functional pet-care station. The name marries a hamster's burrowing instinct with a bureau's storage functionality, reflecting our space-conscious solution for both pet and owner needs.</p>  <p>This creation repurposes the bottom shelf into a dwarf hamster habitat while utilising upper shelves for supply storage. New, locally sourced features include viewing panels made from salvaged glass, strategic ventilation holes, black hardware mesh roofing and a birch ramp made of reclaimed wood that leads to an elevated sleeping area. Warm oak tones are enhanced with pet-safe sealant, while brass accents add vintage charm.</p> <p>This design is inspired by urban living in Singapore: the popularity of dwarf hamsters in HDB flats and the wasteful cycle of disposing commercial habitats after a hamster's brief lifespan. By upcycling furniture, we hope to promote sustainable pet ownership through a design reusable for multiple generations.</p>
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10	Curtains r Broken (Harprit, Mabel Tan, Jade)	CHIJ St Joseph's Convent	HydraCam	<p>One of our members, Harprit, joined a hackathon and came across something small, but brilliant — a Tamagotchi-style blood tester for teens with diabetes. It was simple, thoughtful, and designed to make something uncomfortable feel human.</p> <p>That stuck with us. We asked ourselves: Could we do the same for water awareness?</p> <p>HydraCam isn't just a piece of furniture — it's an add-on, a quiet nudge in everyday life. Most Singaporeans rarely check their water meters. We don't see our usage, so we don't think about it.</p> <p>Using upcycled wood and what we know about tech, we designed HydraCam to be part of the solution — helping Singapore work towards its 2030 water sustainability goal.</p> <p>We're still building. But we believe that thoughtful ideas, no matter how small, can make a real difference.</p>	
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