

(C)WASTE MANAGEMENT

SGP2012 Target	Current Progress
Increase the overall waste recycling rate from 40% in 2000 to 60% by 2012.	Overall recycling rate has increased from 40% in 2000 to 56% in 2008.
Extend the lifespan of Semakau Landfill to 50 years, strive “towards zero landfill” and “close the waste loop”.	When Semakau Landfill started operations in 1999, the estimated lifespan was 25 to 30 years. Through our waste minimisation and recycling efforts, the estimated lifespan of Semakau Landfill is currently extended to 35 to 40 years.
Reduce the need for new incineration plants to one every 10-15 years.	No additional incineration plant has been built since 2000 ¹ .

Recycling

1 We have made good progress in promoting waste recycling. Our recycling rate has increased from 40% in 2000 to 56% in 2008. However, we need to sustain and step up our efforts to achieve the SGP 2012 target of 60% by 2012. Beyond that, the IMCSD has set a recycling rate target of 65% by 2020 and 70% by 2030 and has announced new initiatives that would be implemented in the future.

2 Over the years, the participation rate in the National Recycling Programme (NRP) increased from 15% in 2001 to 63% in 2008. The Government also responded to residents’ requests for recycling bins and had arranged for the Public Waste Collectors to provide 1,600 centralised recycling depositories (CRDs) in all HDB estates in Aug 2007. Instead of having to keep their recyclables for the fortnightly door-to-door NRP collections, residents can now choose to deposit them into the CRDs any time. In Nov 2008, the Government amended the Environmental Public Health Act to mandate the provision of recycling receptacles in all condominiums and private apartments which were not covered under the NRP. Upon full implementation by end-2009, all households in Singapore would have access to recycling receptacles in the vicinity of their blocks.

3 The Government is also studying other approaches to further improve the recycling infrastructure. For example, after a successful trial at a HDB block at

¹ The Keppel-Seghers Tuas Waste-to-Energy plant will replace the Ulu Pandan incineration plant in 2009.

Choa Chu Kang, 2 other HDB developments (Fernvale Vista at Seng Kang and the new eco-precinct Treelodge@Punggol) have been designed with separate chutes for recyclables.

Waste Minimisation at Source

4 In 2007, NEA signed a voluntary Packaging Agreement with 5 industry associations, 19 individual companies, 2 non-governmental organisations, the Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS), and the 4 Public Waste Collectors (PWCs). Targeting food and beverage packaging for a start, the signatories collectively achieved a reduction of 850 tonnes/year of packaging waste by mid-2008. In addition, 34 new F&B companies joined the Agreement in 2008. Consultations have begun for the next phase to open up the Agreement to other industry sectors.

3P Engagement

5 NEA and its 3P partners have been making efforts to raise public's awareness on waste recycling and the need to reduce waste. Such efforts have led to recycling programmes in schools and coverage in the local newspapers and television. More and more schools have joined the School Recycling Programme, reaching 97% in 2008. To complement the School Recycling Corner Programme, NEA launched a Pre-school 3R training kit in 2007 with the PAP Community Foundation (PCF) and Presbyterian Community Services (PCS). A total of 258 PCF kindergartens and 10 PCS childcare centres are currently participating in the scheme. NEA, together with the Singapore Environment Council (SEC), People's Association (PA) and PWCs, also organise the annual Recycling Day to bring recycling to the heartlands.

6 Going forward, the Government will take the lead in setting up recycling programmes in public organisations. In 2008, 74% of government agencies have recycling programmes at the workplace.