

# 2023 Singapore Sustainability Update

## Adaptations and changes in the Built Environment

### 1 INTRODUCTION

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In 2021, the Singapore Green Plan 2030 was launched to formulate concrete policies and actions for Singapore to achieve a net zero emissions goal. This year, the government is pressing ahead in the implementation efforts for Singapore's green transition.

This paper highlights the seven key areas of focus as updated by the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE)'s Committee of Supply debates on 2 March 2023.

### 2 A CLIMATE FRIENDLY GREEN SINGAPORE

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- a) The Government is leading the way in Singapore's decarbonisation journey. Starting in Financial Year (FY) 2023, the government will publish an annual GreenGov.SG report detailing its efforts, progress and plans. From FY2024, all Statutory Boards will also publish annual environmental sustainability disclosures.
- b) From FY 2024, environmental sustainability considerations will be progressively introduced into the Government's tender evaluation process - up to 5 per cent of tender evaluation points for environmental sustainability, starting with large construction and ICT tenders.
- c) Building a green Singapore requires the participation of our partners in businesses. The Government is further supporting manufacturing companies, including small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to make their own transitions by enhancing the Energy Efficiency Fund (E2F). From 1 April 2023, pre-approved energy efficient technologies will be eligible for a fixed 70 per cent support of qualifying costs.
- d) Households can also do their part by switching to more energy efficient appliances for their homes. The National Environment Agency (NEA)'s Mandatory Energy Labelling Scheme (MELS) and the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) has helped consumers make informed decisions to purchase more energy efficient appliances. The scheme will be enhanced to include more appliance types and to raise the efficiency standards of appliances currently in the schemes.

### 3 BOLSTERING OUR WATER SECURITY

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- a) A resilient water supply is critical in safeguarding our water needs from climate change impacts. PUB will continue to strengthen our water resilience and ensure sustainable water supply for Singapore. The Kranji Water Reclamation Plant and Kranji NEWater

Factory will be re-developed to complete the three-node Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS) for water reclamation, increase the treatment capacity of used water ahead of demand, and bolster our NEWater production to support major upcoming industrial and residential development in the north.

- b) To improve water efficiency in the non-domestic sector, the Government will introduce mandatory water recycling requirements on new projects and plant expansions in the wafer fabrication, electronics, and biomedical industries from next year. These industries are water-intensive and have high potential for water recycling.

## 4 TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE NATION

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- a) Moving towards zero waste supports Singapore's net zero goals. Carbon is emitted at virtually every step of a product's lifecycle. Therefore, curbing rising consumption and moving towards resource circularity reduces our carbon footprint. As announced during the First Reading of the Resource Sustainability (Amendment) Bill earlier this year, a disposable carrier bag charge at supermarkets will be implemented from 3 July 2023. Furthermore, to boost the recycling rate of beverage containers and cultivate recycling habits amongst Singaporeans, we will be implementing a beverage container return scheme that will apply a fully refundable deposit to the plastic bottles and metal cans used for pre-packaged beverages.
- b) To encourage households to do their part in increasing the recycling rate, NEA will be providing a Bloobox to all Singapore households to help them can set up recycling corners at home and to recycle right. Households will be able to collect their Bloobox from vending machines across the island later this month.

## 5 SAFEGUARDING OUR HAWKER CULTURE

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- a) Singapore's hawker centres are an important institution and a mainstay in our everyday lives. This year, diners can look forward to the opening of two new hawker centres in Buangkok and Woodleigh Village, and a refreshed Jurong West Hawker Centre.
- b) The National Environment Agency (NEA) has implemented programmes and initiatives to support and encourage hawkerpreneurs to join the trade. Through NEA's Incubation Stall Programme and Hawkers' Development Programme, along with similar programmes by Socially-conscious Enterprise Hawker Centre operators, more than 50 new hawkers have joined the trade. NEA will continue to review and refine the programmes to ensure that aspiring hawkers receive the appropriate training. To raise productivity in hawker centres, centre-level and stall-level productivity grants will both be enhanced. The Productive Hawker Centres Programme will be enhanced to cover co-funding for Cleaning Process Automation solutions. NEA will co-fund up to

80% of the deployment costs incurred by the cleaning service providers for such solutions in hawker centres. Additionally, the Hawkers' Productivity Grant will be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,000 and expanded to cover stall-level digital solutions.

## 6 STRENGTHENING OUR COASTAL AND FLOOD RESILIENCE

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- a) A new S\$125 million Coastal Protection and Flood Management Research Programme is launched to support the development of innovative coastal protection and flood management solutions.
- b) There are ongoing site-specific studies which will cover half of Singapore's coastline when new study at North-west coast (Lim Chu Kang and Sungei Kadut area) commences in second half of 2023.

## 7 SECURING A SUPPLY OF SAFE FOOD

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- a) Diversified Singapore's food import sources by increasing the food supply sources from 172 countries and regions in 2019 to 183 in 2022.
- b) Promote growing local by launching first land tender for wider range of food types in 2H2023 and continued efforts to transform the Lim Chu Kang region through masterplanning
- c) To support the industry transformation and achieve the vision of a productive and high-tech agri-food sector, there is a need to continue to develop a skilled agri-food workforce via a new ITE Work-Study Diploma in Agriculture and Aquaculture Technology to nurture pipeline of talent for industry (from April 2023)
- d) Set up a new Alliance for Action (AfA) to explore solutions to raise demand for local produce ensuring that our local agri-food sector will be commercially viable.
- e) Singapore's aquaculture sector plays a critical role in ensuring our food resilience. To further support Singapore's ambitions in leading aquaculture research and innovation, more investment to enhance our research and development facilities to attract companies and researchers to base themselves here. The Marine Aquaculture Centre will serve as the anchor research campus of the AquaPolis R&D programme. Concurrently, there will be a commencement of a pre-planning study to review how our research facilities can be integrated with other aquaculture infrastructures.

## 8 PARTNERING THE COMMUNITY

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- a) Pursuing the green transition requires a whole-of-nation effort, and the Government is committed to working with communities and individuals to build our Green Nation.

There had been co-created activities with partners through MSE's annual Climate Action Week (CAW) to encourage people and communities to take collective climate action towards a sustainable future for Singapore. In 2023, CAW will be re-branded to Go Green SG to rally more people towards a sustainable lifestyle.

- b) Through the SG Eco Fund, a total of 77 projects were awarded \$2.4 million in funding. Projects range from experiential environmental education to food rescue to waste upcycling. Since the launch of the \$50 million Fund in 2020, 182 individuals and organisations have been awarded combined funding of \$9 million for their projects.

## REFERENCES

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1. MSE Committee of Supply 2023  
<https://www.mse.gov.sg/resource-room/category/2023-03-02-media-release-cos-mse-2023>
2. Singapore Green Plan 2030  
<https://www.greenplan.gov.sg/infographics>