

SECLITE

2017 ISSUE 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL



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WANT TO LIVE GREEN? START FROM YOUR HOME!

IN THIS ISSUE OF SECLITE, WE HOPE TO INSPIRE YOU TO LIVE GREEN – STARTING WITH AN INFORMATIVE Q&A WITH OUR CHAIRMAN, MS ISABELLA LOH, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MS JEN TEO. READ ON AS THEY SHARE HANDY TIPS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED ON YOUR GREEN JOURNEY!

Q: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO LEAD A GREENER LIFESTYLE?

Isabella: It began at a young age, when it was necessary to reuse discarded bottles and tins to store food. Back then people used much less plastic packaging. Today, when I visit an electronics shop, I would remove most of the packaging from the product and return it to the store for disposal. I do the same when I purchase cosmetics and beauty products. Hopefully, this will help retailers and manufacturers to realise how much packaging they use, and take action to reduce waste.

Q: CAN YOU SHARE A FEW ECO-FRIENDLY LIFEHACKS WITH OUR READERS?

Isabella: Wish to make full use of tube-based products like creams? Cut the top of the tube and be sure to empty it before you throw it away. This simple trick works for day-to-day items like cosmetic products and lotions. Save every drop and reduce waste!

You can also reduce waste by buying items in smaller sizes or with smaller packaging. For example, avoid buying 1.5 litre water bottles or sauces in large portions if you can't finish them. We may feel inclined to buy in bulk to save money, but cheaper isn't necessarily better or greener as you discard them once they expire.

Jen: There are plenty of easy ways to live a little greener, and most ideas cost little to no money. For example, you can start by replacing your chemical cleaners and funky air fresheners with essential oils. This works especially if you love to DIY recipes, and there are plenty available online.

Another quick tip – which takes only about 10 minutes of your time – is to stop junk mail. Review your existing subscriptions and opt out of mailers you no longer need. You'll be saving paper, fuel and other resources used in producing and mailing unwanted catalogues.



THE GREEN JOURNEY

DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

An increasing number of companies are making sustainability part of their business model.

One company at the forefront of green business is **Samwoh Corporation Pte Ltd.** From its humble beginnings as a logistic company in 1975, Samwoh has grown to become a market leader in civil and infrastructure construction. In the early 2000s, its management decided that innovation and sustainability was the way forward for the firm – and thus began Samwoh’s green journey.

A winner of the **SEC-SETSCO Singapore Environmental Achievement Award (Manufacturing)** in 2016, Samwoh invested in a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre and sought new green technologies for use in construction applications.



Samwoh carries out many research studies on green technologies, such as turning wastes like incinerator bottom ash into reusable, sustainable materials for construction.

Besides green technologies, Samwoh implemented numerous measures to further improve its use of resources, helping the company lower its carbon footprint. For example, the adoption of warm-mix technology to produce an asphalt mixture at a lower temperature reduces the firm’s fuel consumption. Environmental policies encourage Samwoh employees to adopt eco-friendly habits and reduce their consumption of energy, water and paper.

Equipped with cutting-edge testing facilities and expertise, Samwoh Innovation Centre successfully turned industrial by-products such as construction and demolition waste and asphalt pavement waste into usable resources for the construction sector. Many of these sustainable materials have been accepted by regulatory bodies and are widely adopted by other firms in the industry.



Samwoh seeks to nurture the next generation of 'green warriors' through collaborations with schools on internships and student research projects.

Dr Ho Nyok Yong, Chief Operating Officer of Samwoh shared: “Our accomplishments in leading the green transformation of the construction sector have opened up a new chapter in our green journey. At the same time, it has marked a significant milestone for sustainable development in Singapore. We believe that if everyone plays the role of a responsible community member, our nation will become a truly zero-waste nation with a future where nothing goes to waste.”