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Media Release



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News Editor

YOUTHS IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT GAIN TESTBED AND MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR ZERO WASTE INNOVATIONS

- New testbed initiative for youths to test-drive their zero waste ideas and scale up successful projects on NUS campus and in the wider community
- 16th year of Clean Up South West! continues amidst the Covid-19 pandemic to keep championing and raising awareness on environmental sustainability
- A series of Green Conversations @ South West to facilitate understanding of environmental issues



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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bYafKhRT3Rwasp3o56H4ulp-8LleXIPw?usp=sharing>

Youths in the South West District will soon be able to tap on a new initiative to promote zero waste in the community and further the nation's agenda of reducing waste. The initiative, coined **Zero Waste Testbed Initiative @ South West**, is a collaboration among the South West Community Development Council (CDC), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and SembWaste Pte Ltd (SembWaste).

2 The new Zero Waste Testbed Initiative @ South West supports tertiary students and young alumni from NUS¹ in helping their zero waste solutions come to life. The youths can apply for funding up to \$10,000 per project, benefit from mentorship and evaluation expertise from all three partners, and receive guidance in project implementation and expansion. The support provided will enable participating youths to pilot and refine their proof-of-concepts on the NUS campus and scale up successful projects in the wider community.

3 This initiative is part of the South West CDC's efforts under the Sustainable South West masterplan² to cultivate a zero-waste mindset in the community, and complements the national agenda to move towards a zero-waste nation. The initiative is also a platform for the CDC to rally and engage youths in the sustainability journey and tap on youth dynamism to propel the progress towards zero waste.

4 Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District, said, "With their keen interest in sustainability, our youths are key change agents who can bring us closer to achieving zero waste. Through this collaboration with NUS and SembWaste, we hope more youths will join us in co-creating zero-waste solutions for the community. They will have the chance to test-bed their ideas and turn them into reality. In doing so, the youths will play a direct role in tackling wastage and shaping a sustainable

¹ Every project testbedded on NUS campus under the Zero Waste Testbed Initiative @ South West should involve at least one NUS student/ NUS young alumni as a pre-requisite.

² The Sustainable South West masterplan is the South West District's 10-year sustainability blueprint and aims to nurture a greener, more liveable district. One of the five goals of the masterplan is 'Our Zero Waste Journey'.

future for our district. This young generation will become a crucial driving force to realising the Sustainable South West masterplan in years to come.”

5 "SembWaste is committed to doing our part to build an environmental sustainability eco-system to help our nation move towards zero waste. We support this meaningful initiative as it nurtures a community of sustainability-conscious youths to create practical innovations towards a greener future. It is also in line with SembWaste's interest in test-bedding innovative sustainable solutions to do more to turn trash to treasure," said Mr Neo Hong Keat, Managing Director, SembWaste.

6 Mr Chew Chin Huat, Senior Director from NUS University Campus Infrastructure, said, “This initiative provides a unique platform for NUS students and young alumni to testbed their proof-of-concept projects on campus, and at the same time be mentored by the partners involved in the initiative. We look forward to seeing them put into practice some of the interdisciplinary skills imbued in the NUS curricula as they come up with innovative, effective and sustainable zero-waste solutions that will benefit both the community and industry.”

Clean Up South West! goes hybrid-virtual for the 1st time in 16 years

7 The Zero Waste Testbed Initiative @ South West was launched today at Clean Up South West! 2021, the South West CDC's flagship environmental programme and annual recycling drive, which was held in a hybrid-virtual manner for the first time in 16 years. Residents tuned in to the interactive booths and workshops, as well as the main stage programme, from the safety of their homes.

8 The recycling drive remained a physical engagement but with safe distancing measures in place. More than 100 collection points have been set up across the district where residents can deposit their recyclables, such as clothes and paper, in exchange for groceries. In support of the zero waste movement, residents also brought their electronic waste (e-waste) to selected collection points. Held from 16 to

30 Jan 2021, the recycling drive has garnered **23 tonnes of paper and clothes**, and **almost 1,000 kg of e-waste**.

Green Conversations @ South West under the Sustainable South West masterplan

9 One of the highlights of the virtual programme was a live discussion on one-time use disposables. The youth participants, who are also sustainability advocates, shared their views on whether the 'carrot' or the 'stick' approach was more effective in motivating people to reduce their use of disposables. This session was part of Green Conversations @ South West, a series of dialogue sessions held under the Sustainable South West masterplan to facilitate the community's understanding of important environmental issues and ideas. These Green Conversations will be held twice a year and engage targeted groups in the community.

10 For more information, please contact our media liaison officer below.

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About the South West Community Development Council

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West

CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".
