



MEDIA RELEASE

From Clutter to Creation: Young Minds Tackle Big Waste

*The Public Hygiene Council Inspires Youths to Rethink and Reuse
to Reduce Bulky Waste Littering*

SINGAPORE, 27 OCTOBER 2024 – Demonstrating a blend of creativity and sustainability, the Public Hygiene Council's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024 finals took place this morning at South Beach Tower, coinciding with quarterly SG Clean Day.

2 For the second year running, the Public Hygiene Council (PHC) – in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and J.O.E Eco Alliance – has organised the innovative Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition, with the objective of challenging young minds to transform unwanted bulky waste into new functional items. The competition is open to secondary school students nationwide, and aims to help youths to understand the impact of improper disposal of common bulky items, and inspire them to explore innovative ways to repurpose and reuse these valuable resources.

Bulky Waste Littering

3 Despite all Town Councils offering residents free removal services for up to three items monthly, the improper disposal of bulky waste remains a persistent issue at HDB housing estates. Many residents are unaware that abandoning large furniture items at common areas – such as void decks and lift landings – constitutes littering. This lack of awareness contributes to the ongoing problem of bulky waste cluttering shared spaces within residential communities.

4 Improperly discarded bulky waste creates several hazards. It is unsightly and detracts from the aesthetic appeal of communal areas. More importantly, such abandoned items can become breeding habitats for pests, thus posing public health risks. Furniture made of flammable materials presents a fire hazard, endangering residents' safety. Additionally, bulky waste left at common areas may obstruct evacuation routes, hindering residents' ability to exit safely during emergency situations.

5 PHC will continue educating the public on proper bulky waste disposal, working with Town Councils and grassroots organisations to raise awareness of removal options, including free monthly services for HDB residents, and fee-based collection for private estate residents by private collectors.

Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024

6 To promote sustainable waste management, PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition encourages participants to repurpose unwanted bulky waste. This year's run of the competition was launched in May 2024, and has attracted a significant increase in participation – with 68 entries from 13 schools in 2024, compared to around 30 entries from



eight schools in 2023. This highlights the growing interest among Singapore's youth in upcycling and sustainable waste management.

7 To support participants in their design process, an in-person workshop was conducted by furniture designer partners of PHC. This workshop equipped participants with valuable knowledge, techniques and tips, for creating effective designs.

8 Participants of the 10 shortlisted entries were subsequently invited to work with expert industry partners to bring their designs to life, transforming them into functional new pieces of furniture. A panel of distinguished judges selected the winners this morning. The completed furniture pieces will be on display at South Beach Tower Lobby from 19 October to 15 November 2024. They will also be showcased at the Sustainable Christmas Market at South Beach Walkway from 16 to 17 November 2024.

Celebrating Innovation and Environmental Stewardship

9 Guest of Honour, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, presented prizes to the following competition winners:

Winners of PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024

Award	Project Title	Designer / School
1st Prize (\$750 cash)	Play Haven Table	Team SST (Gedeon Koh, Tessa Lee & Rykiel Han) School of Science and Technology, Singapore
2nd Prize (\$500 cash)	SOFY-SOFA	Tai Bei Ni Bedok Green Secondary School
3rd Prize (\$300 cash)	GreenCanvas Cabinet	Team Kyra and Natasha (Kyra Seow Kai Hui & Natasha Lee Shuen Lin) Raffles Girls' School
Merit Prizes (\$100 each)	Mobile Guitar and Masterpiece Holder	Siva Ganesh Raman Greenridge Secondary School
	Baobab Accessory Holder	NAZ Design (Advaith Karthikeyan, Dhandhanian Nivan Pankaj & Tham Zi Him) Temasek Secondary School

10 The following five new furniture pieces have since been adopted by community partners, to be placed at their premises to benefit residents and users:

Adopters of Furniture Pieces

S/N	Furniture	Adopter
1	'Sofy-Sofa' by Bedok Green Secondary School	Bedok Bunga Merah RC For their upcoming Community Library
2	'Bookstamp' by Greenridge Secondary School	
3	'GreenCanvas Cabinet' by Raffles Girls' School	New Life Community Services For their Active Aging Centres
4	'Indoor Urban' by Kranji Secondary School	
5	'Guitar Storage' by Greenridge Secondary School	

11 Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council, said, "Witnessing the creativity and ingenuity of this year's participants was truly inspiring. Their dedication to upcycling and sustainability reflects the potential of our youths to lead the way in environmental stewardship. At the Public Hygiene Council, we believe in empowering young minds to take an active role and cultivate a sense of responsibility for our environment. The Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition not only showcases their creativity, but also instils a passion for sustainable living. By transforming discarded furniture into functional new items, these students will help inspire others to rethink waste management and embrace a greener future."

12 Mr Kenneth Lee, Director of the Character and Citizenship Branch, Ministry of Education, added, "The Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition has seen double the number of entries from students from more schools this year, reflecting a rising enthusiasm for sustainable practices and creative problem-solving among our youths. By fostering critical thinking, innovation and community engagement, we are equipping the next generation with the right skills and mindset needed to become responsible stewards of our planet."

13 For more information on PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024, please refer to the Annexes or visit the PHC website at: <https://www.publichygienecouncil.sg>.

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