



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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About The Public Hygiene Council (PHC)



The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) was formed in 2011 to help raise standards of public hygiene and cleanliness in Singapore. The Council, comprising representatives from the public and private sectors, galvanises and leads ground-up community and industry initiatives to help keep Singapore clean. PHC also complements the Government's education and enforcement efforts, to maintain high standards of public hygiene and cleanliness.



About SG Clean Day



Launched in April 2021, SG Clean Day is a time when all 17 Town Councils and partners cease sweeping at selected areas of participating housing estates, public parks, attractions, reservoirs, shopping malls and transport nodes for a day, to highlight the amount of litter there will be when we go without cleaners. Community groups are also encouraged to take action and organise clean-up activities on this quarterly occasion, to encourage everyone to take personal responsibility in keeping our public spaces clean and to appreciate our cleaners more.



ANNEX A



TOP 10 ENTRIES – BULKY WASTE TO WONDER COMPETITION 2024

S/N	Team	School	Design Title	Description	Image
1	Tai Bei Ni	Bedok Green Secondary School	SOFY-SOFA	Using SCAMPER as inspiration to create an integrated solution for versatile seating and standing.	
2	Siva Ganesh Raman	Greenridge Secondary School	Mobile Guitar and Masterpiece Holder	This project aimed to transport guitars to elderly music lovers, repurposing a meeting table for a new life. Inspired by a passion for model vehicles, the design maximised limited space, allowing for multiple viewing angles. The hope is that this creation brings joy and music to seniors.	

3	Chong Haw Yang	Greenridge Secondary School	Guitar Storage	<p>This design repurposed a neglected fixed wooden table, featuring rounded edges for safety and a comfortable grip. Reusing furniture parts reduces material waste and allows for easy repairs with wooden planks. Equipped with wheels for mobility, it also conveniently holds a guitar, combining functionality and sustainability.</p>	
4	Liu Chang Yuxi	Greenridge Secondary School	Bookstamp	<p>This shorter bookshelf caters to those who struggle with height or back issues. Repurposed from a table, it features a unique 45-degree design inspired by a door stopper. Ideal for all ages, especially the elderly, it offers a stylish and accessible way to decorate and organise any space.</p>	

5	SZC (Sio Zi Ting, Ong Shi Ying & Chloe Chan Hsuen Wen)	Kranji Secondary School	Space Saving Study (SSS)	The Space Saving Study design offers a compact desk, chair, and storage for students in one-room flats. This solution aims to create a comfortable study environment, making learning accessible for those in low-income households with limited space.	
6	Eco Friendly (Jeya and Alya)	Kranji Secondary School	Indoor Urban	Transformed a cabinet into a functional planting station, allowing students to grow plants wherever they choose. With a connected water tank and sprinkler, daily watering is no longer necessary, making plant care easier for everyone.	

7	<p>Team Kyra and Natasha (Kyra Seow Kai Hui & Natasha Lee Shuen Lin)</p>	Raffles Girls' School	GreenCanvas Cabinet	<p>GreenCanvas Cabinet, inspired by Kyra's grandmother and the Swiss Army Knife, offers a well-organized storage solution for artists. Combining functionality with sustainability, it features a drying space, safe curved corners, and cheerful colours, promoting the joy and easy access to tools and materials for seniors.</p>	
8	<p>Team SST (Gedeon Koh, Tessa Lee & Rykiel Han)</p>	School of Science and Technology, Singapore	Play Haven Table	<p>The Play Haven Table revives connections in a digitally distracted world. Inspired by Singapore's waning "kampong spirit," it transitions from dining to games, encouraging shared experiences. By facilitating spontaneous gatherings, it fosters community cohesion and unity, promoting mental health and reinforcing the importance of communal living.</p>	

9	<p>Team YTD (Daen Lau Peet Woon, Lee Yih Neng & Teo Tian Shan)</p>	<p>Temasek Secondary School</p>	<p>The Magic Stairs</p>	<p>Inspired by their grandparents' struggles with high surfaces and storage, the team designed a solution to enhance accessibility and provide additional space for essentials like medications and personal items.</p>	
10	<p>NAZ Design (Advait Karthikeyan, Dhandhanian Nivan Pankaj & Tham Zi Him)</p>	<p>Temasek Secondary School</p>	<p>Baobab Accessory Holder</p>	<p>Inspired by a crib-turned-accessory holder, the team created its version by transforming a table into a unique storage solution. Named "Baobab" after the tall, sturdy tree, this product reflects durability and their commitment to sustainability while offering an eco-friendly way to organise accessories.</p>	

ANNEX B

TRANSLATION GLOSSARY

English	Chinese
Public Hygiene Council	公共卫生理事会
Public Hygiene Council Chairman Mr Andrew Khng	公共卫生理事会的主席 安德鲁 康
Public Hygiene Council Executive Director Dr Christina Liew	公共卫生理事会执行理事长 柳倩亭博士
Ministry of Education Director, Character & Citizen Branch Mr Kenneth Lee	教育部 品格与公民教育处处长 李智聪
Quarterly SG Clean Day	季度新加坡清洁日
Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition	“变废为宝” 比赛
Keep Singapore Clean Movement	保持新加坡清洁运动
Year of Public Hygiene	公共卫生之年

ANNEX C

Event Photos

Photo 1



Caption: Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, addressing attendees at PHC's Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition Finals 2024 on 27 Oct 2024.

Photo 2



Caption: Winner of Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024 from the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (Students pictured from left to right: Gedeon Koh, Tessa Lee, Rykiel Han) receiving their award from Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, and Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council.

Photo 3



Caption: Group photo of all finalists of the Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2024, with Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, and Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council.

Photo 4



Caption: Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, viewing the displayed furniture pieces alongside Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council.