

Singapore's Updates on National Regulations and Implementation Status of the Basel Convention

(With a focus on plastic waste management)

6 Nov 2018

Asian Network Workshop 2018, Akita, Japan

Pollution Control Department
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Singapore

Overview

Overview of Singapore's National Regulations

Control of Plastics Wastes under Basel Convention

Singapore's Waste Management Approach

1 Overview of Singapore's National Regulations

Overview of Singapore's National Regulations

Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act

- 16 Mar 1998 - Enacted the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act and its Regulation
- Issuance of Basel permits for export, import and transit of hazardous waste
- Enforcement powers and penalties covered under the Act

Definition of 'Hazardous Waste'

- Waste having any of the characteristics mentioned in Annex III to the Basel Convention; or
- Waste that belongs to any category contained in Annex I to the Basel Convention, unless it does not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III to that Convention; or
- Waste deemed as hazardous by Parties through Notification to the Basel Secretariat
- Include household wastes and residues from incineration of household wastes, but exclude radioactive and ship-borne wastes

Maximum Penalty under the Act

- For body corporate, S\$300,000
- For individual, S\$100,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both

2 Control of Plastics Wastes under Basel Convention

Basel Convention's Current Classification of Plastic Waste

- Currently, plastic waste is listed in Annex IX of the Basel Convention.
- Wastes in **Annex IX** are not regarded as hazardous waste, unless they contain waste stream/ constituents (as per **Annex I**) to an extent causing them to exhibit hazardous characteristics listed in **Annex III**.
- For plastic waste with no hazardous characteristics, its transboundary movements are currently not subjected to control (i.e. PIC procedure) under the Basel Convention.

Singapore is keeping a close watch on the developments on the proposals to control plastic waste under Basel Convention, to ensure Singapore's compliance to the Basel Convention and prepare our local industry for the changes.

3 Singapore's Waste Management Approach

Waste Management Strategies in Singapore



Waste Minimisation / Prevention

Right-price waste disposal services
Promote efficient use of resources in production processes



Recycling

Maximise resource recovery from waste
Adopt viable & efficient recycling methods for environmental sustainability



Waste-to-Energy / Volume Reduction

Adopt innovative technologies to maximise energy recovery,
and minimise land-take & ash residue



Landfill

Minimise landfilling demand and maximise landfill lifespan

Waste Minimisation / Prevention

Some of the implemented initiatives include :

Singapore Packaging Agreement

- Voluntary industry-government platform to promote packaging waste 3Rs
- Promote logo with for products with reduced packaging
- Introduce mandatory requirements by 2021

Mandatory Waste Reporting

- Large hotels & malls are required by law to submit waste disposal and recycling data, waste reduction plans & targets since 2015
- Work with hotels and malls to improve their waste management practices

Disallowed Use of Disposables for Dine-in

- Disallowed the use of disposables for dine-in at new hawker centres
- Continuously working with stakeholders to encourage the use of reusables

Recycling

Recycling of Domestic Wastes

Some of the implemented initiatives include :



National Recycling Programme (NRP)

10,000 Recycling Bins
HDB estates

- 1 660L Recycling Bin per HDB block
- 1 120L Recycling Bin per landed unit



Mandatory

recycling receptacles for all condominiums

100% Schools recycling corner programme

Dual Chutes for General Waste and Recyclables



Increased convenience in recycling

All new public housing launched from 2014 are to be fitted with dual chutes (for refuse and recyclables).

From 1 April 2018, all new non-landed private residential developments taller than four storeys will also be required to provide dual chutes for refuse and recyclables.

Recycling



Outreach to Community

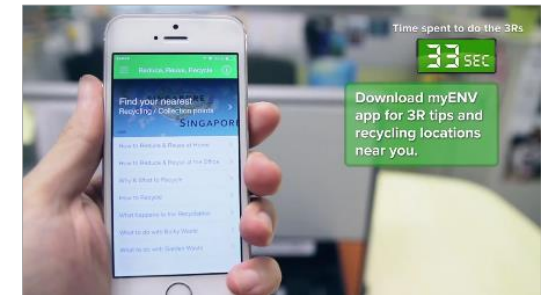
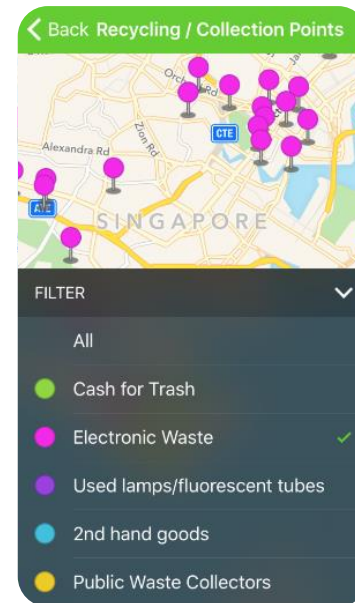
Some of the implemented initiatives include :

Outreach collaterals to educate consumers and increase domestic recycling

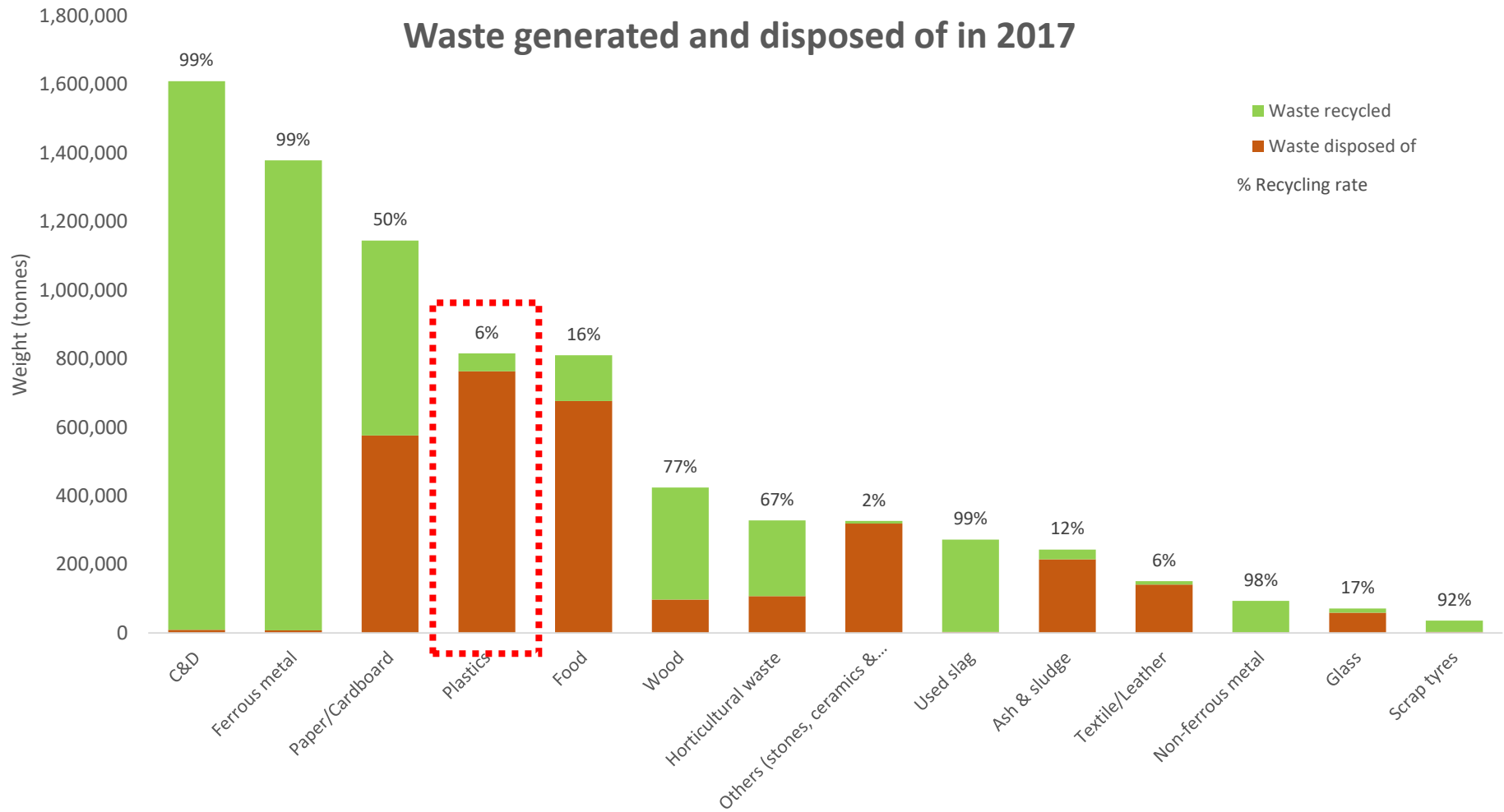


Posters, fridge magnets, online media to demonstrate how easily 3R can be incorporated into our daily lives

Location of e-waste collection points and cash for trash stations can also be found on the **'myENV'** mobile app



Recycling Rate



Challenges Faced in Plastic Waste Management

Increasing Amount of Plastic Waste Generated

- Prevalent use of plastics including single-use plastics (disposables) due to convenience, protection of products, prevention of cross contamination of food items, etc.
- Excessive plastic packaging materials used

Low Economic Viability of Plastic Recycling

- Contamination of recyclables with food waste makes recycling less economically viable
- Limitation in current recycling technologies to process multi-material packaging / mixed-types of plastics
- High costs associated with manpower, land space, time and effort for manual sorting, etc

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