

RECYCLING AT YOUR DOORSTEPS

Or rather, at the pantry nearest to your room. Close enough.

Taking initiative

Imagine yourself finishing a bottle of soda, or unwrapping your parcel in your room. You'd probably know what you ought to do with the empty bottle or unwrapped cardboard - to recycle it, rather than disposing them at the general waste.

The problem? The nearest recycling bin may be four floors downstairs.

The glaring lack of recycling bins around Pioneer House was noticed by a group of residents, who thought that it was especially odd for recycling to be so inconvenient here.

And they had a plan to change it - by setting up recycling bins in the one place most accessible by clusters - the pantry.

The plan was simple and importantly, economical. Using connectors and cable ties, metal grids were tied together to form frames, on which recycling bags would be fitted on to form makeshift bins.

The proposal was submitted and vetted by the management, and before long, the plan kicked off at the start of Semester 2.



The set up of the recycling bin at one of the pantries. (Photo: Brian)

A pilot experiment

At the current stage, the team is setting up the bins at selected pantries, namely pantries of 22/4, 23/B1, 23/1, 23/2, 23/5 and 25/2.

Two categories of recyclables are collected as of now, namely plastic and paper. Instructions and infographics detailing the types of waste collected are laminated and posted near the recycling bin for further clarification.

By monitoring the recycling bin regularly, the team aims to gauge how



Infographic used to inform residents on types of recyclables accepted.

frequent the recycling bin is utilized and subsequently, assess responses of residents towards the presence of recycling bins in pantries.

Future prospects

While the experiment is planned to last for a month, the initiative does not stop there.

By assessing the results of the experimental phase, the team will study the viability of scaling up the program to more pantries - and to involve more like-minded people to join in the team.

There were also discussions on plans to reuse recyclables as decorations or household items like makeshift pots.

Ultimately, the team had one goal in mind: to foster a recycling culture here at PH.



The F&S Programs committee. (Photo: Zhi Ting)

Our F&S team share their thoughts from this semester:

- Outing activities were well participated! Activities like the Little Farms Outing & Labrador Park Nature Walk provided residents with a chance to experience nature. We are glad to see residents engage in such interactive ways while enjoying the natural scenery!

- A positive change in the garden Since resuming of gardening IG this semester, residents have made great efforts to make the garden a better place during Wednesday and Saturday sessions.

- Chong Xern Hu

- Newsletter and Biweekly post Since AY 2022/2023, we started biweekly PH F&S posts and monthly Newsletters, and this is a great effort intending to spread awareness about F&S among residents.

- Duocai

PH F&S through the semester

As we look forward to the next semester, let's wrap up what we did last academic semester.

We gathered some of our student leaders in F&S and asked about their reflections of the semester! We wanted to know how much we had achieved thus far, and their aspirations for the upcoming semester.

"We are planning for more long-term initiatives, as well as more collaborations." ~ Claire (F&S Director)

Coming up this semester, the F&S team is committing to:

- More long-term initiatives and collaborations across organizations - Claire
- Spreading the awareness of F&S to more residents - Duo Cai
- Organizing new initiatives for more residents to attend - Zhi Ting
- Creating spaces and opportunities for like-minded residents to hang out and engage each other on the F&S focus - Ivan

"We hope that F&S will continue to spread its impact to more residents." ~ Duocai (F&S Vice-Director)

A walk into the woods

It was a sunny morning, and we embraced the warm November sun and the humidity of the tropical rainforest in Singapore. Our recent escapade to Labrador Park brought a group of 21 students together in the midst of the recess week. It was an eye-opening experience for many of us to explore this nature park for the first time. Looking for some de-stressing, we immersed ourselves in the greens and took a 2-hour break from our hectic academic stress, walking through the "trails of tranquility", chit-chatting about student life, and enjoying the serenity of sea breeze.



Pioneer House Residents explore Labrador Park. (Photo: Brian)



Fashion Swap - We're open this sem!

The Fashion Swap AY 23/24 has been an ongoing initiative for the last semester! Kudos to everyone for your clothing donations!

If your cabinet is still full of clothes - with some being underutilized - you may consider donating to us in Semester 2! New clothes may seem fashionable, but it often comes with a higher cost to our planet. Fret not! Pioneer House F&S will continue this Fashion Swap virtual platform, where residents can opt to trade in their old clothes for other clothes posted on the channel.

In addition, look forward to a physical fashion swap event happening later in the semester, where you can get a fresh new look for your wardrobe for free just by swapping your underutilized clothes!

Looking forward to seeing you this semester! Watch this space!

Sustainability events this month

Event	Date	Find out more:
PH F&S Beach Clean Up	17 Feb	https://forms.office.com/r/B7A9hMHv09
World Wildlife Day Regional Youth Symposium	24 & 25 Feb	https://go.gov.sg/wwd2024signup
Community Photography Exhibition on the Birds of the Singapore Botanic Gardens - submission period	Until 29 Feb	https://go.gov.sg/birdsofsbg
Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative	Registration by 29 Feb	https://hitachi.asia/hyli/2024/index.html
CDL-GCNS Young SDG Leaders Award case competition	Registration until 1 March	https://youngsdgleaders.com/