

All schools are encouraged to read the Minister's Message during assembly in April 2019



Over the years, Singapore has put in place an effective and efficient waste management system to safeguard our health and protect our environment. But with economic and consumption growth, we are facing increasing amounts of waste and new challenges.

In 2018, we generated 7.7 million tonnes of waste. At the current rate of waste generation, our only landfill, Semakau Landfill, will run out of space by 2035. Because land and sea space in Singapore is limited, we cannot keep building landfills or incineration plants.

This is why we designated 2019 as our Year Towards Zero Waste – to rally Singaporeans to treasure our resources, and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Right (3Rs).

While the government can lead the way by developing infrastructure and policies to effect change, it will take a whole-of-nation effort to achieve our vision of becoming a Zero Waste Nation. Businesses, civil society groups, schools and individuals all have a role to play in helping to reduce waste. Young people too can make a difference by mobilising friends and family members to practise the 3Rs, and leading ground-up initiatives to drive changes in attitudes and behaviours.

Every positive action counts. Simple habits like buying only the amount of food we can finish, bringing our own reusable bottles, and recycling right can help lengthen the lifespan of Semakau Landfill.

As youths of today and leaders of tomorrow, I hope you can rally the community to care for our environment, and lead by example with your positive actions. Together, we can bring Singapore closer to becoming a Zero Waste Nation.

I wish you a happy Youth for the Environment Day 2019!

Mr Masagos Zulkifli
Minister for the Environment and Water Resources