

All schools are encouraged to read the Minister's Message during assembly in April 2018



Take Climate Action for a Sustainable Future

In January, we experienced flash floods in Singapore caused by intense rainfall. Last year, we had the warmest non El-Nino year on record. Such erratic weather patterns are due to climate change and could become more frequent and severe.

Singapore has designated 2018 as our Year of Climate Action. Our national goal is to reduce carbon emissions intensity by 36 percent, with the aim of stabilising our carbon emissions by 2030. Climate change is caused by the excessive emission of greenhouse gases, in particular, carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is released mainly through the burning of fossil fuels to generate the electrical energy we need to power many of our everyday activities. We can take daily action to reduce our carbon footprint.

Everyone can Play a Part

Everyone must play their part to fight climate change. We can start by reducing waste, and saving energy and water. Simple acts like buying only what we need, sorting recyclables from non-recyclables and bringing them to the recycling bins may be small steps, but they can lead to big changes for our environment. We can also recycle e-waste such as laptops and mobile phones by placing them in designated e-waste bins. Waste that is not recycled is incinerated. This means a loss of resources and the release of carbon emissions that contribute to global

warming and climate change. Switching off the lights after use and setting air-conditioners at 25 degrees Celsius also help to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.

Our collective efforts can have a great impact. We can take a pledge for climate action (*available at www.mewr.gov.sg/climateaction*). We can spread climate action messaging through social media by using the hashtag #ClimateActionSG or share climate action stories and photos on the Climate Action SG blog (<http://climateaction.sg/>). I also encourage everyone to participate in school and community activities that promote energy and water conservation as well as waste reduction.

Conclusion

As youths, you have an important role to play to care for our environment. We only have one planet. Let us take climate action to ensure a sustainable future.

I wish you a happy Youth for the Environment Day 2018!

Mr Masagos Zulkifli
Minister for the Environment and Water Resources