



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Inspiring Youths to Rethink, Reuse to Reduce Bulky Waste Littering

Singapore, **Sunday, 29 October 2023** – In conjunction with the quarterly SG Clean Day, the finals of the Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2023 was held this morning at the National Gallery Singapore. Organised by the Public Hygiene Council (PHC), in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and J.O.E Eco Alliance, this competition aims to unleash creativity and imagination of youths to redesign and repurpose unwanted bulky furniture into functional items.

Bulky Waste Littering

2 Even though all the Town Councils provide their residents with free removal services monthly, improper disposal of bulky waste is still a common sight in housing estates. Many residents are not aware that disposing of bulky furniture in the common areas of housing estates is an act of littering.

3 Improperly discarded bulky furniture are unsightly and may become a breeding ground for pest infestation, which could pose a public health hazard. Bulky furniture that were made of flammable materials can also cause fire, which would endanger the residents. Improper disposal of bulky waste can cause obstruction to residents if they need to evacuate in times of emergency.

4 The PHC will continue to educate the public on the proper disposal of bulky waste, and work closely with the Town Councils and grassroots organisations to raise broader awareness of the available avenues for the removal of bulky items. For instance, residents in HDB estates could contact their respective Town Councils for details of the free removal services provided monthly. Private estate residents may engage the public waste collector serving their estate to remove the bulky items for a fee.

Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2023

5 Before bulky waste items, like old furniture items are discarded, it is also good to consider if they could be repurposed and reused. The Bulky Waste to Wonder competition aimed to highlight such options. The competition commenced in August 2023, and attracted close to thirty entries from eight secondary schools. To help the participants kickstart their design process, a design workshop was conducted so that the students could learn from industry partners on how to design furniture, the ergonomics, material characteristics and colour psychology.

6 Participants of five shortlisted entries were subsequently invited to work with industry partners to turn their designs into tangible furniture. A panel of judges then selected the top winners of the competition this morning. These masterpieces would be on display at the National Gallery Singapore till Thursday, 2 November 2023, before being roved to other events and locations for exhibition.

7 Our Guest of Honour, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment presented prizes to the winners of the competition. The winners are:

Winners of the Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2023

1 st Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huang Jing Chun • Kalum Arthur Gomes • So Jayden Riley Uy 	Unity Secondary School
2 nd Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miteria Athena Stephanie Gomez 	Canberra Secondary School
3 rd Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyra Seow • Natasha Lee 	Raffles Girl’s School
Merit Prizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachele Lim Wen Xuan 	Canberra Secondary School
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aryan Mehra • Gedeon Koh Jing Yi • Tessa Lee Jin En 	School of Science and Technology, Singapore

8 Mr Andrew Khng, Chairman of the Public Hygiene Council said “We were greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of the participants. The entries demonstrated their creativity and provided the opportunity for them to go through an intricate planning process with the field experts. Through this competition, we hope to encourage the youths to rethink the use of old bulky furniture, find ways to reuse them so that we can reduce the acts of bulky waste littering at public spaces.”

9 “We were glad to see students taking part in the competition enthusiastically. The Bulky Waste to Wonder competition is a good initiative that encourages students to learn about the complexity of environmental sustainability, and at the same time empowers them to develop solutions to environmental issues using their creativity and innovation. We believe that this will help cultivate a sense of ownership and independent thinking in our future generations,” said Mr Kenneth Lee, Director, Character & Citizen Branch, Ministry of Education.

10 “The Bulky Waste to Wonder competition promotes the concept of recycling and upcycling used furniture to the general public and inspires the younger generation to turn waste into treasures through creative thinking and wisdom. Upcycling and repurposing will undoubtedly become the most popular low-carbon lifestyle worldwide. It will contribute to extending the useful life of the planet’s finite natural resources, preserving ecological balance, encouraging sustainable development, and promoting the harmonious development of the

economy, environment, and society. Additionally, it will raise public awareness of environmental protection and inspire people to acknowledge the importance of environmental conservation, which will have an incalculable impact,” said Mr Joe Ogawa, Chairman, JOE Eco Alliance.

For more information on the Bulky Waste to Wonder Competition 2023, please refer to the annexes below or visit the PHC’s official website at: <https://www.publichygienecouncil.sg>

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About Public Hygiene Council:

The Public Hygiene Council (PHC) was formed in 2011 to help raise standards of 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. The PHC also complements the government's education and enforcement efforts to maintain high standards of personal and public cleanliness and hygiene. For more information, visit www.publichygienecouncil.sg.

About SG Clean Day:

Launched in April 2021, the SG Clean Day is a time where all 17 Town Councils and partners cease sweeping at selected areas of participating housing estates, public parks, attractions, reservoirs, shopping malls, 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 public spaces clean, and appreciate our cleaners more.