

Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District,
Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for coming this morning. We all believe in conserving, in reducing, recycling, as well as reusing whatever waste or extra products that we use in our everyday life. I am glad that ECo Day Out has turned out to be a regular engagement with residents coming together, not just to share our values but also to share knowledge.

2 This initiative is definitely commendable, and as Mayor had mentioned earlier – this is the eleventh time where South West has won the Clean and Green Singapore Best Community Achievement award. Congratulations!

3 South West district has convened a ten-year environmental and community engagement, sustainability masterplan. I think this is wonderful. It started in 2009, and it has since raised awareness among residents on how to make very simple adjustments in their daily habits so that they not only save the environment, but also in the process save money. We all know that we need to protect the environment together and it requires the; collective action from everybody.

4 One area that I hope all of us should be cognizant of is the need to reduce our waste. As we produce more and more waste, we have to also find ways to dispose of the waste. In 2014, we disposed of 1.74 million tonnes of domestic waste. If we keep at this rate, we will soon run out of space in our landfill.

5 Therefore, we have to learn to contribute, even in small steps, to reduce our waste so that our land space is used for wisely. One of the goals of the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint is to work towards becoming a Zero Waste Nation.

6 ECo Day Out is already a movement, and what I am asking of you today is to make it a culture. This means you do not do this just once a year, but you make it a way of life. That is a challenge that all of us in Singapore must overcome. Despite our affluent lifestyles, we should care and protect our environment for our loved ones and our children.

7 Thank you Yen Ling for putting together the ECO Day Out and raising the awareness amongst the community. Remember, at the end of the day, every small contribution will help us to create a better environment, not just for our children but for ourselves as well.

8 I hope that you will continue to preserve this green movement that you witness in South West, and transform it into a culture so that you will have a green environment which everyone can enjoy.

9 I would like to thank the South West CDC for putting this together, and I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous Lunar New Year ahead.

Thank you.

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