

Recycling takes root

Management committees and local authorities are doing their part to promote eco-friendly practices among residents in Klang Valley strata properties.



Green lifestyle: Anthony and Karen from the Bukit OUG Condominium Residents Association recycling team checking the three drums for the collection of used cooking oil from residents. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

By GRACE CHEN
gracechen@thestar.com.my

A LARGE number of residents in strata properties in the Klang Valley are embracing recycling, thanks to the efforts of various parties.

Among the groups that have introduced the concept is Bukit OUG Condominium Residents Association (Bocra).

It has placed four recycling bins in aid of charity and set up a used cooking oil collection centre at the condominium in Kuala Lumpur.

The initiative is led by Richard Gascoigne, an 80-year-old retiree who is also a member of Malaysian Nature Society.

Joining him are residents Carol Moosdeen, Karen Fairclough-Ng, Anthony Ng and Sam Ng.

"We have placed three drums to collect used cooking oil as well as four recycling bins from Dual Blessing, a social enterprise which caters to the disabled and recovering drug addicts.

"We hope that residents will be inspired by the charity element to recycle," said Gascoigne.

To kick-start the programme, the team organised an event last month to publicise the recycling initiative.

Residents were also encouraged to bring their used cooking oil to be exchanged for cash.

A total of 21 residents attended the event, said Anthony, who is also Bocra secretary.

Additionally, the team placed posters in all the lifts and at some 224 floors in the 14-block condominium to spread the word.

Sam, who is an antiques dealer, is in charge of arranging the collection of items which are not suitable to be placed in the charity recycling bins such as batteries, electrical or electronic devices and glass.

These will be sold and funds will be kept, recorded and distributed by Moosdeen.

All items put into the Dual Blessing bins will go to the organisation. Only those collected by Sam and

the cleaners will be sold.

A decision will be made on the percentage to be allocated between these two parties to ensure they receive a fair share for their efforts in collecting and segregating the recyclables.

The Covid-19 pandemic and movement control order inspired Bocra to set up a team to start a recycling programme for its 5,000 residents, said its joint management body (JMB) office manager Charles Ho.

They wanted to do something to address the volume of rubbish, which had increased by 60% during that period.

"On normal days, the condominium generates about six tonnes of rubbish on a weekly basis.

"This does not include bulk waste like mattresses and furniture.

"With the recycling programme, we hope to raise awareness of proper waste management and reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfills," said Ho.

Under the programme, residents who want to dispose of usable bulky items can call Dual Blessing who will remove them for free.

If they are not usable, a fee will be charged for their removal.

Residents who are not keen to walk to the recycling bins to dispose of their recyclables can separate and place them in individual bags in the rubbish rooms to be removed by the cleaners.

Making it work

For a recycling programme to be sustainable, it must become part of residents' daily lives, said.

Kenanga Flats JMB secretary Khairis Padzilah Salleh.

When the JMB started the recycling programme in 2016 at the residential highrise in Gombak Permai, Batu Caves in Selangor, they organised a funfair.

Food and games could only be accessed by exchanging recyclable items like scrap metal, plastic and tin cans.

> TURN TO PAGE 3

Tangible rewards drive green efforts

> FROM PAGE 1

"The response was fantastic, especially from children who brought things such as old bicycles. By the end of the day, the compound was cleared of rubbish like tin cans and plastic bottles because they had been exchanged for fun-fair coupons," recalled Kharis.

There are 1,200 residents in the 288-unit Kenanga Flats.

Six years on, the recycling programme is still going strong.

Residents are able to offset their monthly maintenance fees by selling the recyclables including used cooking oil.

"Between 2016 and 2021, residents turned in some 12 tonnes of recyclables," said Kharis.

Explaining the mechanics, he said residents would hand in their items at the flats' recycling centre on Sundays.

The items are weighed and coupons with dates and serial numbers are given out to record these transactions.

The value of the recyclables are based on current market prices provided by contractors who will collect the items and pay the recycling centre.

The cash is then handed to the JMB office, which will offset the corresponding amount from residents' maintenance bills.

Extra income from the sale of recyclables is utilised by the JMB to maintain the flats.

On average, the Kenanga JMB is able to earn between RM400 and RM600 a month from the recycling programme.

One of the top contributors to the programme at the flats' is Kameral Baderi Sapuan, who has a business at the Selayang wholesale market.

The bulk of his weekly contributions are cardboard boxes, cans and newspapers.

He is able to collect up to RM15.60 worth of coupons a week. "It's not hard. I read two newspapers a day and drink two cans of an energy drink."

"I also have a lot of cardboard boxes due to my business."

"So, it is just a matter of collecting everything and handing it in at the end of the week," said Kameral.

The coupons presented to the JMB's office are also eligible for lucky draws to win gift hampers.

Kameral said his grandchildren's faces light up every time he brought such a hamper home.

Councils get involved

Playing their part to encourage higher participation in recycling



Following the success of the Bukit OUG Condominium Residents Association's garden club, which has been recycling used egg shells from a bakery, the committee hopes that residents will also give them food waste to be processed into compost to be used at these gardens. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

activities among residents of strata properties are the local authorities.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) introduced its "1 Community, 1 Recycling" (1C1R) programme with the pioneer projects launched on Nov 28, 2020, at PPR Pinggiran Bukit Jalil and PPR Salak Selatan.

A total of 636.18kg of recyclable items, consisting of aluminium cans, paper, plastic and used cooking oil, were collected in return for points that could be redeemed for sugar, flour, cooking oil and condensed milk.

The encouraging response prompted the launch of similar programmes elsewhere in the city.

In March 2021, PPR Seri Alam in Sungai Besi became the pilot site to set up exchange kiosks under the Wilayah Prihatin (Caring Territory) programme.

A similar collect-and-exchange concept was also used when Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) in Selangor began its strata housing recycling programme "Jom Kitar" (Let's Recycle), with the participation of two apartments.

MBSJ Corporate and Strategic Management Department deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said residents could exchange recyclable goods for selected souvenirs.

In 2021, a total of 23 apartments participated in the recycling programme.

MBSJ has placed recycling cabins and bins in apartments premises and organised competitions to encourage more participation.

The total weight of collected



Kameral not only offsets his maintenance bill by recycling, he has bagged several hampers too.

recyclables under the city council's programme from September 2018 to October 2021 was 82,427.34kg.

"Recycling can reduce environmental pollution, preserve ecosystems and save expenditure in terms of tipping fees at landfills," said Azfarizal.

Selangor Municipal Council (MPS) started its strata recycling programme in 2016 with Kenanga Flats, said the local council's Corporate Department deputy director Ahmad Fauzi Ishak.

It has since been expanded to Desa Satu and Dua apartments in Kepong, Julia Flats in Bandar Baru Kelayang Fasa 2, Batai and Jemerlang flats in Selayang

Heights, as well as Selayang Mulia, Selasih Indah and Pinggiran flats in Batu Caves.

"All these strata properties are still active in the programme," said Ahmad Fauzi.

The municipal council will add two more sites to the list this year, he disclosed.

According to MPS, the strata recycling programme was implemented in residential highrises throughout the Selangor through the assistance of the state housing, urban and entrepreneur development committee.

To date, there are a total of 32 strata recycling centres in Selangor.



TRAFFIC MATTERS

> The road closure along Persiaran KLCC (Jalan Binjai), Kuala Lumpur until March 31 is to facilitate the continuation of construction work at the Persiaran KLCC MRT Station, which is part of the MRT Putrajaya Line project. For details, visit the MRT website at www.mymrt.com.my

> There will be road closures and traffic diversions on Jalan Langat, Klang (between Persiaran Batu Nilam 1 and Persiaran Botanik junctions, Klang-bound, and between Jalan Mahogani junction and Shell Bandar Botanik, Banting-bound) to facilitate U-girder launching works and LRT3 project-related works from now until Feb 28 (Monday to Sunday) from 10pm to 5am.

PLOGGING ACTIVITY

The public can now organise their own plogging activity with Federal Territories Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp). Register a group of 10 people with the agency and choose date and location. For details, call 019-379 5989 (Normazalina) or 017-731 5344 (Nur Adlina)

BULK WASTE COLLECTION

> Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) is carrying out free collection of bulk waste such as mattresses, beds and home appliances in conjunction with the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations. The collection is taking place now until Jan 31 by KDEB Waste Management. Prior arrangements need to be made. Call 03-8081 4473 or 011-3558 4437.

> Petaling Jaya folk can discard bulk waste before Chinese New Year on Jan 29 where collection will take place at PJS3, SS25, Bandar Utama 7 and 10 as well as SD10. For details, call 012-959 5692 (Qusyairi), 011-3776 2497 (Raimy), 012-353 9666 (Khaslan) or 017-624 4923 (Fitri). On Jan 30, bulk waste collection will be carried out at PJS10, SS23, SS26 and Bandar Utama 11. For details, call 012-959 5692 (Qusyairi), 011-3776 2497 (Raimy) or 012-353 9666 (Khaslan).

LEGAL AID

The Malaysian Bar through its National Legal Aid Committee with the assistance of the courts will provide disaster-related legal assistance to the public in Kuala Lumpur, Pahang and Selangor. This programme will run until Jan 31, every Monday to Thursday, from 2pm to 4.30pm. Those affected can call the Legal Aid Centres in Kuala Lumpur (03-2691 1121), Selangor (03-5510 7007), Kuala Selangor (03-3281 2428), Kuantan (09-515 9244) and Temerloh (09-296 9410) as well as counters at Kajang Court Complex (03-8733 9794), Klang High Court (03-3375 8400) and Shah Alam Court Complex (03-5510 3543).

CLOTHING SWAP

A clothing swap event to raise funds organised by social enterprise ShareAngel is taking place now until Jan 29 (closed on Mon and Sun), from 10am to 5pm, at ShareAngel HQ, Wisma Basis 15-2, Jalan Tasik Selatan 8, Bandar Tasik Selatan. A swapping fee of RM10 is imposed when clothes are successfully exchanged. Funds raised will be used to support community projects such as delivering pre-loved toys to underprivileged children nationwide. For details, visit www.shareangel.org



Under DBKL's 1C1R programme, residents can exchange unwanted aluminium cans, paper, plastic and used cooking oil in return for points that can be redeemed for daily necessities. — Filepic



Recycling bins presented to Ruselia Flats in Taman Pinggiran Putra, Seri Kembangan in September 2021 as part of MBSJ's Jom Kitar scheme. — Filepic