

PROJECT PROPOSAL

WORKING TO BUILD ZERO WASTE COMMUNITIES

Project Title: Working To Build Zero Waste Communities

Project Initiator: Poon Mei Yi (Malaysia)

Duration: March 2013 - December 2013

Project Area: Petaling Jaya SS2 Morning Market/ Night Market

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Objectives

- Introduce strategies to move the city and community in Malaysia toward a sustainable low waste economy and make the Petaling Jaya SS2 morning market to be zero waste market.
- To achieve waste reduction by planning fiscally to convert the trash into revenue.

Project Strategies

THINK BIG, START SMALL

- Provide guideline to the market users to make the zero waste market success.
- Provide bins for three categories: Recycle, Compost & Trash.
- Volunteers for separating the waste.
- Educate the market users on waste separation at source.

Project Area

Petaling Jaya SS2 Morning Market/ Night Market

Project Budget

1. 5 sets of bins (60 USD per set) – 300 USD
2. Guideline – 100 USD
3. Transportation – 50 USD
4. Communication – 30 USD

5. Miscellaneous – 20 USD

TOTAL = 500 USD

BACKGROUND

In Malaysia, solid waste management (SWM) is one of the most debatable environmental issues. The increase in the country's population and the industrialization of more cities has led to the alarming increase of waste volume due to high material consumption. The changing characteristics of waste have also brought to uncontrolled dumping and overflowing landfills. This is especially significant for many cities in the developing world, where populations and economies are rapidly expanding but the infrastructure necessary to manage the ensuing problems remains inadequate.

The activities associated with the management of solid wastes from the point of generation to final disposal are grouped into six functional elements (Integrated Solid Waste Management):

- i. Waste generation
- ii. Waste handling and separation, storage, and processing at the source
- iii. Collection
- iv. Separation and processing and transformation of solid wastes
- v. Transfer and transport
- vi. Disposal

Waste separation at source is very important before the waste is being collected. When wastes are mixed, they become contaminated and useless, hence needing more strategies and higher costs to manage. If wastes are separated at source, they are more amendable for more effective management strategies such as reusing, recycling, and composting. Besides, materials that are of no use to the present owner could be a resource for another person and fed back into the economy, thus reducing wastage of money and natural resources.

Sadly enough, waste separation at source is not a common concept in Malaysia. It is reported that less than 10% of the country's households separate their waste. A pilot project to encourage waste separation in the home was launched in Putrajaya on 29 August 2008, where a set of 2 mobile garbage bins (green lid for organic waste and grey lid for recyclables) was provided for residents in some areas of Putrajaya.

In order to reduce the amount of waste into the landfill every year, the best solution is to implement the solid waste management based on the waste management hierarchy that give priority to the waste reduction through 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) program. To achieve waste reduction target, it should be encouraged the pursuit of zero waste as a long term goal in order to eliminate waste and pollution in the manufacture, use, storage and recycling of materials.