

A 10-Year Journey for Environmental Sustainability

2002

- NEA is established on 1 July.
- Toilet Upgrading Programme is launched.
- “Singapore, Litter-Free” campaign is launched.
- NEA and the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) introduce voluntary energy labelling for household air-conditioners and refrigerators.
- Energy Audit Scheme is launched.

2003

- District offices are restructured on 1 March to form five regional offices aligned to the same boundaries as CDCs.
- Singapore’s OK campaign is launched to restore public confidence during the SARS crisis.
- NEA’s Call Centre begins operating 24/7. The hotline is changed to 1800-CALL NEA.
- Situation Rooms set up for greater situational awareness and coordination of ground response.
- NEA launches Nowcast, the weather forecast for the next three hours.
- Singapore Dengue Consortium forms under NEA’s lead.
- NEA launches CNG Taxi Monitor Project with Borneo Motors Singapore and CityCab, Comfort Transportation and TIBS Taxis.
- NEA and SEC introduce voluntary fuel economy labelling for passenger cars.
- Singapore Environment Institute is established.
- \$750,000 3P Partnership Fund is launched to provide seed funding for those who wish to initiate environmental projects.

2004

- Adopt-a-School scheme, later renamed Corporate And School Partnership programme, is launched by NEA to reach out to schools.
- NEA’s key 3P outreach programmes, Youth Environment Envoy and Environment Champion programmes, are launched.
- Recycling Day is launched.
- HDB’s 92 wet markets and hawker centres are consolidated under NEA’s purview.
- One-Stop Service Centre at the Environment Building opens.

2005

- Use of ultra-low sulphur diesel is made mandatory.
- Energy Smart Building Labelling Scheme is launched by NEA and the Energy Sustainability Unit of the National University of Singapore.
- \$10 million Energy Efficiency Improvement Assistance Scheme is launched to encourage companies to carry out detailed energy appraisals.
- NEA launches intensive exercises to eradicate vector population during the worst dengue outbreak in Singapore’s history, when cases spike at 700 a week. The trend finally slows down by November 2005.

2006

- Smoking is restricted to designated smoking corners at nearly 7,300 non air-conditioned food shops and 121 hawker centres from 1 July.
- NEA commissions a littering behaviour study.
- New diesel vehicles to comply with Euro IV emission standards with effect from 1 October.
- NEA collaborates with Muaro Jambi Regency to build the regency’s capacity to deal with land and forest fires.
- Intensive Source Reduction Exercise strategy is implemented to reduce population of *Aedes* mosquitoes. Dengue trend is successfully bucked as cases fall to a four-year low of 3,126 cases, a stark contrast to 14,209 cases in 2005.

2007

- Centre for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science (CRPNS) is formed.
- Permissible noise limits for construction sites within 150 m of residential premises are tightened for night-time, Sundays and public holidays.
- Publication on hawker centres, “Singapore Hawker Centres - People, Places, Food”, is launched.
- New Burial System is implemented.
- Public Sector Taking the Lead in Environmental Sustainability Initiative is introduced to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of efficient energy and resource use.
- EcoFriend Award is launched.
- First Semakau Run is held at Semakau Landfill with more than 40 corporations participating to raise funds for environmental NGOs.
- NEA commissions study to understand Singapore’s vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Smoking ban is extended to entertainment outlets.
- Mandatory Energy Labelling Scheme (MELS) is launched.
- Singapore Packaging Agreement is signed by NEA and 32 organisations.
- Bring Your Own Bag Day is launched to encourage the public to use less plastic bags.
- Clean and Green Week is renamed “Clean and Green Singapore” and becomes a year-long event from this year onwards.

2008

- New water quality guidelines for recreational beaches are launched.
- NEA introduces new standards for piped drinking water quality standards.
- \$22 million Grant for Energy-Efficient Technologies (GREET) is established to encourage companies to invest in energy-efficient technologies.
- NEA introduces Design for Efficiency Scheme to encourage investors in new facilities to integrate energy and resource efficiency measures early in the design stage.
- NEA and the Institution of Engineers, Singapore, co-administer the Singapore Certified Energy Manager (SCEM) training programme to develop local expertise in professional energy management. A \$6 million SCEM training grant is introduced.
- \$500,000 grant to promote Clean Development Mechanism projects in Singapore is launched.
- NEA launches 10% Energy Challenge campaign.
- Chikungunya outbreak. NEA successfully curbs the spread.

2009

- Fuel Economy Labelling Scheme (FELS) is implemented for passenger cars and light goods vehicles.
- Sociological study to study littering behaviour is commissioned. The study results in the 2011 publication “Towards a Cleaner Singapore: Sociological Study on Littering in Singapore”.
- Smoking ban is extended to cover children’s playgrounds, markets and exercise areas.
- \$8 million 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Fund is launched to encourage waste minimisation and recycling projects.
- \$15 million Environment Technology Research Programme is launched to develop capabilities in waste management.
- NEA and Microsoft launch Singapore’s first mobile weather service, Weather@SG.
- NEA publishes a commemorative book, “Habitats in Harmony: The Story of Semakau Landfill”, to celebrate Semakau Landfill’s 10th anniversary.
- All new motor vehicles imported for use in Singapore are required to comply with revised noise standards from 1 October onwards.
- Clean and Green Singapore Facebook page is launched.
- NEAsg Twitter is launched.

2010

- Energy Efficiency National Partnership (EENP) is launched with 49 founding partners.
- Oil spill in the Singapore Straits. NEA leads the clean-up of affected coastal areas and steps up environmental monitoring.
- Eco Music Challenge is inaugurated.

2011

- NEA plays a key role in Singapore’s measures to safeguard the country from radioactive contamination following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis.
- NEA’s first mobile phone application, myENV, is launched for smart phone users.
- 3P SYNC Magazine is launched to recognise the efforts and contributions of NEA’s 3P partners, as well as to keep them informed about environmental initiatives in Singapore.
- First Clean and Green Singapore Music Album created by local youths is launched.
- Youth for the Environment Day is launched.
- NEA signs MOU with UK Met Office and repositions its meteorological services to include climate science research.
- EHI is designated a WHO Collaborating Centre for the Reference and Research of Arbovirus and their Associated Vectors.

2012

- Inaugural technical magazine “ENVision” is launched.
- Time-stamping for catered food is mandated.
- A new Energy Conservation Bill is passed in parliament.
- Sites for seven new hawker centres are confirmed.
- New Upper Air Observatory opens. First book on Singapore’s weather, “The Weather and Climate of Singapore”, is launched.
- NEA begins to progressively take over all duties for public cleaning except for housing estates.
- Android version of myENV mobile application is rolled out.
- NEA celebrates 10th anniversary.

GLOSSARY

TERMS

3P Partnership: People-Private-Public Partnership. NEA's outreach strategy to involve the people, private and public sectors in its drive for Singapore's long-term environmental sustainability

***Aedes aegypti*:** Species of mosquito that can spread dengue

Aerodrome: An area, including buildings, installations and equipment, intended to be used for the arrival, departure and surface movement of aircraft

Ambient air quality: Condition of the surrounding air

Chlorophyll-a: The most common type of chlorophyll, a green pigment, present in plants and algae

Climate change: Long-term shift in overall weather conditions over time

Columbaria: Buildings with niches for the placement of cremated ashes

Crematoria: Places where the deceased are cremated

Dengue: Tropical disease caused by virus transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito

Doppler Effect: A shift in the frequency of an electromagnetic or sound wave due to relative movement of the source or the observer

Drizzle: Very small, numerous and uniformly distributed water drops that may appear to float while following air currents

El Niño: A significant increase in sea surface temperature over the eastern and central equatorial Pacific Ocean that occurs at irregular intervals, generally ranging between two to seven years

Endosulfan: A pesticide that has been found to be bioaccumulative and an endocrine disruptor. This pesticide has been included for control under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2011.

***Enterococcus*:** Bacteria found in faeces of humans and warm-blooded animals. Presence of *enterococcus* is an indicator of fecal pollution

Entomologist: A person who studies arthropods, including insects, spiders, ticks, and mites

Epidemiologist: A person who studies the distribution, determinants and control of health-related events in a specified population

Genotype: Genetic make-up of an organism which is used to define the biological population it belongs to

Incineration bottom ash: Remains of waste after it is burned at waste incineration plants

Intensive Source Reduction Exercise: Operation to seek out and destroy actual and potential mosquito breeding sites

Ionising radiation: Energy that can produce ions from atoms or molecules in its path

Knock-on effect: Principle whereby a mishap in one facility sets off a chain reaction of problems in neighbouring facilities

Meteorology: The scientific study of the atmosphere

New Burial System: Engineered crypt system where the deceased are buried in prefabricated concrete crypts that are laid out in grids to allow for a more efficient use of land and make the cemetery plots more accessible to visitors

NEWater: High-grade reclaimed water produced from treated used water that is further purified using advanced membrane technologies and ultra-violet disinfection, making it ultra-clean and safe to drink

Noise Exposure Forecast: Measurement of a community's exposure to aircraft noise

Nowcast: Weather forecast for the next three hours

Numerical weather prediction models: Computer programmes that solve mathematical equations which describe the physics of the atmosphere; used extensively by weather services throughout the world to aid weather forecasting

Particulate matter: Generic term for air pollutants varying in size and composition

Pathogen: Micro-organism – virus, bacterium etc – that can cause disease

pH value: Measure of potential hydrogen in a solution. Pure water is neutral, with a value of about 7 at 25 °C. A lower pH value denotes acidity while a higher one denotes alkalinity

Points Demerit System: A systematic approach to suspend or revoke the licences of retail food establishments. Demerit points are given to hygiene offences based on the severity. Licences are suspended for two weeks upon accumulation of 12 or more demerit points within a 12-month period. Upon the second offence, licences are subjected to four weeks' suspension. After the second suspension, the licences are revoked if there is accumulation of another 12 demerit points within a 12-month period.

Precipitation: Any form of water, whether liquid or solid, that originates in the atmosphere and falls to the Earth's surface

Radiological dispersal device: Weapon designed to spread radioactive material over a large area to terrorise or kill

Rain: Steady precipitation which falls in liquid state from layer clouds

Serotype: A variant of a micro-organism, based on the antigens found on its cell surface, that is used to classify its grouping at the sub-species level

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS): An infectious respiratory disease in humans which is caused by the SARS coronavirus

Shower: Precipitation that falls from a convective cloud; these characteristically start and end suddenly, and undergo rapid change of intensity

'Sumatra' Squall: A line of thunderstorms which forms over Sumatra or the Straits of Malacca and approaches Singapore or Peninsula Malaysia from the northwest, west or southwest depending on the wind direction. These systems are often accompanied by torrential rain and strong gusty winds.

Thermoluminescent Dosimeter: Device that measures levels of ionising radiation exposure by measuring the amount of light emitted from a crystal in the device

Tsunami: A series of enormous waves formed in the sea or near the coast, generated by violent undersea disturbances such as earthquake-induced movement of the ocean floor, landslides and underwater volcanic eruptions

Vector: A living organism carrying a pathogen capable of causing an infection in humans

Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) scheme: A scheme by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in which ships plying the various oceans and seas of the world are recruited for performing, taking and transmitting meteorological observations. These observations form part of WMO's global observation network.

West Nile virus: A flavivirus found in both the tropical and temperate regions transmitted mainly by mosquitoes and can cause meningitis or encephalitis in infected humans

World Meteorological Organization: A specialised agency of the United Nations. It is the United Nations system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

Zoonosis: Any infectious disease that can be transmitted between species (sometimes through a vector) from animals to humans or from humans to animals

ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AVA	Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
BCA	Building and Construction Authority
CCRS	Centre for Climate Research Singapore
CDC	Community Development Council
COPPC	Code of Practice on Pollution Control
CRPNS	Centre for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Science
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
EDB	Economic Development Board
EHI	Environmental Health Institute
EMA	Energy Market Authority
ENV	Ministry of the Environment
HDB	Housing and Development Board
HSA	Health Sciences Authority
HUP	Hawker Centres Upgrading Programme
IBA	Incineration bottom ash
MEWR	Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOH	Ministry of Health
MPA	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
MSS	Meteorological Service Singapore
NEA	National Environment Agency
NEF	Noise Exposure Forecast
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PRCS	Pneumatic Refuse Conveyance System
PSI	Pollutant Standards Index
PUB	Public Utilities Board
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SCDF	Singapore Civil Defence Force
SEI	Singapore Environment Institute
TSIP	Tuas South Incineration Plant
URA	Urban Redevelopment Authority
VOS	Voluntary Observing Ships
WDA	Workforce Development Agency
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTE	Waste to Energy, as applied to incineration plants

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