



Paving the way to sustainability with the Singapore Green Label

Singapore, 14 April 2016 – The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) applaud the step taken by the Government to only procure printing paper products certified with the Singapore Green Label, as a move in the right direction towards sustainability.

This was following the announcement made by the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources during the Committee of Supply debate, with the policy coming into effect from the third quarter of 2016.

Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman of the SEC said, “The Government holds a major stake in Singapore’s green procurement market. SEC is very encouraged that they are taking the lead in green procurement, this says a lot about their commitment to encourage and ensure that the public sector undertake sustainable practices. Having said that, the rest of our consumers, individuals and corporations alike, need to play their part too. I urge private sector, businesses and individuals to take their own responsible green procurement especially printing paper and related products. The collective efforts adds up.”

“We hope that businesses as well as consumers will follow the example set by the Government to take a firm stand and only buy paper products that are procured from sustainable sources. We will need to work together to ensure that Singapore’s voice is heard so that the reoccurrence of the transboundary haze pollution year after year can be resolved,” said Mr Lim Biow Chuan, President of CASE.

SEC encourages other companies which wish to participate in the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme for printing paper products to contact SEC soonest for certification that their products are from sustainable sources.

**** END OF MEDIA RELEASE****



ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL


Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, nonprofit and non-government organisation (NGO). We influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore.


We are also an approved charity and offer tax exemption to donors. SEC continuously engages all sectors of the community by formulating and executing a range of holistic programmes, such as the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Asian Environmental Journalism Awards, School Green Awards, Singapore Green Labelling Scheme, Project: Eco-Office, Project: Eco-Shop and Project: F&B. In addition, we build a pool of committed volunteers under our Earth Helpers programme.

The SEC has also incorporated a new Training & Education arm to provide the people, public and private sectors with the opportunity to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and tools in order to protect and improve our environment for a sustainable future.

Strong partnerships with corporations, government agencies and other NGOs are valued by us. These partnerships are vital for sustaining our programmes, leading to positive action and change. Over the years, SEC has given strength and direction to the environmental movement in Singapore.

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ABOUT THE CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

The Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) is an independent, non-profit organisation that is committed towards protecting consumers' interest through information and education, and promoting an environment of fair and ethical trade practices. One of its key achievements is in advocating for the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act (CPFTA) which came into effect on March 1, 2004.

Website: www.case.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/casesg

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ABOUT THE SINGAPORE GREEN LABELLING SCHEME

The Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS) is administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and is one of the region's largest and most established environmental certification labels. The SGLS was introduced in 1992 to drive environmental consciousness and responsibility by allowing consumers to choose products meeting eco-standards that are assessed to be "environmentally friendly". With a suite of 50 product categories from paint & surface coatings, office furniture & flooring, to household appliances and personal care products, SGLS has certified more than 3,000 unique products across 27 countries.

SEC's membership in the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) – which consist of 25 other member countries from various parts of the world – enables SGLS-endorsed products to be more recognised and accepted outside of Singapore by GEN member countries in Southeast Asia, North Asia, North America and Europe. For more information on SGLS, please visit www.sgls.sec.org.sg.
