



Singapore
Environment
Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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Call for consumers and businesses to purchase products that are produced sustainably

We are disappointed that the haze problem has returned again this year. This haze represents the growing demand for both paper as well as palm oil products. The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE) reiterate our call to consumers not to buy from or support companies that produce their products using irresponsible methods of clearing land.

The boycott last year led to worldwide publicity regarding unsustainable agricultural practices in Indonesia. We believe that the publicity has motivated some of the companies to act more responsibly.

We also note that the Indonesian authorities have put in measures to tackle the land and forest fires that are causing the haze. Compared with the haze last year, these measures are paying off with some results.

To further combat the haze issue, we would also like to call on businesses to continue boycotting products that are produced through slash and burn methods. Businesses that have yet to do so, should join this campaign. Consumers can also support this movement by purchasing paper and palm oil products only from sustainable sources.

Mr Lim Biow Chuan, President of CASE, advises consumers not to wait for the haze to return before taking action. He adds, "We must work collectively as a group to continue to send a clear signal that such practices are unsustainable and would adversely affect our environment. It is through our collective efforts, both locally and globally, that will make the difference."

Ms Isabella Loh, Chairman of SEC, adds, "Consumers should buy from Singapore Green Label paper products and more importantly, take affirmative actions every day and not just haze days alone. We must re-emphasise that these plantation owners must take full responsibility in educating their communities and suppliers about the hazards of haze."

About the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE):

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

About the Singapore Environment Council:

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit 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. Our Training & Education arm provides 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.

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.