

## Headquarter Office In Singapore

GreenA Consultants Pte Ltd

Certification level: Silver

Diversion rate upon certification: 96.6%

Facility location: Singapore

Type of facility: Office

Facility operations: Administrative

Website: https://www.greenaconsultants.com/

Contact person and information:

Lena Toh

enquiry@greenaconsultants.com



### Why zero waste?

- Being a Green Building Consultancy organization, it is imperative that we exemplify as bona fide green stalwarts ourselves where we walk the Green talk.
- Singapore only has one landfill known as Semakau Landfill. It receives more than 2,000 tons of Waste-to-Energy incineration ash and non- incinerable waste daily. At Singapore's present rate of waste growth, Semakau Landfill will run out of space by 2035.
- To reduce our incinerated waste which can reduce our carbon footprint to mitigate climate change

### **Biggest wins**

- First project in Singapore to earn TRUE Certification.
- ➤ We have reduced unnecessary resources like additional waste bins within the office, resulting in a more organized and streamlined office layout.
- ➤ With the electronic waste receptacle, it encourages us to sort our waste and tidy our office better
- ➤ Procuring secondhand furniture strategically helps us manage our operational expenses more effectively

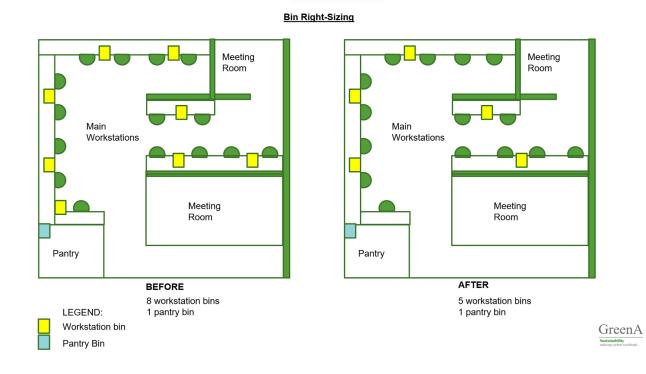
### Credit category: Redesign

Before we embarked on TRUE Certification, we have 8 small bins in the workstations and 1 big bin in the Pantry. The bins were conveniently situated at the employees' desks for them to throw their general and unrecyclable waste.

The objective of this credit is to right-size the bins required for the estimated waste quantity.

We noticed that 8 workstation bins are too many for a small office of 100m2.

We decided to lessen the number of bins from 8 to 5 bins as a green behavioural nudge to lessen the amount of waste generated from employees at their workstations.



### Credit category: Redesign

#### **Review all 9 points of Generation**

- We have reviewed the entire office (100m2), and there are 2 main sources of waste: Desk Bins and Pantry Bin. Most of the waste are tissues and snack packets.
- To reduce snack packets, the company has adopted a goal to reduce single use unrecyclable plastic packaging by first getting snacks in recyclable packaging and second getting them in refillable snack stores.
- It has been implemented from 8 November 2022.
- And since waste is collected per bin each Friday, we will remove the recyclables wrongly placed in the bin to the recycling bin and inform the colleagues.

The strategies implemented are as follows:

- Coffee in bulk order, bigger packets instead of individual sachets
- Biscuits in reusable biscuit tins



### Credit category: Reduce

#### Credit 3: Adopt a goal to reduce the overall size/amount of product packaging

Under our Zero Waste Goal in the policy, we aim to reduce the inbound and outbound packaging by first reducing the unrecyclable single-use plastic packaging that we generate from our food and beverages purchases. Refer to image where we switched out mixed packaging coffee satchet to recyclable glass bottle.

#### Strategies adopted:

- Reusable containers to store snacks which are bought from refilleries or bulk stores.
- For our coffee and other beverages, we will seek to buy them in metal containers or glass jars which are recyclable instead of single-use plastic sachets.



### **Credit category: Reduce**

#### Reduce Credit 4: Go Paperless for at least 1 Major Office Function

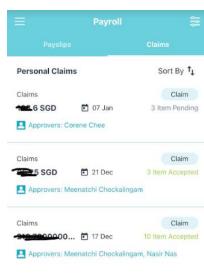
Currently we do not print any of our invoices and send them to the client via mail directly through a software system called Xero. Also, for e-invoices that we receive from our vendors we mail it directly to Xero to capture the expense and do not print a physical copy of the expense.

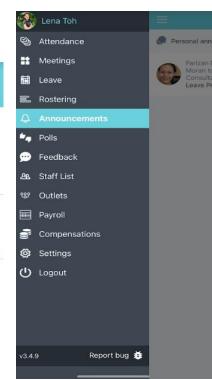
We have another app for Human Resource, Carbonate for staff to upload receipts for claims; as well as for the HR to give out payroll via an online statement within the app. Our Employee Handbook is in there too.

### Reduce Credit 5: Setting all Printers to Duplex Print

We only have 1 Toshiba print-scan-copy printer in our 100m<sup>2</sup> office to serve our employees. Ever since we embarked on TRUE certification, we have set our printer printing default setting as double-side printing.







### **Credit category: Reuse**

#### **Develop systems that emphasize reuse**

We have set up a corner to collect Unwanted Goods that are still in good condition. These items will be given away through an app called Olio to the nearby community, or within the office colleagues who want the items. Here is a photo of the Unwanted Goods bin and photo of some items that have been collected within colleagues.

### Establish program to reuse office supplies and materials

In the office, there is a corner to collect both single-sided paper / wrongly printed paper for reuse, as well as a bin to collect unwanted items that are still in good condition from employees. For spoiled electronic equipment, we also sent it for repair. When our CPU was spoiled, instead of disposing we sent it for repair, thereby diverting waste from our landfill.



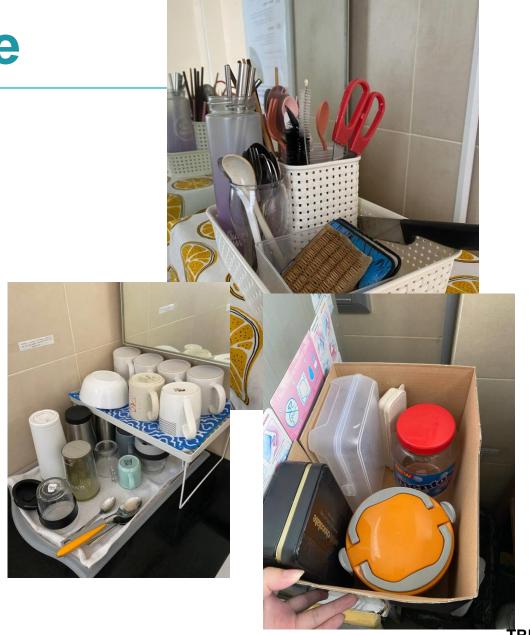
### **Credit category: Reuse**

### Use reusable/durable food service ware

In our office, we practise as much eco-friendly habits as much as possible.

We practise eating out during lunch instead of buying food in, and when food is being purchased via online platforms, we request "no cutlery" as we have reusable cutlery on site.

In our pantry, we have a corner of reusable containers and cups in case anyone would like to pack food in, and also cutlery for use.



### **Credit category: Recycle**

### Recycle Credit 2: Determine end markets for recycled commodities

The 800 Super Waste Management Pte Ltd (800 Super) is our premise's waste collector and recycling vendor.

As with all Public Waste Collector Schemes, they follow the same structured process as stated under National Environment Agency (NEA)'s waste and recycling collection guidelines.

In our office, we have set up a recyclables collection point in our pantry and set up clear instructions on What can be recycled.



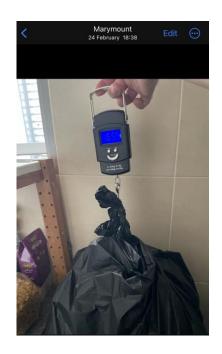
Recycling Guide on what not to put in the Recycling Bin

### Credit category: Zero Waste Reporting

#### Zero Waste Reporting Credit 1: Document diversion by commodity or waste

There is weekly practice in GAC to weigh both general waste and recyclables, and weigh log is updated accordingly.

	Feb 2023									
Waste	Week 1 (30/01- 03/02)	Week 2 (06/02 - 10/02)	Week 3 (13/02-17/02)	Week 4 (20/02-24/02)						
General Waste (kg)	0.655	1.235	3.8	1.655						
Recycle (kg)	0.665	10	1.125	1.085						
Nescafe (Recycled)										
CPU (Reuse)										
Reduce (kg)		_								
Diversion Rate	50.37878788	89.00756564	22.84263959	39.59854015						
total waste:	7.345									
total recycled:	12.875									
total generated:	20.22									





### Credit category: Zero Waste Reporting

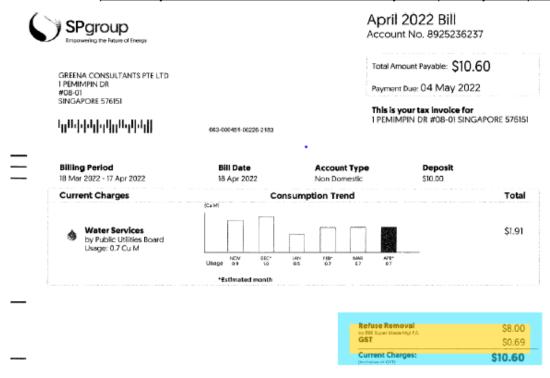
Credit 2: Track financial data for diversion and waste disposal

GreenA Consultants Refuse Fees are under SP Group's Water Services Bill, where the Refuse Removal is paid to 800 Super Waste Mgt P/L

We do not get any revenue from Recyclables.

Feb-22 Mar-22 Apr-22 May-22 Jun-22 Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 Oct-22 Nov-22 Dec-22 Jan-23 Feb-23

Mar-23 Apr-23 8.00 8.00 8.00 \$ 8.00 8.00 8.00 8.55 9.00 9.00 9.00 9.00 8.00 8.00 8.00 9.00 We do not get any revenue back from recyclables



**Credit 4: Benchmark Zero Waste Performance** 

GAC is now registered on ARC platform.

### Credit category: Diversion (Min. 90%)

Diversion
Credit 1
and Credit
2 are being
fulfilled

Year:	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	
Month:	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Materials or items	Weights										Total		
Recycle													
Mixed Recyclables (paper, metals, plastic)	1.310	1.535	1.335	4.315	6.140	1.700	3.040	8.110	4.955	12.875	7.160	4.915	57.4
Nescafe Capsules Recycling											1.015	0.595	1.6
													0.0
													0.0
													0.0
Total recycle	1.31	1.54	1.34	4.32	6.14	1.70	3.04	8.11	4.96	12.88	8.18	5.51	59.0
Organics diversion: food,	soiled pap	er, and/or	yard wast	e (specify	diversion	method in	notes colu	ımn)					
Month:	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Reused Coffee Grounds as Body Scrub						0.6							0.6
													0.0
Total organics diversion	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reuse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Month:	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Refurbished Chairs	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	1269.1
Repairing CPU Chip	100.0	200.0	100.0	200.0	100.0	100.0	10010	20010	200.0	100.0	12.0	12.0	24.0
Rescued 3 Pedestals										60.0	60.0	60.0	180.0
Rescued 4 Training Chairs										32.6	32.6	32.6	
Reuse 3 Laptops								6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	
Reuse 4 Laptops		405.0	405.0	405.0	405.0	405.0	405.0		****		8.0	8.0	16.0
Total reuse	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	105.8	111.8	111.8	204.3	224.3	224.3	1616.8
Non-diversion (landfill, w													
Month:	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Landfill Waste	5.595	6.770	4.130	6.253	6.330	3.620	4.250	5.385	3.755	7.345	4.410	1.240	59.1
													0.0
													0.0
													0.0
Total non-diversion	5.6	6.8	4.1	6.3	6.3	3.6	4.3	5.4	3.8	7.3	4.4	1.2	59.1

Total diversion: 1683.6

Total non-diversion: 59.1

Grand total weight: 1742.6

Diversion rate: 96.6%

### Credit category: Zero Waste Purchasing

#### **Zero Waste Purchasing Credits 2 to 4:**

In our Zero Waste Policy, under Section "Adoption of an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Guideline" is available. This Zero Waste Policy and EPP is shared with everyone, from Upper Management to Procurement and Employees, including Interns.

In the Policy, our green procurement practices such as preference in durable goods for events, preference for sustainably produced paper products that are FSC-certified or contains post-consumer recycled content, and preference for refurbished items from laptops to furniture.

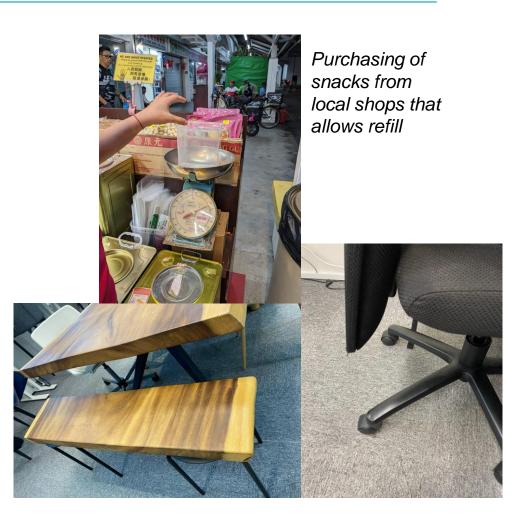
The leaf symbol shown in the EPP helps to identify the preferred brands or products that fulfils either one or more the preferences mentioned above.

Through these preferences in the EPP, we continue to be mindful about our purchases, while looking out for more solutions to increase the diversion where possible.

### Credit category: Zero Waste Purchasing

# Purchasing Credit 6: Give preference to used, refurbished, and/or remanufactured goods

- We prioritize laptop repairs before disposal, and embracing refurbished models prior to brand-new acquisitions. This applies to office furniture as well.
- For purchasing of pantry consumables such as snacks, we prioritize local brands to elevate the local economy
- Preference will also be given to shops that allow refill, hence reducing packaging involved
- Whenever possible we bring empty tin cans and glad containers to buy packaging-free snacks from local provision-stores



### Credit category: Zero Waste Purchasing

#### Zero Waste Purchasing Credit 7.1 to 7.3: Any additional EPP practice(s)

Credit 7.1: Under the EPP section, section 7 states "Preference to Shop Local, Packaging-Free Stores". This refers to preference to buy snacks from local brands that are selling snacks by weight, allowing refills and hence reducing packaging waste. This helps to boost the local economy and also reduces overall packaging waste. Here is photo of our pantry snacks that was refilled.

Credit 7.2: GAC also has a photocopier machine leasing agreement with Ethoz Capital Ltd, where we pay 60 x S\$101.65 monthly installments to the company for 1 unit of Toshiba E-Studio 2010 AC Copier machine. The period is for 5 years and it is still ongoing.

Credit 7.3: GAC prefers and purchases coffee pods from Nescafe as they have a take-back programme which other coffee brands in Singapore do not have. What their take-back programme does it that they collect back used coffee pods and bring them to recycle, which helps to divert waste away from landfill. And in exchange for the used coffee pods, they give a free plant.

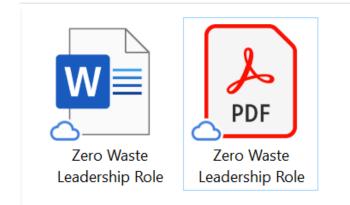




#### Dedicate at least one person for zero waste leadership role

The employee looking at Zero Waste Programmes and Trainings is Lena Toh, who is also a TRUE Advisor. She provides Zero Waste Training once every 3-4 months, she sets up and maintains the Recycling Corners within the offices (E-waste bin), consolidates documentation for TRUE certification.

She has one colleague, Jing Kai, who measures the weekly waste which is recorded. Kindly find attached Zero Waste Leadership Role pdf.

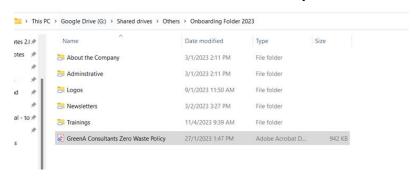


#### Provision of zero waste goal/policy to all employees

It is placed in the Onboarding Folder.

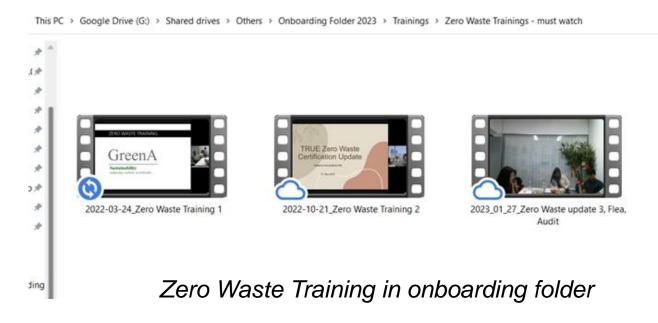
G:\Shared drives\Others\Onboarding Folder 2023 --> click GreenA Consultants Zero Waste Policy

In their first week of work, all new colleagues must read this.



#### Training Credit 2: Incorporate zero waste into employee orientation

During Orientation, the TRUE Advisor, Lena, will bring them on a office tour (which is also described in Training Credit 7), which will showcase the Main Waste Bin, Recyclables bin and E-waste Bin. During Orientation, all newbies have access to this folder called "Onboarding", which contains training videos of other topics like Green Mark and TRUE Waste. "Shared Drives > Others > Onboarding Folder > Trainings > Zero Waste Trainingsmust watch"



#### **Clear Labelling of All Collection Receptacles**

In Singapore, waste collectors has a Recyclables Truck for recyclables. This truck collect all recyclable materials and segregate them within their Material Recovery Facility Compound.

As such, within our office, we have one consolidated bin in the Pantry and one Recyclables bin in the Pantry. Both are situated within the small office pantry (~2.25m2 big).

Above the Waste Bin, there is a very Clear Poster on what can or cannot be recycled. Please find attached photo. Whenever there is a Newbie that join the company, the Zero Waste Leader will give a tour of the office, and inform the newbie on the recycling bin and waste bin.



### Provide all employees access to zero waste training

There is a Zero Waste Training provided by the TRUE advisor, Lena, every 3-4 months and what can or cannot be recycled is constantly being revised. The training videos and sessions are being furnished in Training Credit 8. A clear Recycling poster that she has done is also placed clearly in the Pantry.

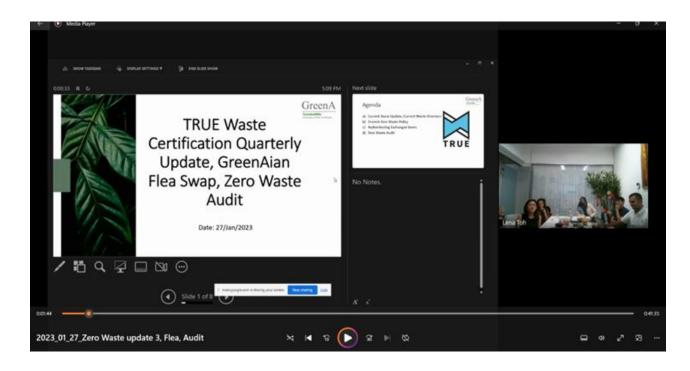




#### Communicate with employees about Zero Waste activities quarterly

Every quarterly, the TRUE Advisor shares all things waste related to the office Zero Waste TRUE Certification journey in the office meeting room.

As we always have some colleagues who are working remotely, this session is also done on Google Meet and recorded for those who are not present to listen, or for future newbies joining the company.



### **Credit category: Leadership**

The TRUE advisor of the firm also serves on the Management team at GreenA Consultants. At least once a year, one of the upper management will attend a community event to talk about Zero Waste activity.

In April 2023 (earth week/month) the TRUE Advisor spoke at 4 different events on approaching Zero Waste and the impact of Waste on Climate Change. This was done in tandem with another ongoing project (Waste and Climate Change Education with TERRA 2236), but it impacted at least 3,500 students and teachers who were listening to the talks.

One of the April events was at Woodgrove Recycling Day, where another Upper Management, Omar, participated in it. In December 2022, the company also participated in an Upcycling booth showcasing and demonstrating upcycled keyboard buttons into earrings.



### Credit category: Zero Waste Analysis

### Analyze results of annual waste audit and implement recommendations

In January 2023, the TRUE Advisor conducted an audit of the office's pantry (which is the main waste bin) bin in the office space in front of the staff (conducted for both online and physical attendees).

The audit showed a huge amount of packaging waste such as coffee sachets as well as snack sachets. This has brought attention to the amount of packaging waste that can be reduced. As such, we have a put in place strategies such as packaging-free snacks to minimise packaging waste.

To reduce packaging waste from snacks and coffee packets, we have reduced purchasing coffee in individual packets and purchased the ones in glass containers instead which comes in bigger quantities. We also purchased snacks in bigger quantities as compared to getting them in small individual packets and stored them in bigger containers for employees







We purchased the coffee in glass containers instead which comes in bigger quantities. We also purchased snacks in bigger quantities as compared to getting them in small individual packets

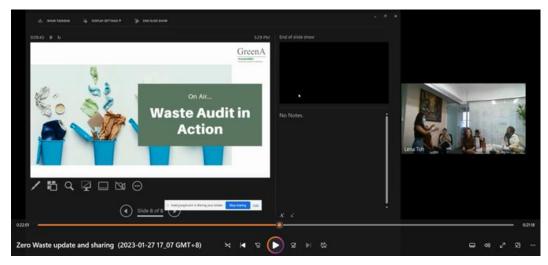
### Credit category: Zero Waste Analysis

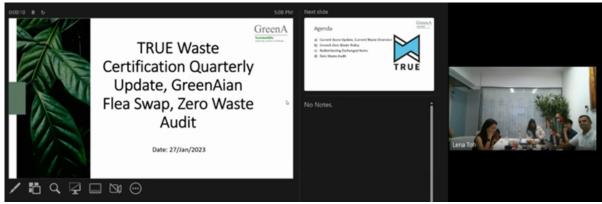
#### Engage employees in waste audit and/or analysis

Held on 21st January 2023, a Waste Audit was held in the office, it was also recorded in an online video format for our remote employees.

Altogether, there were 8 physical employees and 3 online employees listening to the Waste Audit. This session acts as a Quarterly Update, a GreenA "Flea Swap" where we exchanged things that we did not want anymore but that was in good condition, as well as an informal Zero Waste Audit of the Pantry Bin and our Recyclables Bin.

The Waste Audit consisted of going through the bin, and highlighting things that were not supposed to be there, as well as things that should not be in the Recyclables bin. The Waste Audit also involved employees in in looking for / identifying the recycling triangles that were accepted for recycling in Singapore.





This session acts as a Quarterly Update, a GreenA "Flea Swap" where we exchanged things that we did not want anymore but that was in good condition

### Credit category: Hazardous Waste Prevention

#### **Credit 3: Reuse or recycling of universal waste**

There is a bin to collect universal waste generated such as E-waste (wires, bulbs, portable charges, spoiled electronics) as well as batteries. When it is full, the TRUE Advisor will clear it in the public E-Waste Bins.

The TRUE Advisor will collect it and recycle it in the E-waste bin nearest to her home. Throughout the whole course of TRUE Certification, 2.07kg of Ewaste has been collected and recycled.

















#### **Credit 5: Collection of universal wastes** from employees and/or customers

There is a box dedicated for F-waste and universal waste to collect personal E-waste / universal waste from colleagues, and placed on a shelf in the corner of the office. This box collects items like old wireless headphones, USB wires, batteries, old gadgets that has electrical components that does not work anymore.



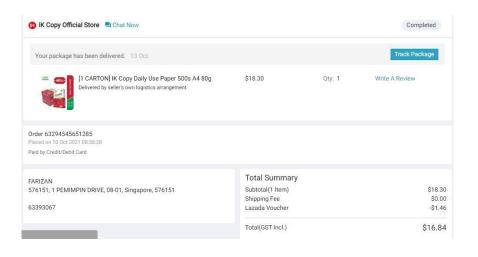
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### Credit category: Closed Loop System

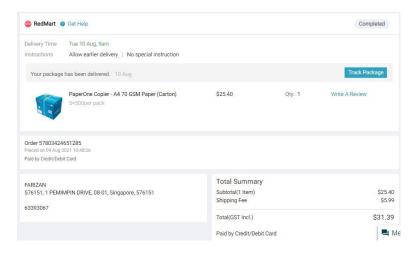
### A minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content for office paper

To purchase paper with minimum 30% post-consumer recycled content for office paper, we would have to import it from the United States, which is not genuinely sustainable for us to do in order to fulfil this credit.

Currently, all the paper we purchase is already PEFC - Certified (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) which means that they meet the PEFC Sustainability Benchmark requirements or contain wood from controlled sources. These papers have recycled content but does not state how much.









### Credit category: Closed Loop System

### A minimum of 20% post-consumer recycled content for office paper

To purchase janitorial paper with minimum 20% post-consumer recycled content, we would have to import it from the United States, which is not genuinely sustainable for us to do in order to fulfil this credit.

Currently, all the janitorial paper we buy are imported from Malaysia and they are FSC-certified (i.e. Paper from Responsible Sources). They do have recycled content but does not state how much. Kindly find attached photos of the tissue used in our pantry and also the specifications.



### **Credit category: Innovation**

#### Participation in upcycling programs

The intent of this credit is to upcycle at least one material that is difficult to recycle. One of the things identified is our roller chairs used in our office meeting room as well as working stations.

The material identified: Mesh and Foam used for Chair Back Rest, Seat Foams and White PVC, as well as Hydraulic Gas pumps made of metal and plastic used in the chairs itself. We also replaced some of the faulty wheels but maintained the leg structure. Instead of throwing the chairs away, we sent them for upcycling so that the main chair structure can still be used, thereby retaining the value of the chair.



The purpose of upcycling is to retain the value of the item or even better, extend the lifespan.

This is considered upcycling because chairs are difficult to recycle due to a variety of un-homogenous parts: PVC, foam, mesh, plastic composite, metal parts in pumps. The easier way is to dispose them, but the main structure was still working well.

As such, just by simply replacing some of the faulty parts such as the wheels, discoloured and broken mesh, and the seating foam which have become floppy, the lifespan of the chair structure has been extended and be used again like new. Receipt of the upcycling of the chairs is as attached.

### **Credit category: Innovation**

**Credit 3: Implementation of Innovative Waste Reduction Activity** 

To minimise the packaging from snacks in individual satchets, we buy in bulk from packaging-free stores that allows people to bring their own containers and refills from the local mama shops.

Here are photos of the purchase of buying snacks from packaging-free, local stores and eliminating packaging by bringing our own containers.



### **Credit category: Pilot Credits**

One of our colleagues in the company, Lena Toh, has earned the recognition of the TRUE Advisor in 2021.

Within the company, she heads the TRUE Certification of GreenA HQ Office as well as Zero waste strategies to be implemented in the office.

She has written the Zero Waste Policy covering a green procurement plan customised for the office's use, as well as set up a strict recycling habit within the office where she conducts quarterly review of the TRUE Certification. She has also done up a flyer and placed it in the Office pantry for colleagues to follow.



When advocating for a purpose you may be distanced by those who do not believe, but you will also attract those who have the same vision as you. Stay TRUE to your core.

Lena Toh, Business Sustainability Analyst, TRUE Advisor

# Zero waste is our mission true.gbci.org