



Towards a Greener SingHealth Polyclinics (SHP)

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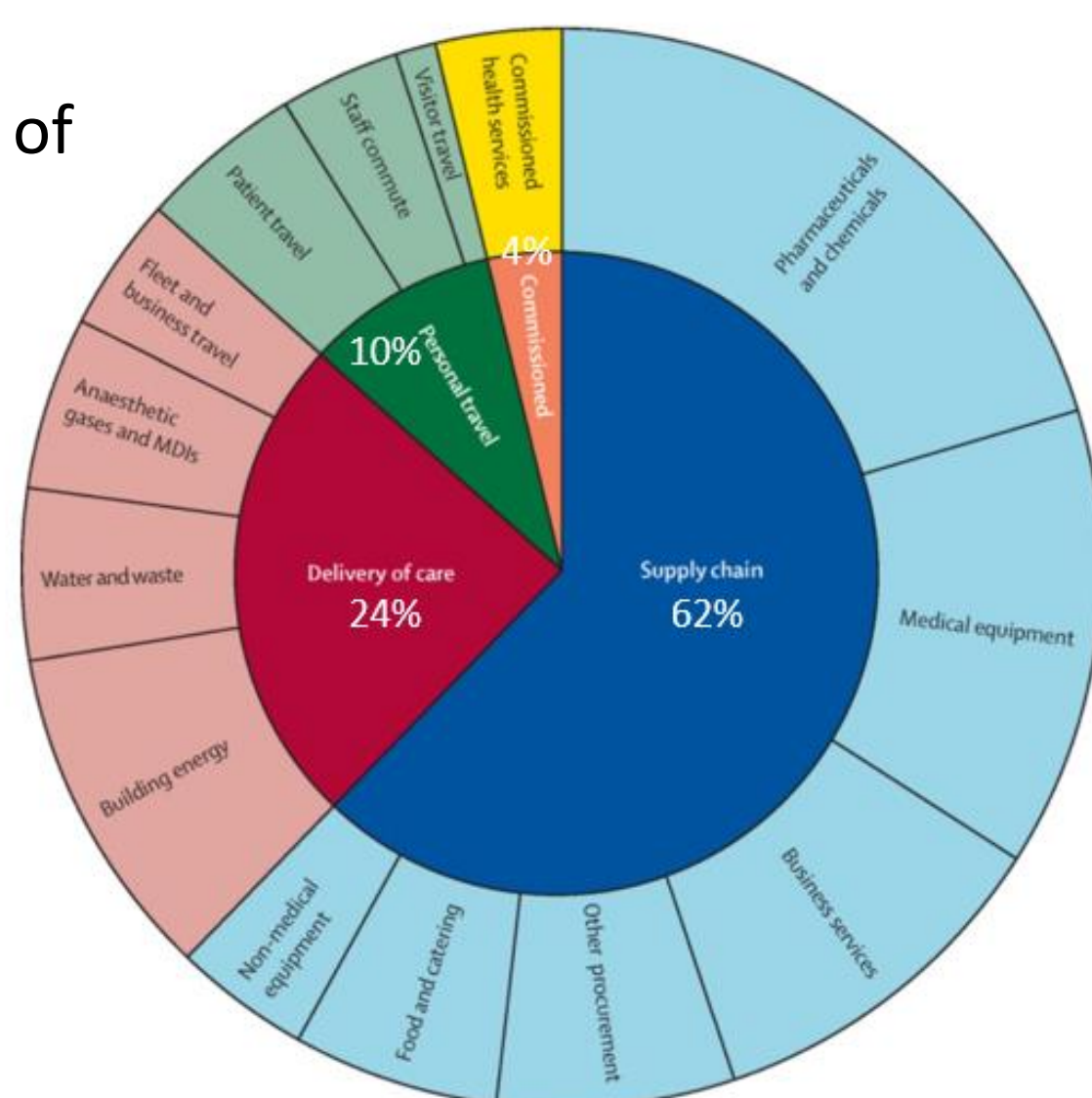


Special thanks to all members in SHP Green Committee

I. INTRODUCTION

Problem

- The healthcare sector is a significant contributor of greenhouse gas emissions (4-5%) with majority generated through energy consumption and supply chain activities.
- While improving and safeguarding community health, there is an urgent need to minimise adverse effects on the environment for the benefit of both current society and future generations.



Aim

At SHP, we believe that we can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future through:

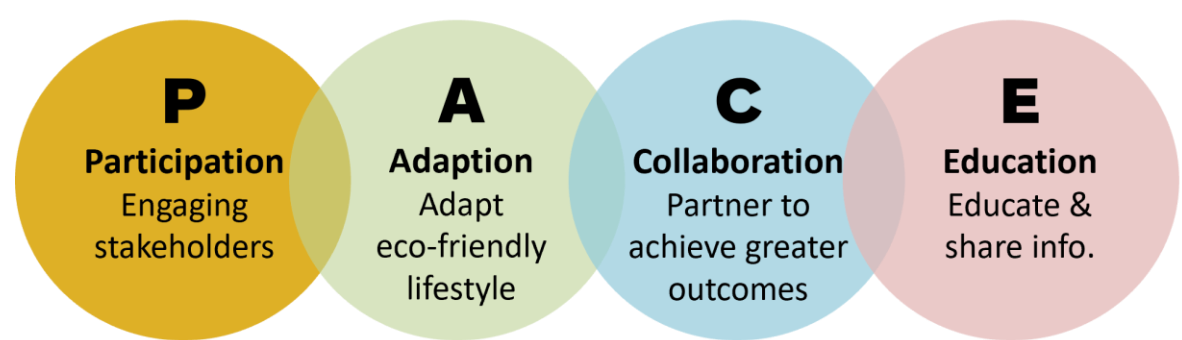
- Encouraging more sustainable practices amongst staff by spearheading environmental initiatives that inculcate a sustainable company culture.
- Promoting environment awareness and effect of climate change.
- Reducing environmental footprint through Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.
- Enhancing operational efficiency by integrating digital solutions and streamlining operations.
- Engaging external stakeholders (patients and communities) in sustainability initiatives.
- Encouraging preventive healthcare to reduce the overall burden of disease.
- Complying with environmental regulations and standards.

II. METHODOLOGY

A Green Committee, named PACE, was formed in March 2023 to drive sustainability for SHP.

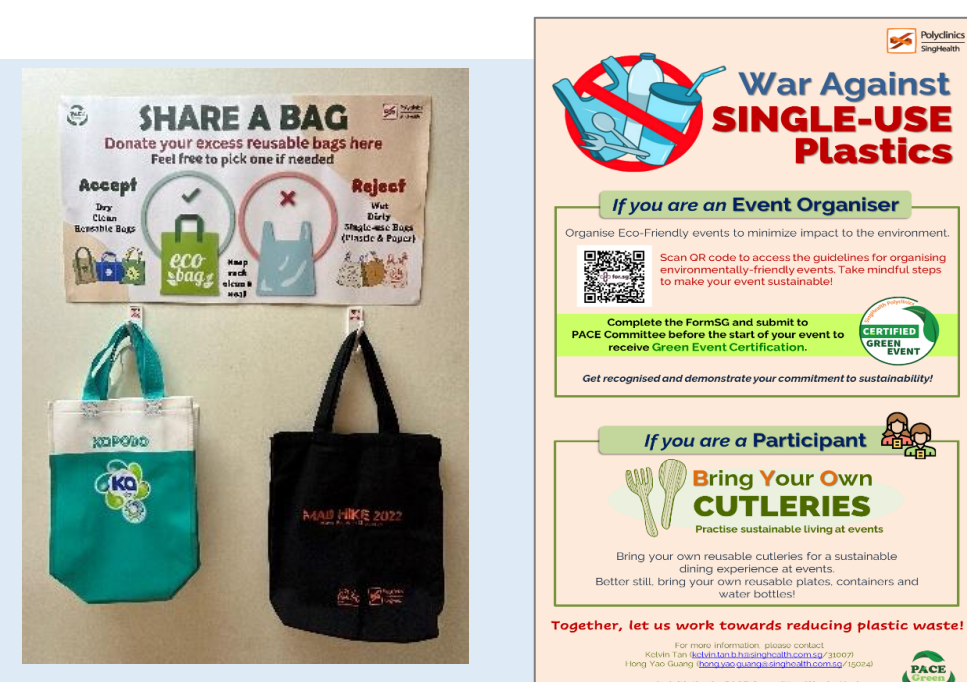
PACE is organised into 3 workstreams for better project management, improve efficiency & coordination and enhance clarity, focus and quality control. Each workstream initiates a sustainability project every quarter as follow:

KEY PRIORITIES



Single-Use Workstream

- Share A Bag Corner in all staff pantries to promote 3Rs.
- Event organisers are encouraged to apply for SHP Green Event Certification and staff are reminded to BYO cutleries and containers to events.
- Reduce paper usage at work.



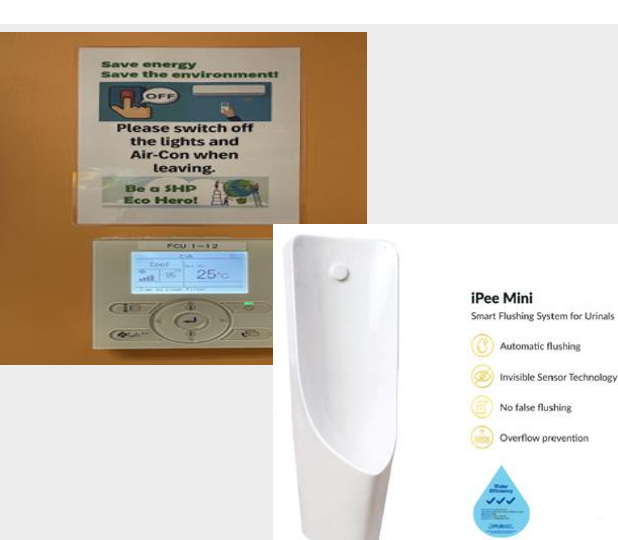
Zero Waste Workstream

- Recycling bins in all SHP clinics and staff pantries.
- Recycling of used batteries and medication/vaccine carton boxes.
- Christmas Tree Design Competition using recycled materials.



Energy Workstream

- Reminder to switch off electrical appliances near power switches.
- Programmed AC to automatically switch off from 9pm on weekdays and 12pm on weekends.
- iPEE urinal system on pilot at Tampines Polyclinic.



Other initiatives by PACE

- Recycling Drive for old clothes, shoes, chopsticks, excess CNY cookies.
- Medical waste recycling bins for insulin pens and blister packs.
- Activities - Waterway Cleanup, Tree Planting and Adopt A Tree.
- Commemorate Earth Day, Environment Day, Car Free Day and International Plastic Bag Free Day with campaigns.



III. RESULTS

A year on and SHP green efforts are yielding positive outcomes:

Increased sense of social responsibility & eco-consciousness

An increase in 20% of SHP staff adopting BYO (Bring Your Own Reusable).



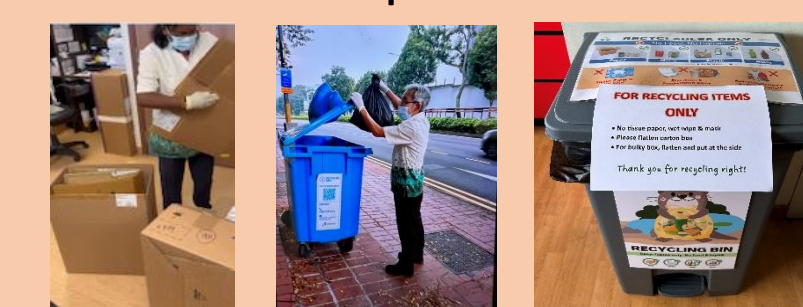
Improved employee engagement and retention

Improved response for sustainability events/projects.



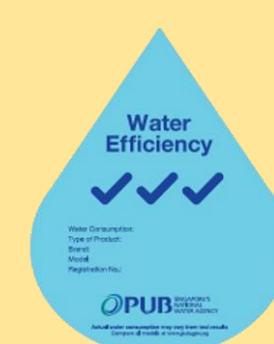
Reduction in environmental impact

Sustainable waste management. Staff-designed recycling bin at all pantries.



Resource conservation

3-tick water efficiency taps installed at SHP polyclinics.



Cost saving

Eunos & Tampines North Polyclinic are equipped with motion sensor lights at staircases and solar panels at their rooftop, which contribute to reduction of utility cost.

Regulatory compliance

Tampines Polyclinic was certified Water Efficient (Basic) Building on 29th Dec 2023.



Credits for the encouraging results also go to the different SHP domains that are constantly rolling out initiatives that directly/indirectly impact the environment:

Digital Transformation

369,725 Registration Q Tickets
258,808 Appointment Slips
332,753 Payment Invoices saved annually from E-Service. More than 400 video consultations (Telehealth) conducted, which contribute to reduction of carbon footprint.

Less Plastic Initiatives

Launched of SHP insulated reusable bags for patients. Plastic bag will not be provided for single-item collection. Supply plain plastic bags.



Preventive Care

Health screening for chronic disease; breast cancer & colorectal cancer. Influenza vaccination, and weight management. Health outreach to the community.

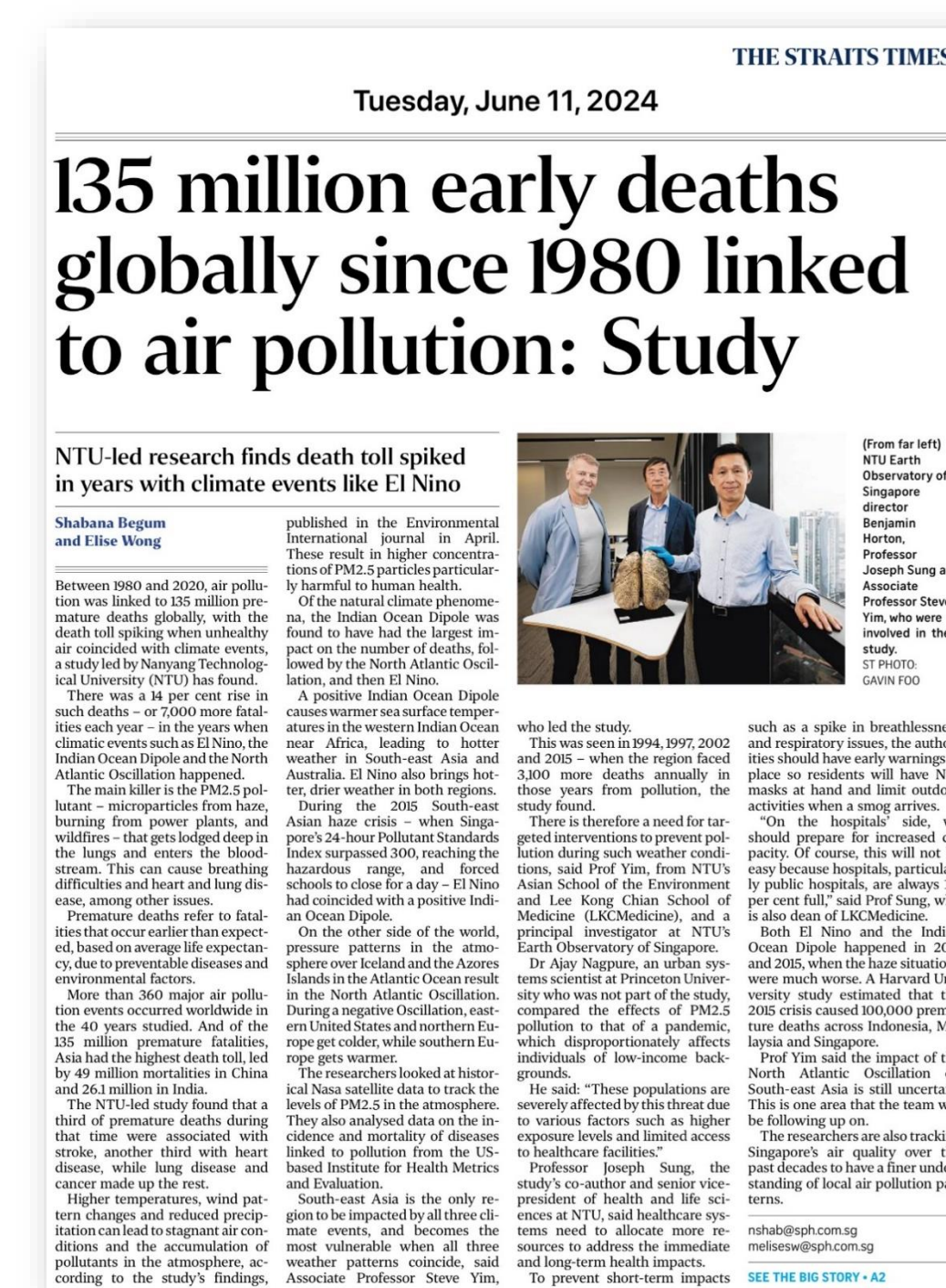
IV. CONCLUSION

A greener SHP yields a wide range of positive results, both tangible and intangible, beyond financial gains and creating value for both SHP and the society.

As we journey through a greener SHP and healthier planet, we will continue to explore areas of greatest needs to save the earth.

One such emerging needs is Environmental Health Research, which plays a pivotal role in advancing environmental sustainability. By understanding environmental health impacts, promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions in Primary Care, medical research not only advances human health but also play critical role in addressing the intricate connections between human health and the environments.

Our planet's future depends on the choices we make today. By embracing sustainable practices, we protect our environment for future generations. Let's act now and be the change our world needs. Every step towards a greener, healthier planet.



Impact of climate change on health

Together, We Can Make a Difference!

