

FACTSHEET ON BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Background

The Back to School programme is an internship programme for tertiary students, spearheaded by BCA. The pilot project started in 2015 with a group of Temasek Polytechnic students. BCA has since extended this programme to other polytechnics.

The Back to School Programme is part of BCA’s initiative to enhance student engagement and education in environmental sustainability, and to groom the next generation of green-collar workforce. It is a meaningful platform to further the green movement by getting alumni of schools to do their part for their alma mater. These students would help the school attain BCA Green Mark certification and enhance its environmental sustainability programme.

Objective

The Back to School Programme is a student outreach programme that aims to groom the next generation of green collar workforce in the following ways:

1. Entice

- Entice students and schools to come on-board this green building journey
- Entice students to embark on green building careers through structured internship and mentorship programmes led by BCA officers

2. Employ

- Provide students with a platform to employ technical knowledge related to the built environment and management skills learned in school

3. Envoy

- Get students to be envoys and vehicles to spread sustainability messages

Overview of 2015 pilot project

- Since 2015, BCA has been collaborating with Temasek Polytechnic (TP) to enhance environmental education and groom the next generation of green-collar workforce by providing structured internship programmes for students. During the pilot, 12 students returned to their primary and secondary schools to provide recommendations on how the school can enhance its environmental programmes and infrastructure. The students acted as Green Mark consultants to help the schools attain Green Mark certification. This provided great exposure and learning opportunities not just for the interns, but their schools as well.
- To date, students under the programme have successfully greened three schools and are in the midst of greening another seven:

No.	School Name	Green Mark Rating
1	Admiralty Secondary School	Gold
2	Beatty Secondary School	Gold ^{PLUS}
3	Pei Cai Secondary School	Gold

4	Ang Mo Kio Secondary School	On-going projects targeting at least Green Mark Gold.
5	Chung Cheng High School (Main)	
6	Da Qiao Primary School	
7	Hong Wen School	
8	Serangoon Garden Secondary School	
9	Serangoon Secondary School	
10	Xinghua Primary School	

- The students who have completed their internship under the Back to School Programme in 2015 went onto enrol in built environment-related courses in the National University of Singapore (NUS) upon graduation.

Temasek Polytechnic Students Green their Alma Mater

A group of 12 Temasek Polytechnic students participated in the pilot Back to School Programme and returned to their alma mater to champion green causes. They aim to help four schools achieve at least the Green Mark Gold Award.

Here are the profiles of four students:

Zoe Cheng

Year 3 Temasek Polytechnic student, Integrated Facility Management
Back to School Programme 2016
Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Hong Wen School

Zoe's contact with environmental sustainability began at the age of 10, when her brother started a business in renewable energy and energy monitoring system. Her brother often shared with her the importance of resource stewardship, conservation, and environmental sustainability and this inspired her to go on to study Integrated Facility Management in Temasek Polytechnic. During her final year, she was given the opportunity to do her internship at the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). At BCA, she took up the challenge to approach and convince her alma mater, Hong Wen School, to allow her to provide recommendations on how the school can be Green Mark certified. Hong Wen School provided her team the opportunity to present their recommendations to the board of directors which. Their recommendations were later adopted by the school and it is in the process of undergoing the Green Mark assessment.



Zoe and her team felt that they could do more than just raise awareness within their own alma maters. Therefore, with the support of BCA, and as part of the Back to School Programme, the team **is also approaching other schools to conduct sharing sessions on different aspects of green buildings**. The team hoped that these sharing sessions would **create a more interactive learning channel for students to learn about environmental sustainability beyond their curriculum through interactive games and talks**. Having completed the Back to School programme, Zoe hopes to continue spreading environmental sustainability messages and good practices to the people around her.

Tng Jie Min

Year 3 Temasek Polytechnic student, Integrated Facility Management
Back to School Programme 2016
Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Da Qiao Primary School

During her course of study in TP, Tng Jie Min took up an internship opportunity with BCA where she developed greater understanding on the policies and developmental works within the organisation. She also learnt how the Green Mark scheme was instrumental in the green building movement in Singapore. Jie Min participated in the Back to School programme, where she assisted her alma mater, Da Qiao Primary School, to achieve the Green Mark Award. One of the features that she worked on was to **refurbish and revive a worn out life-sized snake and ladder game. A rotatable wheel accompanied with a list of environmental sustainability-related questions was added** to the game so that her juniors could play and learn more about sustainability at the same time.



Jie Min and her team also initiated workshops and sharing session to **empower the students and teachers with knowledge and skills to further improve the sustainability of the school**. After the Back to School programme, Jie Min was inspired to pursue her dream of becoming an educator as she aspires to continue planting the seed of sustainability in future generations.

Gordon Lim

Year 3 Temasek Polytechnic student, Integrated Facility Management
Back to School Programme 2016
Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Serangoon Garden Secondary
School



Gordon's course of study in TP sparked his interest in the built environment sector particularly on how facility management can play a big role in improving the sustainability of a building. During his internship stint at BCA, Gordon was part of the Back to School Programme where he was given the platform to put his textbook knowledge to test while helping Serangoon Garden Secondary School achieve their Green Mark certification. He **identified potential for improvement on the energy efficiencies of the air-conditioning and lighting systems (gap analysis) and proposed enhancements to the existing system that the school may consider during the next round of refurbishments and retrofit works to reduce energy consumption.** Throughout the Programme, Gordon gained technical insights on the green buildings which broadened his understanding of environmental sustainability.

Besides greening the infrastructure, Gordon and his team proposed for the school to **start a workshop to equip the students with the knowledge on sustainability.** Gordon believes that equipping youths with knowledge on sustainability would empower them to make a difference in improving the sustainability of Singapore. Gordon is keen to further his studies and pursuing a career in the built environment sector.

Xue Jiade

Year 3 Temasek Polytechnic student, Integrated Facilities Management
Back to School Programme 2016
Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Chung Cheng High School (Main)



Jiade was given the opportunity to perform the role of a Green Mark consultant during his internship at BCA. He touched base with his alma mater and invited them to come on board the Green Mark programme. He felt that the Back to School Programme was a meaningful platform to return to his alma mater.

Through multiple visits to the different schools under the Back to School Programme, he and his team felt that there was a lack of awareness of environmental sustainability in schools, especially amongst students. With the support of their mentors, **they piloted a workshop specially catered to the students, to teach them the importance of environmental sustainability and green practices** with the hope that the students would adopt these practices in their schools. The workshop was very well received by the students as it provided the students with **an interactive and engaging platform to learn about sustainability through games and peer sharing.** Apart from that, Jiade and his team **took the initiative to create bite-sized materials and posters to highlight green practices and habits** that students may adopt even at home. Jiade believes his involvement in this project would benefit him in his future endeavours in the built environment sector especially in the field of environmental sustainability.