



# Bring Your Own SG Landscape Report

## Executive Summary

### BYO Movement and Objectives

The development of the Bring Your Own movement in Singapore and its goals.

### Stakeholder Action

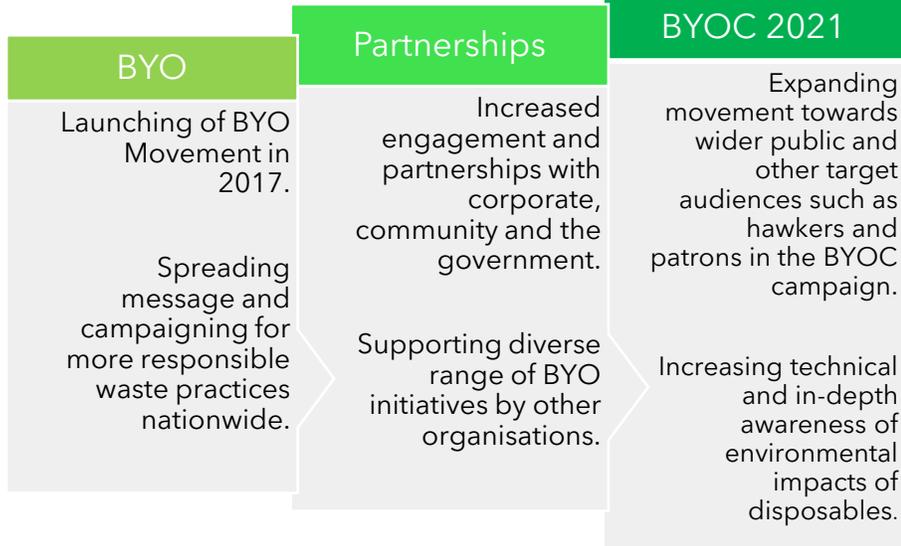
Key findings of stakeholder initiatives and efforts.

### Recommendations

Suggestions for further actions by key stakeholders.



## Bring Your Own Movement Singapore





## Bring Your Own (BYO) Movement

By Zero Waste SG

The Bring Your Own (BYO) movement has developed rapidly as a global movement. Singapore saw a launch of the movement in its local context in 2017 by Zero Waste Singapore and has since grown across multiple stakeholders. The landscape report aims to present a nationwide overview on the evolution of the local BYO movement and provide recommendations for the cooperation of stakeholders involved.

Since its launch in 2017, the BYO movement has garnered widespread interest and continues to encourage initiatives across sectors. However, even with the efforts from the government, the community and the corporates, NEA's statistics reveals that far more needs to be done. Singapore generated 868,000 tonnes of plastic waste in 2020, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest waste category out of the 14 reported, and recycling rates stayed stagnant at 4%.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, the government reported a fall in overall rate of paper recycling and household recycling, with the latter seeing a reduction from 17% in 2019 to 13% in 2020. Reports suggest plastics make up approximately 30 to 70% of Singapore's waste<sup>2</sup>. Singapore uses an average of 467 million PET bottles per year and 473 million plastic disposable items such as takeaway containers<sup>3</sup>. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has only exacerbated the use of disposables (paper, plastic, biodegradable materials, etc.).

The BYO movement remains an important one in the reduction of single-use disposables, in terms of both production and consumption. Its success would be contingent on collaborative efforts across the multiple levels of governance and effective stakeholder engagement, and at a far more rapid pace.

## Stakeholder Action

### Government Initiatives

The Ministry for Environment and Water Resources (now Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment) launched Singapore's Year Towards Zero Waste Master Plan and the Resource Sustainability Act in 2019. Incinerated ash and non-incinerable waste to landfill is expected to reduce by 30% by 2030.

The Mandatory Packaging Reporting Framework set to come into effect in 2020 has been pushed back to March 2022 due to the pandemic. This lays the foundation for the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. The National Environment Agency rolled out 50 reverse vending machines since early 2020 as part of the Deposit Refund Scheme (DRS) set to be launched in 2022.

### Community and Education

Increasing trend of sustainability-driven start-ups e.g. barePack, Muuse.

Youth-led, ground-up initiatives such as Project bECOME, Bye Bye Plastic Bags SG, and Straw Free Singapore increases community advocacy.

Schools (e.g. Telok Kurau Primary School, Commonwealth Secondary School, Yale-NUS, etc.) implemented sustainable initiatives aimed at driving behavioral change.

### Corporate Initiatives

The retail sector encourages BYO through plastic bag charges by large fashion brands (Bossini, H&M, Uniqlo) and container take-back or recycling schemes (Lush Cosmetics, L'occitane).

The Food & Beverage (F&B) industry has ramped up efforts to reduce single-use disposables through incentives. Food delivery services have begun implementing reusable options.

Companies have continued to promote sustainable practices for both their products and their office operations, thereby stepping up their efforts in achieving a circular economy.

<sup>1</sup> NEA, 2021, Waste Statistics and Overall Recycling

<sup>2</sup> THE STRAITS TIMES, APR 15, 2020: 3 million tonnes of waste disposed of in Singapore last year; plastic waste made up 30%

<sup>3</sup> THE WORLD BANK, FEATURE STORY, JUNE 2, 2019: Meet the Innovator Battling Plastic Waste in Singapore: Hai Minh Duong



The Zero Waste movement has gained momentum in Singapore, across schools, workplaces, various businesses and large corporations. The implementation of the Mandatory Packaging Reporting Framework is also a crucial step forward, signalling the change happening on a systemic level. However, in 2020 this movement has also begun losing speed – particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic which saw a spike in disposables being used for F&B take-away and delivery. Therefore, there is an urgent need to continue promoting plastic reduction efforts.

The following are some of Zero Waste SG's recommendations across key stakeholders:

### Public and Community

- Model by example and influencing through social communities and personal networks
- Write to the government, businesses and public platforms with clear recommendations
- Create community groups that encourage each other for visible behavioral change

### Companies and Corporations

- Set up a BYO corner in your workplace
- More ambitious commitments in company-wide sustainability policies
- Innovative programmes and outreach sessions for staff implemented company-wide
- Promote behavioral change through targeted messaging for both customers and staff
- Partner with sustainability start-ups to support reusable takeaways
- Implement a plastic bag charge
- Adopt 'take-back' or recycling schemes
- Avoid providing single-use disposables for dine-in at F&B outlets

### Government

- Expand relevant infrastructure such as water refilling stations
- Implement a nationwide plastic bag charge
- Support start-ups to provide services for takeaway in reusables islandwide
- Educating students about BYO and its impact towards zero-waste
- More extensive training and messaging for adults on BYO actions
- Increasing the speed of policy implementation given the urgent environmental crisis

Further detailed suggestions for each category are available via the full landscape report.

