

FOR IMMEDIATE REPORTING



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To News Editor

**YOUTHS TO IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE GREEN IDEAS FROM FIRST-
EVER GREEN BOOTCAMP @ NORTH WEST**

*North West CDC launches new programme to nurture our youths in turning
green ideas into reality*

For over 70 youths from various Institutes of Higher Learning looking to make a difference in sustainability and green living, the first-ever **Green Bootcamp @ North West** gave them the resources and platform to develop, sharpen and pitch their green ideas, in the hopes of implementing them in the real world. Co-organisers North West Community Development Council (CDC) and Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club Growth & Opportunities (NTU WSC-GO!) challenged teams with the problem statement of **influencing the community to adopt sustainable practices into their daily lives**, prompting the youths to think out of the box and come up with

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innovative green solutions that will augment current green-related lifestyles and practices, as well as suggest policy enhancements. After an intensive programme of virtual and in-person activities starting from 18 July 2022, the top three teams were recognised at the Pitching and Judging Day on 30 July 2022 held at the NTU Experimental Medicine Building (see *Annex A for Media Factsheet*).

2 The winning team of the Green Bootcamp @ North West, Team Igloo which comprised a mix of budding doctors and engineers, shared their aspiration of eradicating inefficient energy usage. The team developed a product that would not only be environmentally-conscious, but also provide benefit and support to the user. “The excessive use of air-conditioning has become a norm in Singapore. Why do we need the whole room to be cooled if we are only sleeping on our beds,” asked **Matthew Chew, a Medicine undergraduate at National University of Singapore and leader of Team Igloo**. The team came up with a prototype for “Igloo”, a thermoelectrical device that simultaneously cools and circulates water through the mattress pad, keeping the surface cool for the user. Matthew and team expect that with the solution rolled out, a user could save over 4,000 watts per use, which is almost five times more energy efficient than a regular air-conditioning.

3 Team BYOC Buddy who scored third place, took a completely different approach from Team Igloo and proposed a rather radical change in behaviour, instead of focusing on a product. Long bothered by the increasing use of disposable utensils due to the Circuit Breaker and delivery convenience, the team proposed for a standardised set of reusable containers in different sizes to be used for dine-out customers at hawker centres. Along with this proposal, the team also drew up plans of supporting infrastructure for collection, drop-off and washing of the container to preserve their condition. As the proposal required major behavioural change, the team proposed to engage

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relevant government bodies such as the National Environmental Agency, to promote policy change. Team BYOC Buddy predicts that the implementation of their proposal would result in a mindset and behavioral shift for Singaporeans, with the community coming together to create new social norms through a common local hawker culture.

4 The numerous innovative ideas emerging from the inaugural Green Bootcamp @ North West highlight that the programme has been a success (*see Annex B for event photos*). The programme is part of the CDC's continuous efforts in building a holistic green ecosystem to imbue a green mindset and spark behavioural change within the North West Community. Speaking at the final pitch and judging, **Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District** says, "At North West CDC, sustainability has been a big part of our daily work. Over the years, we focused on ground-up initiatives, working with schools and various partners to promote and bring the idea of sustainability closer to our community. Sustainability is not just one single action that results in change. It is a whole-of-community effort that involves all of us changing our behaviour and making changes to the way we live our lives. I'm heartened to see youths taking interest to take small steps in making a better world for all of us."

5 Through the Green Bootcamp @ North West, the CDC hopes to tap on fresh minds and empower future sustainability leaders with content knowledge and resources to implement practical solutions in resolving Climate Change, and other urgent sustainability issues of the day. Participants went through a series of workshops to gain an understanding of present-day environmental issues, and sharing by change makers to level up their knowledge and appreciation of sustainability issues. With that, they devised innovative solutions to address pressing sustainability issues. The CDC is committed to bring these high potential ideas to life, with funding from the North

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West GIRAFFE Fund and resources from our network of partners in the green space.

4 Other novel ideas presented at the Bootcamp included incorporating food composting within the school syllabus, and collaborating with Mediacorp on a green game show to raise public awareness through infotainment (*see Annex C for final proposal of teams*).

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Media Reporting

The news is for immediate reporting. Media interviews with the various teams can be facilitated upon request. We can also provide footages of the team's final pitches which secured their victory.

Contact Persons for Media

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Enclosed:

- 1) Annex A – Media Factsheet on Green Bootcamp @ North West
- 2) Annex B – [Click here to download Event Photos](#)
- 3) Annex C – [Click here to download Teams Proposals](#)

About North West Community Development Council (CDC)

The Community Development Councils (CDCs) were established to build a tightly-knit, compassionate and self-reliant community. North West CDC works closely with various community and corporate partners to strengthen Singapore's social fabric; and encourages the more able and successful to come forward to help the less successful, and to foster greater sense of community ownership and self-help among the residents.

We strive to align our activities and efforts with our mission:

(a) **Assisting the needy**

To help the less fortunate through local assistance programmes

(b) **Bonding the people**

To bond the community through projects & programmes to bring them closer to one another

(c) **Connecting the community**

To develop strategic partnerships with corporate and community partners to better serve our residents

The North West District comprises Holland-Bukit Timah GRC, Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC, Nee Soon GRC, Sembawang GRC and Bukit Panjang SMC.

FACTSHEET ON GREEN BOOTCAMP @ NORTH WEST

In recent years, there has been greater emphasis on sustainable living, especially with the development of the Singapore Green Plan 2030. One of the visions of this plan is to inculcate sustainable habits and eco stewardship among students through the Eco Stewardship programme.

Through the Green Bootcamp @ North West, North West CDC aims for participants to gain understanding of present-day environmental issues, and be able to think critically to devise innovative solutions to address such pressing real-world issues. The Bootcamp will provide insightful talks and workshops for participants to learn from, where the participants can incorporate the knowledge that they have learnt into their proposed solutions.

The problem statement for this year's inaugural Bootcamp is: How might your team influence the community to adopt sustainable practices into their daily lives?

Green Bootcamp @ North West was co-organised by North West CDC and NTU WSC-GO! to provide opportunities for youths studying to create social impact in the community.