

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

RIDING THE WAVES OF CHANGING BEHAVIOURS
TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE EARTH

A recent [study](#) indicates that global carbon dioxide emissions have fallen as much as 17% during the peak of lockdowns across the world ([Al Jazeera](#)). Malaysia has equally seen a reduction in pollution and significant improvement in air and water quality ([New Straits Times](#)).

Concerns remain that despite these temporary reliefs with other merging issues: the rise in plastic-use (estimated of 10-fold increase), clinical waste, and fears of intensified exploitation of natural resources due to decline in revenues.



This Snapshot, we highlight how Malaysians are being more sustainable and environmentally conscious, and other 'green' recovery plans globally post COVID-19.

**How do we use the current positive environmental awareness as a catalyst?
How do we use use this momentum to create long-term solutions?**

SOLUTIONS SNAPSHOT



Photo: [@adi irawan87](#)

UPCYCLING & ZERO-WASTE

Locals upcycle food packaging - using disposable plastic food containers and polystyrene boxes to plant seedlings or as DIY craft ideas. Bubble tea cups were especially popular as gardening pots and stationery holders. Users in an active zero-waste community group shared plenty of zero-waste ideas.

VOLUNTARY TRASH CLEAN-UPS

A teenager celebrates his 18th birthday with a pledge to collect trash for 23 days straight. As part of regular clean-up runs organized by a local environmentalist group earlier this year, a man had collected up to 4,500 cigarette butts. Individuals shared experiences on how they collected trash during their regular neighbourhood walks.



Photo: [Malay Mail](#) / [@hazmi nabil](#)



Photo: [@IPC Shopping Centre](#)

MORE OPTIONS TO RECYCLE

A shopping mall accelerates its recycling efforts, by introducing two new recyclable categories – food and fabric. The organic waste collected will be bio-recycled through composting and repurposed as animal feed and organic fertiliser ([Malay Mail](#)).

SURGE IN GARDENING / COMPOSTING & HOME-GROWN FOOD



Demands and sales for compost, soil conditioners ([The Edge Markets](#)), vegetable seeds and gardening tools increased during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period, a report noted that sales for hydroponic pots increase in 10-fold within two weeks after MCO was enforced ([The Star](#)).



Photo: [Evangeline Lim](#) / [SAYS](#)

News reports documented a growing trend of people dabbling into vegetable gardening to grow their own produce – with some adopting it as a family activity. Other interesting stories include those from an urban farmer and first timers, a viral post of growing bean sprouts in a soda bottle and growing an edible garden in a condominium.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Amsterdam](#) is embracing the 'doughnut' model - an economic model that balance the need of people and planet for post COVID-19 recovery.



Photo: [The Amsterdam City Doughnut](#)

- [Japan](#) seeks to bolster global momentum on climate action by hosting an online platform and high-level political event for a greener post-COVID 19 recovery.

- Cities across [Europe](#) are implementing schemes to support cycling as a mobility solution.



Photo: [Bike Europe](#)

- In [United Kingdom](#), there are growing calls for a green recovery plan that aligns with climate goals. [France's](#) airline bailout was reported to come with green-strings attached - to halve their overall carbon-dioxide emissions.