

Compiled by RUBY LIM
 rubylin@thestar.com.my

THE environment around us is not only our home, but it is the reason we are breathing and alive on this planet. Everyone has a part to play in protecting the environment.

Perhaps you are environmentally conscious at home, separating trash for recycling purposes, planting your own herbs or saving

energy like a pro with energy-efficient appliances, which are great ways to live more sustainably.

Why not extend these initiatives beyond your home, by bringing your environmental stewardship to help those in

Make your neighbourhood a greener place

your community live green lives too?

It is all about habits and actions for everyone to preserve the environment – the thing is, you don't need to look far to make a difference.

Small acts like picking up

litter at the playground and tree-planting goes a long way for not only your local community, but also preserving planet Earth.

If every neighbourhood starts with a small initiative of its own, the world would be a better place.

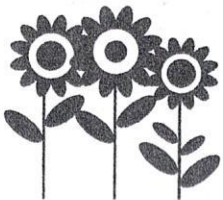
Start by getting your community together and lead these eight small ways to make a big impact and transform your neighbourhood into a greener place for all.

PLANT TREES

Get family and friends to join tree-planting activities around the neighbourhood. When trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

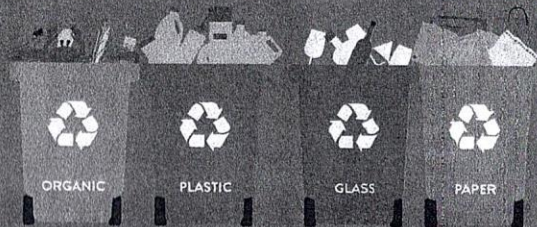


Set an example for others, especially children, by picking up litter when you are at the playground or jogging to maintain the cleanliness of the neighbourhood. You may even want to set up trash bins for convenience in areas where people hang out more often.



Initiate a group recycling pick-up schedule. For instance, set the dates with your neighbours and make arrangements with a recycling service provider for bulk collection from a central location in your neighbourhood. This will encourage those in the neighbourhood to recycle.

PROMOTE RECYCLING

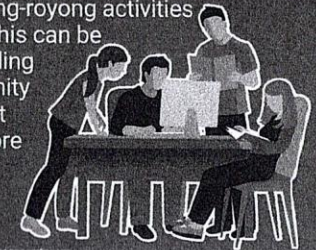


CLEAN UP LITTER



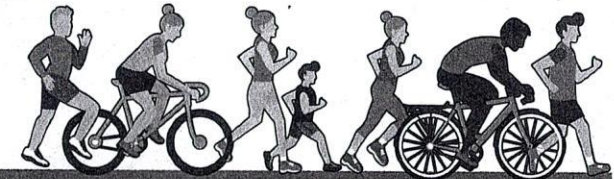
FORM AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Consider forming a neighbourhood environmental group to brainstorm ways to make the community more sustainable, like gotong-royong activities or awareness campaigns. This can be part of the community-building efforts, too. As the community becomes more aware about local issues, they will be more willing to participate and contribute towards a solution.



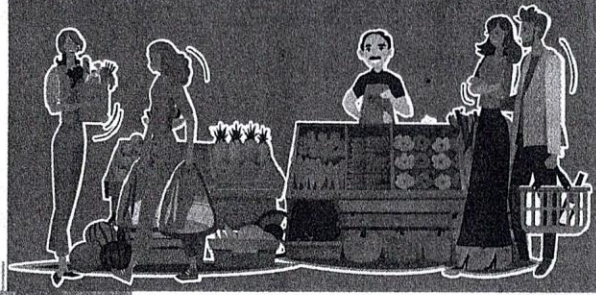
ORGANISE KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Instill the love of nature in children by organising activities, such as succulent DIY projects, art and craft using recycled materials, among others, while teaching them about environmental conservation from young by making it a part of their lives.



How does getting fresh groceries from nearby wet markets help the environment? Since it's nearby, less transportation leads to lower gas emission being emitted, while traders will also use less packaging, compared to items at supermarkets.

SUPPORT LOCAL SELLERS



CREATE A COMMUNITY GARDEN



Encourage your neighbours to participate in creating a community garden that allows those within the neighbourhood to harvest fruits and vegetables sustainably. You may initiate a community compost programme within the garden as well.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Join associations or groups to raise awareness on environmental conservation. You may even share the knowledge within your neighbourhood group and start activities like beautifying the local park or playground with plants and labelling the plant types for educational purposes.

