

The Greater Use of 12 PET Bottles, Prime Minister Surprised

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation, Singapore
Sunday, 16 May 2010 00:00



The Resident Committees of Kg Tiong Bahru West and Kim Tian West jointly organized the Tiong Bahru Community Day on 16 May and invited Tzu Chi Singapore to set up an eco-awareness exhibition at the event. It was a good opportunity to share the message of conservation with members of the public, engaging more to become gardeners of Mother Earth.

The greater use of 12 PET bottles

As early as eight in the morning, the void decks of HDB flats in Tiong Bahru were bustling with activities – more than 1000 residents were attracted to the programmes on the stage, the range of food stalls, recreational facilities, and an exhibition area set up by Tzu Chi volunteers to promote environmental awareness and responsibility.

Although no bigger than half the size of a badminton court, the exhibition area offered variety and substance. Among the displays, the eco textiles developed by [Da Ai Technology Co. Ltd.](#) attracted the most attention. From the video screening the production processes, members of the public found it incredible that the eco vest, eco blanket and other woven products were produced from post-consumer polyethylene terephthalate bottles (commonly referred to as PET) after further refining and processing.



"You mean 12 PET bottles are sufficient to make a shirt like that?" People were amazed that what they considered as trash and regularly thrown away actually has such wonderful application.

In fact, 12 recycled PET bottles can make a 200gm shirt and 61 PET bottles can weave a 180x150cm blanket. Recycle and remake PET bottles into textiles not only prolongs the useful life of materials but also helps to conserve energy. When second hand materials are used in repeated production, the required energy is half of what raw materials would consume. Imagine the savings and the impact on energy use!

When Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, visited the exhibition area later that morning, he was equally intrigued by the wisdom of 'transforming uselessness to usefulness' after being briefed about the eco-textile technology. "Can this really keep warm?" PM Lee asked curiously while feeling the texture of the eco blanket. The volunteers assured the Prime Minister, to which he kept nodding in acknowledgement.

The Greater Use of 12 PET Bottles, Prime Minister Surprised

Written by Tzu Chi Foundation, Singapore
Sunday, 16 May 2010 00:00

