Chula Zero Waste Initiative

Sujitra Vassanadumrongdee, Ph.D.

Environmental Research Institute, CU

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CHULA ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

- A 5-Yr Action Plan to reduce waste & cultivate ‘zero waste’ cultures within CU communities
- Role model for other universities & organizations + society
- The work plans have been developed according to waste management hierarchy

Emphasizing waste prevention before recycling

The Waste Management Hierarchy

- Reduce: Minimize the amount of waste produced
- Reuse: Use materials more than once
- Recycle/Compost: Use materials to make new products
- Recover: Recover energy and metals from waste
- Disposal: Safe disposal of waste to landfill
6 Work plans 18 Projects

1. Policy
2. Waste Prevention
3. Waste Segregation at Source
4. Waste Collection
5. Organic Waste Treatment
6. Education

Chula Zero Waste


- **My Bag**: plastic bag charging
- **My Bottle**: water refill stations & reusable bottles
- **My Cup**: discounts for bringing reusable cups
- **Zero-Waste Cup**: paper coated with bioplastic (PBS) with close-loop management & alternative uses

- **Separate garbage bins**
- **Energy recovery**: low-recovery value plastic waste sent to cement kilns

**Link with schools**: CU Demonstration Schools & Alternative Schools

**Producing a storybook**

**Awareness campaign on plastic waste & microplastics**
Announcement on the Single-Use Plastic Waste Reduction Measures at CU, 2018

• No free plastic bags at all shops in CU except hot food
• No plastic cups in all canteens
• Ban on polystyrene foams and oxo-degradable plastic bags
• On request for plastic straws & cutlery
Plastic Bag Charging
Charge rate: 2 THB (0.06 USD) per bag
Exemption: hot items

Since Feb 2017, plastic bag charging has been introduced leading to 90% reduction, approx. 4 million bags avoided in almost 3 years

*Nov 2016 – Jan 2017
Voluntary campaign
30% drop in plastic bag usage compared to baseline in Oct 2016
Zero-waste cups: a close-loop bioplastic management & second life usage

- Waste prevention
  - Bring own cups

- Replacement with env. friendly products
  - (consumers pay extra 2 THB)

- Waste separation in canteens

- Plant nursery pots/bags

MOU with Royal Forestry Department
29 Oct 2019

Compost
Creating social norms on zero waste lifestyle

Knowledge on Waste Segregation

Sculptures from Single-Use Plastics
Educational booth/roadshow
• Cooperation with CU Demonstration Schools (primary & secondary schools) & alternative schools
• Published a storybook on Marine Plastic Pollution

Educational board on microplastic

A Storybook “What is in the sea?” raising awareness on marine plastic pollution
Driving Environmental Education Policy

Encouraging Ministry of Education to promote EE at schools and work with MONRE and stakeholders on EE

Working with UNEP to organize a workshop on 23 Aug 2019

Promoted youth action
Thank you
Solutions & Recommendations

1. **The government should support universities & large organizations to implement zero waste programs in their organizations.** (Now MONRE (by PCD) have implemented plastic waste reduction & waste segregation projects in government agencies with KPI setting for Department-level Director-Generals but the project did not include universities)

2. **MOE should support Environmental Education process in core curriculum & upscale Eco-School Projects in partnership with MONRE & stakeholders**
   - Cultivate sustainable consumption & waste reduction/segregation as civic duties

3. **MONRE & MOF & MOI should draft Circular Economy Promotion Laws as a basic law to promote recycling/CE society with EPR concept & to promote CE business models across industries (especially packaging, electrical and electronic equipment & automotive industries)**