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## Subang Jaya Municipal Council Community Recycling Centre. *Malaysia*

Good Practice

New for 2002

**Categories:** Environmental Management:  
- ecological sustainability  
- environmental health  
- environmental remediation  
- pollution reduction  
Civic Engagement and Cultural Vitality:  
- civic education  
- community participation

**Level of Activity:** City/Town

**Ecosystem:** Tropical/Sub-Tropical

## Summary

Subang Jaya Municipal Council was formed in January 1997. It covers an area of 161.8 sq. kilometers with a population of over 450,000 people. A few months after it was formed a recycling program was launched with the objective of creating awareness among the people on the need to reduce waste and sustain the environment. With this in mind, Subang Jaya Municipal Council embarked on a plan that requires a new system of participation from the three sectors of the society namely the community, the government and the private sector. Amongst the participants in the program include several schools within the municipality, Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Watch Group, waste collection companies, NGOs like TrEES (Treat Every Environment Special Sdn Bhd) and several government depart

## Narrative

### Introduction

We stand at the dawn of a new millennium. Will it be the best of times for human existence or will it be the worst of times! The distinctive features of our present era indicate that perhaps it will be a bit of both. How then can we sustain the quality of life of each citizen?

We are experiencing an accelerated pace and scope of globalisation which results in shrinking space, shrinking time and blurring borders. As economies of each nation grow our world becomes smaller, the future and prosperity of national become more interdependent and people's life become more intensely intertwined. As more and more people live in this world, the need for increase use of raw materials to feed and care for the population becomes more acute. The implications of this human development can be staggering. Imagine the potentially dangerous side effects of development if it is

not manage properly. Clearly the challenge of the 21st century will be to narrow the gap between production capacity and eliminating waste.

Malaysia en-route towards achieving Vision 2020 goals, tries putting in place several programs to sustain equitable development. Besides intensifying efforts in economic, social and physical development, efforts are also focused on cushioning the implication of its side effects. One such program is the focus on waste management.

With so much at stake, there is a realization that there is need for a new form of governance to materialize. In this case, for the new system to work and for the good of everyone, a governance system involving the three main sectors i.e. the community, the private sector and the government must work in equal partnership to realise a common goal. Below are descriptions of what is being done in Subang Jaya Municipal Council, a local authority covering an area of 161.8 square kilometers with 450,000 populations. It was formed in January 1997. A few months after it was formed, a re-cycling program was launched in line with the governments call to reduce waste.

## 2. Situation Before The Initiative Begun

In the past waste was managed by individual municipality of the local government. During the late 1990s, under privatization policy, waste management was entrusted in the hands of a private company known as Alam Flora.

Well before that, garbage and solid waste were discarded in some crude manner like throwing them at on-sites using landfill method, sometimes with or without minimum on-site treatment. When population density was low especially in the rural areas, problems arising from using on-site landfill were not that grave and were quite manageable. The attitude of the people then was to rely on town or municipal councils to remove the waste. However, as urbanization increases, indiscriminate disposal of garbage gave rise to other problems as well. That was when it was felt that a good management for solid waste was needed. The expertise was found in a private sector company that undertakes the management of solid waste to the fullest.

However, the problem does not stop at that. It was found that the quantity of waste produced was on the increase. Some other method has to be enforced quickly to arrest the problem. In order to minimize the impact of environmental degradation, Subang Jaya Municipal Council took the initiative to plan for a better system of waste management. The first step taken was to increase the level of awareness among the people that re-cycle pays, that re-cycle brings income to the country and that waste management expenditure could be decreased. Awareness program is important in order to gauge the reaction of the public on how further should the re-cycling program progress. Partners in the community were called upon to provide assistance and support. The private waste collectors then strategies a more systematic disposal bay classifying them into several categories for easier sorting at the re-cycle centers.

## 3. Objectives.

The main objectives of the community re-cycling program are as follows: -

- i. To encourage the participation of the three sectors of the community in local administration thus enhancing the good governance agenda
- ii. To enhance the understanding and increase awareness on the importance to sustain a balance development,
- iii. To establish the importance of the need to reduce the quantity of waste but optimize its re-useable quality.

To ensure the above objectives are met, several re-cycling program are implemented. It received overwhelming response from the community. The programs are as follows: -

#### i. Schools re-cycling programs

Re-cycling programs in schools are carried out with the aim of creating environmental awareness. Information on effects of waste disposal on the environment is disseminated to the students via training camps and workshops. Issues and problems are discussed and they have the opportunities to express themselves on what kind of environment they would like to live in and discuss ways on how to save the environment. By disseminating information to the students, it is hoped that it would gather critical mass from their homes.

#### ii. Re-cycling Centers

While promoting re-cycling programs, there is a need to provide enough facilities to support campaign. Other than providing the public with coloured bins (see appendix 1) to differentiate the waste materials, it is also necessary to provide a collection centers at appropriate places where people can send their re-cycleable items in big bulk.

Subang Jaya Municipal Council opens a re-cycling center at its headquarters in Subang Jaya every Sunday to encourage the residents to send in their waste. Similar centers are also set up at 3 other places in Puchong Jaya, Taman Kinrara section 1 and Subang Jaya Stadium. (See appendix 2).

Shopping complexes are also encouraged to set up re-cycling centers at their premises. It is a convenient way by which people could bring their re-cycleable items in their own vehicle and place them at the centers, which is normally situated very close to the parking area. Presently, there are 4 re-cycling center at Giant Hypermarket, Carrefour Hypermarket, IOI Mall, and the Mines shopping Center. More is being planned to be opened at other shopping complex. (See appendix3).

#### iii. Community Re-cycling Centers

The latest approach to re-cycling programs is to build a convenient building to house a collection center for re-cycle-able items. The cost of the building at about RM70,000 (US\$18,421.00) is funded by Subang Jaya Municipal Council but is handed over to the local resident association to manage and maintain the upkeep. Whatever profits collected from the dealings are being kept by the Resident Association.

The Resident Association will liaise with the waste collection company on the time by which the waste items should be collected and send for sorting. From thereon the waste items would be sent to the local manufactures that would then turn them into other produce.

The center maintains a certain time for collection of waste. During the off period, the center could also be used as a meeting venue for the community.

See appendix 4.

#### 4. Achievements

##### School

No of school participate Year ? items collected

10 1998 9,879.15 Kg

19 1999 82,502.50 Kg

24 2000 250,471.8 Kg

18 2001 207,423.7 Kg

##### Recycling Centers

SJMC 2001 9,969.0 Kg

Shopping Complexes 2001 521,581 Kg

Resident Association As a start, there are 2 recycling centers in housing area.

i) Puchong just started operation in February 2002.

ii) USJ is starting off soon.

## 5. Conclusion

We believe re-cycling models implemented in Subang Jaya Municipal Council could be replicated elsewhere either in Malaysia or in other parts of the world with minimum cost yet the benefits derived from it are many.

The followings are some of the benefits: -

- I. It highlights the cooperation between the three sectors of the society. This system augurs well for the good of local governance.
- II. Cooperation among the people increased with constant interaction between them.
- III. Private sectors participation is a good indication of the social contribution they can make for the public.
- IV. The community itself is able to participate in small-scale business.
- V. Clean environment could be maintained.
- VI. Business for re-cycleable items flourished whereby it can be re-manufactures into different product.
- VII. Households contributing to the program increased with time and with sufficient critical mass, the economies of scale would prevail. Hence the contributing factor to economic development.

### WASTE COLLECTED AND RE-CYCLED IN YEAR 2001 IN SUBANG JAYA MUNICIPALITY

<b>Â MONTH</b>	<b>WASTE COLLECTED</b> (in metric ton)	<b>RECYCLED WASTE</b> ( in metric ton)	<b>PEI</b>
JAN	6,442.36	36.47	
FEB	9,494.63	29.43	
MAC	10,072.18	76.97	
APRIL	10,020.47	68.94	
MAY	10,516.10	80.37	
JUN	10,483.41	67.92	
JULAI	10.559.10	62.41	
AUG	11,496.00	78.74	
SEPT	10,366.49	74.38	
OKT	11,228.13	57.75	
NOV	11,592.01	60.13	
DIS	12,327.22	52.89	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124,598.17</b>	<b>746.40</b>	

### MONTHLY RE-CYCLED ITEMS

<b>NO</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>RECYCLED ITEMS IN (KG)</b>				
		<b>Glass</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Card-</b>	<b>Plastic</b>	<b>Aluminium</b>

				<b>boxes</b>		
1	JANUARY	1,879.78	31,183.52	60.00	311.54	250.00
2	FEBUARY	1,208.67	25,439.55	157.70	439.32	183.00
3	MARCH	2,168.87	70,099.57	88.90	740.68	399.60
4	APRIL	2,699.49	61,778.93	115.30	1,033.56	293.90
5	MAY	2,967.13	71,984.26	44.60	1,717.92	486.30
6	JUNE	2,874.67	60,532.89	119.60	1,420.24	521.80
7	JULY	4,045.50	52,147.38	1,197.10	3,417.68	1,195.68
8	AUGUST	2,991.91	68,055.60	508.50	5,287.17	405.60
9	SEPTEMBER	3,549.93	66,420.83	544.00	1,957.19	410.00
10	OCTOBER	3,621.71	50,538.56	215.40	1,911.75	422.00
11	NOVEMBER	3,654.43	50,868.66	-	2,242.42	412.00
12	DECEMBER	4,023.84	44,111.24	-	2,193.08	349.30
<b>Â</b>	<b>Â</b>	<b>35,685.93</b>	<b>653,160.99</b>	<b>3,051.10</b>	<b>22,672.55</b>	<b>5,329.18</b>
	<b>TOTAL YEAR 2001</b>					

#### RECYCLEABLE ITEMS

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>
1	Paper
2	Card-Boxes
3	Glass
4	Plastic
5	Aluminium
6	Metal
7	Used Clothes

#### Key Dates

April 4, 1998 The launching of SJMC recycle programme.

July 6, 1999 Officiating the CRC at Giant Hypermarket.

November 2000 Establish CRC at SJMC Headquarters and SJMC Community Halls with support from Alam Flora Sdn. Bhd, a waste management company.

December 8, 2001 Officiating the CRC at SJMC Recreational Park by the Local Government Minister. The CRC will be managed by the Resident Association

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**Type of Organization:** Local Authority

## Partners



Email questions or problems to [help@bestpractices.org](mailto:help@bestpractices.org).

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