

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore Discovery Centre Becomes Singapore's First Positive Energy Museum

SINGAPORE, 15 MARCH 2024 – The Defence Collective Singapore (DCS), the parent company of the Singapore Discovery Centre (SDC), is proud to announce a groundbreaking milestone in SDC's ongoing commitment to sustainability. SDC is the first museum in Singapore and one of the first few globally to become a positive energy museum.

SDC proudly celebrated this symbolic accomplishment today in the presence of esteemed guests, as well as a pre-recorded speech from Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Zaqy Mohamad.

Commenting on SDC's sustainability journey, Mr Zaqy said, "In Singapore, buildings contribute over 20 percent of our carbon emissions and consume more than a third of our nation's electricity. Efforts to reduce a building's carbon emissions can significantly support Singapore's drive towards net-zero energy emissions. SDC's Greenest Plan has guided the museum in integrating green technologies and climate-conscious initiatives into its operational practices. Today, I am pleased to announce that SDC has not only achieved its Net-Zero Energy goal last year in September 2023, but also exceeded its own target by generating an average of more than 30% excess energy for export from October 2023 to February 2024. This accomplishment crowns SDC as the first Positive Energy museum in Singapore."

"Our sustainability journey started in end 2019, anchored on three key pillars: increasing renewable energy, enhancing efficiency, and inspiring behavioural change," said Mr Joseph Tan, CEO, DCS. "Our strategic investments in solar power, along with the implementation of energy-saving technologies and continuous efforts to encourage sustainable practices, have yielded remarkable results. Our energy consumption has seen a significant reduction of almost 70% since 2019. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of sustainability through continued innovation and collaboration, ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for all."

To commemorate this feat and inspire Singaporeans to embrace a more sustainable lifestyle, the Defence Collective Singapore (DCS) is hosting the Sustainability Fest from 9 March to 17 March at SDC, coinciding with the March school holidays.

Innovating for a Greener Tomorrow

Aligning to MINDEF's commitment to environmental sustainability and Singapore Green Plan 2030, SDC started its sustainability journey in 2019, and since then it has transformed into a beacon of sustainability; installing over 4096 solar panels across the museum.

Surpassing its initial target of net-zero energy consumption in September 2023, SDC attained positive energy management in October 2023. From October 2023 to February 2024, it generated more energy than its consumption, resulting in an average of 30% excess energy. The achievement makes SDC the first Positive Energy Museum in Singapore.

- **Increasing Renewable Energy**

One of the key pillars of SDC's sustainability efforts is increasing renewable energy. The strategic installation of 10 photovoltaic systems, comprising 4,096 solar panels across its premises, including the rooftops, carpark, urban garden, lake and walkway, has played a pivotal role in its positive energy production. These panels harness solar energy to power various facilities and operations within SDC, significantly reducing its reliance on conventional energy sources and minimising its carbon footprint.

- **Enhancing Operational Efficiency**

SDC implemented innovative technologies and practices to enhance operational efficiency, including optimised air conditioning, LED lighting and smart building management systems, as well as water-saving measures like hydroponics farming.

- **Inspiring Positive Behavioural Change**

Beyond infrastructure and innovation, SDC recognises the crucial role of individual behaviour in realising sustainable practices. The third pillar of its sustainability efforts focuses on inspiring positive behavioural change among visitors and staff through educational programmes and outreach efforts such as the educational Greenest Plan Sustainability Tour, which saw an increase of 32% in participants, from 353 in FY22 to 467 in FY23, through proactive outreach.

To further engage, educate, and empower individuals, SDC organises events like Sustainability Fest to inspire action towards a positive environmental impact.

For more details on these sustainability efforts, please refer to the media factsheet.

Celebrating Sustainability with Sustainability Fest

Themed "CIRCLES: Looping Towards a Sustainable Tomorrow", this week-long festival aims to inspire and empower the community to cultivate sustainable practices in everyday life.

Highlights of Sustainability Fest include a vibrant carnival with sustainability-themed activities such as personality quizzes, *Aura Eco Vibe!*, and an eco-pledge wall, along with carnival game booths. Visitors can engage in eco-awareness programmes like the Eco Blaster Challenge, eco-friendly workshops like *Plastify*, sustainability exhibits, and a self-guided sustainability trail with *Singapaw*. They can also join the Living Green Eco Tour for hands-on experiences with renewable energy and urban farming or visit the Partners' Showcase Zone. Additionally, free movie screenings and *XD Theatre* rides will be available.

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