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ZHUB NEWSLETTER

HA NOI CAPITAL, VIET NAM



Image: Students at Bach Dang Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City, painting murals in the school to raise awareness of waste separation practices.

With big changes to the way households, communities and organizations manage waste coming into place this year, 2024 is a particularly important year for communities to develop solid waste separation skills. According to the revised Law on Environmental Protection 2020, by the end of 2024 everyone in Viet Nam will be required to separate domestic waste.⁽¹⁾

(1) Source: Law on Environmental Protection 2020, Articles 2, 79. Promulgated under Law No. 72/2020/QH14, November 17, 2020 of the National Assembly.
(English Translation: MONRE/WINROCK International/ USAID)



Bach Dang Primary School students actively asked questions to GreenHub staff during the Waste separation training.

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Bach Dang Primary School students focus on listening to GreenHub staff during the Waste separation training.

I. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. ZHUB This Programme is developed and implemented by GreenHub, to raise student and community awareness towards behaviour change about environmental protection, limiting Single-Use Plastics, and encouraging product reuse, recovery and environmentally friendly materials.

2. ZERO WASTE The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health. (Source: Zero Waste International Alliance - <https://zwia.org/zero-waste-definition/>).

3. “ZERO WASTE SCHOOL” MODEL
The Zero waste concept implemented by schools and universities with practical activities by students, teachers, and staff, seeking to raise awareness and minimize waste impacts on the environment or human health.

4. MRF MODEL
A “Material Recovery Facility” (physical structure, equipment, and operation) adapted to each school’s capacity, to convert organic solid waste to compost, and collect recyclable materials from other solid waste.

5. COMPOSTING
Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves, stems and food scraps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants.

6. SINGLE-USE PLASTIC (SUP) PRODUCTS
Products (other than non-replaceable attachments) including trays, food containers, bowls, chopsticks, glasses, cups, knives, spoons, forks, straws and other cutlery with plastic, components which are designed and marketed with the intention to be used once before being discharged into the environment.
(Source: Government of Vietnam (2022) Elaboration of Several Articles of the Law on Environmental Protection. Decree No. 8/2022/ND-CP, January 10, 2022 (English Translation: MONRE/WINROCK International/ USAID,))

7. WASTE SEPARATION
Waste separation is the process of dividing waste into different categories based on characteristics such as composition, properties, origin, and level of hazard.
(Source: Article 69, 2020 Law on Environmental Protection)

II. BACH DANG PRIMARY SCHOOL - ZHUB'S PIONEERING PARTNER IN WASTE EDUCATION IN HO CHI MINH CITY

★ Bach Dang Primary School explores Zero Waste and practices Waste Separation through training for students

At Bach Dang Primary School, students excitedly participated in the training session "Harmful effects of plastic waste, Zero waste and Waste separation" organized by GreenHub. The main goal of the training session was to provide basic knowledge about Zero waste and related urgent environmental issues, so raising student awareness of environmental protection. The knowledge gained by students is necessary to implement practices to reduce waste generated from schools in future activities.

In the training, GreenHub staff applied a method combining experience, practice and mini-games. First of all, students were provided with the basic concepts of Zero Waste, the 5Rs Rule (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot), information on Viet Nam's current waste situation, and the harmful effects of waste, especially plastic waste.



Image: Students at Bach Dang Primary School contribute to the visual evaluation of the training session with colored dots representing their evaluation.



Image: Students of Bach Dang Primary School actively participated in a training about the harmful effects of waste, Zero Waste concept and waste separation.

During the training session, students practiced classifying daily household waste with pictures, and listened to the results of the school waste audit conducted last quarter. After learning that at their school, organic waste and plastic waste are the two biggest types of waste (78% and 12% respectively), some students immediately made changes to their plastic use. Gia Nhi - a student of Class 4.3 shared:

"From now on I will use a personal water bottle to store drinks bought at the store".

At each training session, in addition to knowledge about the concept of Zero Waste and the 5Rs principle, GreenHub staff also shared alarming statistics about waste, and its impact on students' health. Thanks to these facts, students now have a deeper understanding of waste, and are motivated to limit Single-Use Plastic every day.

In the training, the students were divided into many small groups, each separating different waste samples according to the recommended rules. This activity helps students better understand how to separate waste at the source, thereby applying it to daily life.

At the end of the training session, the students all showed great excitement and determination. The students have shown a deep understanding of Zero Waste, how to separate waste and specific actions to protect the environment such as stopping using straws, replacing disposable plastic cups with personal water bottles, and proposing waste separation at school. These skills will help students become "environmental warriors" at Bach Dang Primary School.

★ Survey for a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Waste Separation model - Improving the quality of waste management at school



Image: The canteen area of Bach Dang Primary School, where students buy food and drinks, is one of the areas that generates a lot of waste.



Image: Recycled products made by students under the guidance of teachers of Bach Dang Primary School.

GreenHub’s joint survey with the school’s Board of Directors identified locations for a “Material Recovery Facility” (MRF) and for “Waste Separation at Source”.

The MRF model is designed with specialized areas in the school to learn and practice composting turning the largest proportion of waste into products used for school plants. Frequently using the MRF model at school not only improves waste management but is also a place for students to learn and experience through the process of collecting, separating and processing waste.

At the same time, the ‘Waste Separation at Source’ model is being implemented with the guidance of GreenHub. Additional waste bins for separate waste collection will be arranged in areas next to classrooms, accompanied by waste bin and separation instructions to help students easily identify each waste type.



Image: Waste bins for separating milk cartons have been deployed at Bach Dang Primary School.

★ Zero waste education through murals - When knowledge is colored

In our 2024 activity plan with Bach Dang Primary School, the school Board of Directors and the ZHub Programme have implemented 18 murals with the themes of Zero waste, Plastic waste and Environmental protection.

The mural's topics were chosen according to the needs of students and teachers in knowledge improvement after the KAP survey toward waste management in school. For example, in the survey, 66.9% of students and 74.1% of teacher did not understand the plastic origin. Therefore the murals will provide information about these topic for them. Moreover, for primary students, murals are simple but effective method for studying, because of their colourful design.



Paintings with the themes "Zero waste", "Waste separation" and "Environmental protection" were created together by students, GreenHub staff and skilled artists. From the story of 3 plastic bottles, to the issue of reducing plastic and understanding the origin of plastic waste, all are vividly shown on the walls.

Murals not only bring aesthetic beauty but also convey meaningful messages about environmental protection. They are like mirrors that illuminate students' consciousness, and encourage them to act and spread messages to the community.



Image: Students at Bach Dang Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City participated in painting murals in the school with the theme of waste and waste separation.

The students were curious and eager to follow each creative step of the talented artists. They can not only admire but also directly participate in the painting process, expressing their love, aesthetics and creativity.



Image: GreenHub staff and Students at Bach Dang Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City participated in painting murals in the school with the theme of waste and waste separation.



PHOTO BOARD

Images: Students and teachers at Bach Dang Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City participated in painting murals in the school with the theme of waste and waste separation.





III. "GREEN STARTUP 2024" CONTEST - BUSINESS COOPERATION IN FINDING AND DEVELOPING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



Image: The "Green Startup 2024" contest was interesting with participation by a large number of lecturers, students of Phenikaa University and businesses.



Images: 10 teams shared 10 different ideas related to waste management, environmentally friendly alternative products and recycled products.

The "Green Startup 2024" contest was jointly organized by GreenHub and the Youth Union of Phenikaa University, with support from Dow Chemical Vietnam Company Limited.

Amidst increasing concern about waste, Phenikaa University collaborated with GreenHub to organize the "Green Startup 2024" competition. The main goal of the competition was to find creative and sustainable business ideas, contributing to solving challenges related to waste, plastic waste and waste separation at source.

The contest is part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Phenikaa and GreenHub with multiple goals. First, the contest aims to raise awareness for Phenikaa students about the importance of sustainable business, associated with environmental protection.

Through the creative ideas presented, students will have the opportunity to apply the knowledge about "Zero Waste" (5R) and sustainable development that Phenikaa school provides.





In addition, the competition also aims to find, build and develop green and sustainable startup ideas. These solutions will contribute to solving environmental, waste and sustainable development challenges in Vietnam. With support from experts from Phenikaa and GreenHub, competing teams will have the opportunity to perfect and implement their ideas in practice.



Image: Phenikaa University lecturers were interested to listen to the green ideas of the competing teams

Furthermore, the contest also aims to create a useful and meaningful playground for individuals, groups and organizations with green and sustainable startup ideas. This is an opportunity for them to demonstrate their creativity, innovation and ability to apply science and technology to solve urgent environmental problems.

After the preliminary round, the 10 best groups were selected for the final round. Competing teams presented their business solutions, from recycling waste, producing environmentally friendly products, to treating waste at source. These ideas are not only creative and economically feasible, but also demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental protection.

The contest not only brings business opportunities to the competing teams, but also contributes to raising awareness of environmental protection and promoting sustainable development in the community. These creative ideas not only bring profits, but also aim to green the economy and society.

IV. ZHUB PLAN IN QUARTER 3 (2024)

Continue to search and expand the ZHub network in Ho Chi Minh City



Expanding the Zero Waste School model in Ho Chi Minh City is one of ZHub's goals in the near future.

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is one of many large developed cities in Vietnam, and is also a land bordering the sea. Therefore, focusing on solving waste problems at schools and on the mainland here, also directly minimizing pressure on the environment and limiting leakage into the marine environment.

After working with Bach Dang Primary School for a period of time, ZHub has more experience and foundation to continue finding and replicating the Zero Waste School model more in Ho Chi Minh City.

Implement summer activities/competitions with Bach Dang Primary School



After the results of a series of survey and training activities at Bach Dang Primary School, ZHub will deploy the MRF model and waste separation at the school, and at the same time support the school to maintain regular activities of the Environmental Club (including students who have participated in the training).

Continue to establish a waste battery separation model at the Academy for Policy and Development (APD) in Hanoi city



GreenHub will continue to coordinate with the School Board of Directors to establish a waste separation model at the Academy. Two used battery bins will be added in the first floor elevator area - the place most accessible to students and lecturers, and the school office - where new batteries are also taken and used.



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