

Q3/2024

ZHUB NEWSLETTER

HA NOI CAPITAL, VIET NAM



Figure 1: Students of the Academy of Policy and Development diligently create recycled products from jeans at the workshop recycling old jeans (August 2024)

Waste separation is becoming more urgent this year, because according to the 2020 Environmental Protection Law, “agencies, organizations, communities, households and individuals on the territory of the Socialist Republic Vietnam, including mainland, islands, sea areas, underground and sky”. It is mandatory to separate household waste at source and should be done by the December 31, 2024.

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Figure 2: Students of Lam Dong Kindergarten responded to the Cooperation Signing Ceremony between GreenHub and Lam Dong kindergarten.

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. LOOKING BACK ON TWO YEARS OF ZHUB AT THE ACADEMY OF POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Supporting Green Development (GreenHub) and the Academy of Policy and Development (APD) have worked together over two years to improve environmental protection on campus and promote sustainable development among students.

The close coordination between the two institutions has brought many sustainable initiatives, from organizing environmental education activities to developing practical models.

This anniversary marks an important milestone for GreenHub and APD following two years of collaboration. 03 Recyclable waste separation bins and 02 waste battery collection bins were handed over to the school, along with teaching and learning materials and instructions on waste separation practice.

This is not only a step forward in encouraging the community to participate in proper waste separation and treatment, but also a testament to the strong commitment of both sides in building a clean, beautiful, sustainable learning environment. This journey not only benefits the environment but also contributes to raising awareness and responsibility of each individual in the Academy.



Figure 4: Dr. Nguyen The Hung - Vice Director of the APD spoke about the 2-year journey of cooperation

In particular, the Old Jeans Recycling Workshop (Fashion Workshop) was testament to the environmental goals of this partnership. After the workshop, students not only gained upcycling skills but were encouraged to develop a sustainable business mindset.

This activity not only helps them better understand the importance of protecting the environment but also opens up startup opportunities in the field of sustainable fashion.



Figure 3: Delegates and students applauded for the encouraging results after 2 years of cooperation between the APD and GreenHub

After 2 years of cooperation, environmental activities have created positive impacts on APD students, helping them develop many startup and sustainable business ideas.



One of the successful specific actions is to encourage students to bring their own water bottles, thereby significantly reducing the amount of plastic used every day. This not only helps limit plastic waste but also raises awareness of environmental protection in the community.

In addition, workshops and courses organized during the cooperation process have equipped students with knowledge about sustainable business thinking, encouraging students to find creative solutions in product development.

Students learnt how to apply knowledge through evidence based education and experiences. This included a business model competition, encouraging students to create products that protected the planet and had economic value. but also contribute to protecting the planet.

Habits such as using cloth bags instead of plastic bags or participating in environmental volunteer activities have become indispensable parts of campus life.



Figure 5: The 2nd anniversary event between the APD and GreenHub received attention from leaders of both sides

The knowledge and skills students gained will help them become future leaders, building a sustainable Vietnam. These activities not only demonstrate commitment to the environment but also create a space for exchange and learning about sustainable development, where economic growth does not come at the expense of natural resources.



Figure 6: Students participating in the fascinating Fashion Workshop



Figure 7: APD students show their talents in creating recycled products from old jeans

III. MEET OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER: LAM DONG KINDERGARTEN

GreenHub and Lam Dong Kindergarten (Hai Phong city) started the new school year on a positive note, signing a cooperation agreement and commitment to the ZHub programme.

The Staff at Lam Dong Kindergarten are excited to apply their education expertise to Zero Waste education.

The school's students are diligent and looking forward to creating a clean, health learning environment.



Figure 9: Children of Lam Dong kindergarten participating in the activity "Zero Waste for Children" within the framework of the Cooperation Signing Ceremony



Figure 8: Director of GreenHub and Principal of Lam Dong Kindergarten signed a cooperation agreement under the witnesses of Lam Dong Commune People's Committee and related partners

Mrs. Le Thi Thuy, Principal of Lam Dong kindergarten and Mrs. Tran Thi Hoa, Director of GreenHub, signed a memorandum of understanding with the witnesses of Lam Dong commune People's Committee, and local businesses, organizations, as a commitment to effective educational activities on environmental protection.

Director of GreenHub, Mrs. Tran Thi Hoa, emphasized the importance of learning green living habits from a young age, to shape environmentally conscious and responsible citizens.

The programme "Zero Waste Schools and More" not only spreads the model to many schools but also contributes to building a brighter future for younger generations. People at the event was shared many upcoming meaningful activities of the school and GreenHub.

Parents, teachers and students are all called to participate in this journey, together building a "Lam Dong Zero Waste School", contributing to creating a greener and more sustainable Hai Phong city for the future.



Figure 10: Mrs. Tran Thi Hoa - Director of GreenHub shares future directions after the cooperation signing ceremony with the participants

IV. MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, COMING TO US FROM FAR AWAY: TO HIEN THANH PRIMARY SCHOOL

To Hien Thanh Primary School (Can Tho City) is proud of its safe learning environment, and looking forward to adding the ZHub model to student's studies.

On September 5, 2024, To Hien Thanh Primary School, GreenHub, Can Tho City Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and CLEAR RIVERS organisation officially signed a cooperation agreement, as To Hien Thanh Primary School became a new member of ZHub. This event marks an important step forward in the joint effort to build a green, clean and sustainable learning environment for students, and spread the "Zero Waste School" model to other schools in the Mekong Delta region.

Participating in ZHub not only opens up a great deal of learning opportunities and rich experiences for students, but also promotes awareness of environmental protection. Through the partnership with GreenHub, students will engage in useful lessons on waste sorting, learn about sustainable alternatives to Single-Use Plastic products and how to reduce waste. This programme not only raises awareness about environmental protection but also encourages children to practice green living habits from an early age.

The programme, together with the school, will coordinate practical activities such as waste collection, educational workshops and field trips, where students can apply the knowledge they have learned into practice, each classroom will become a "green station" where children can learn about environmental protection together.



Figure 11: A student at To Hien Thanh primary school classifies waste and put it in the correct bins.



Figure 12: Handing over of the Zero Waste School mural with a fish-shaped recycling bin



Figure 13 - 14: To Hien Thanh Primary School, GreenHub, Clear Rivers and Can Tho City Department of Natural Resources and Environment jointly signed to implement the model "Green School, Minimize Waste", and visit the models deployed at the school

Joining ZHub not only benefits students but also contributes to raising community awareness about environmental protection. Let's act together for a greener future for younger generations at Can Tho city!

V. CHI LANG PRIMARY SCHOOL - INITIATED MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY MODEL (MRF)

At Chi Lang Primary School (formerly Bach Dang Primary School), GreenHub has installed a Material Recovery Facility model (MRF) to provide facilities to classify waste and compost organic waste.

Through previous surveys and waste audits, GreenHub designed suitable waste bins and separation guidelines to assist children in identifying different types of waste.



Figure 15 - 16 -17: GreenHub officials had a discussion with the Principal of Chi Lang Primary School and visited the waste separation activities that the school is implementing.



Figure 18: Additional waste sorting bins have been installed to support the students and teachers practice waste sorting at school.

The MRF model includes: 5 sets of waste bins for classifying recyclable waste, Waste separation instruction sheets, and an instruction sheet for composting organic waste.

Students will practice waste separation every day with the waste bins installed. At the same time, GreenHub will support schools in developing communication plans, integrating teaching students about skills to classify and limit waste at the source in classroom lessons, helping to optimize resources and reduce the amount of waste transported to landfills.

VI. WHERE IS YOUR “R”?

In August 2024, GreenHub organized an online challenge called “Where is your ‘R’?” in order to start the new school year with an exciting environmental action.

The challenge encouraged young people with a love for the environment to discover and share the 5R rules: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Each entrant choose a topic to create a short tiktok video on, creating a strong wave of Zero Waste inspiration.

Using social networking sites to organize contests provided an opportunity to increase the number of young people interact with environmental and zero waste content.



Figure 19: The challenge was interactive organized on Facebook and Tiktok social platforms.

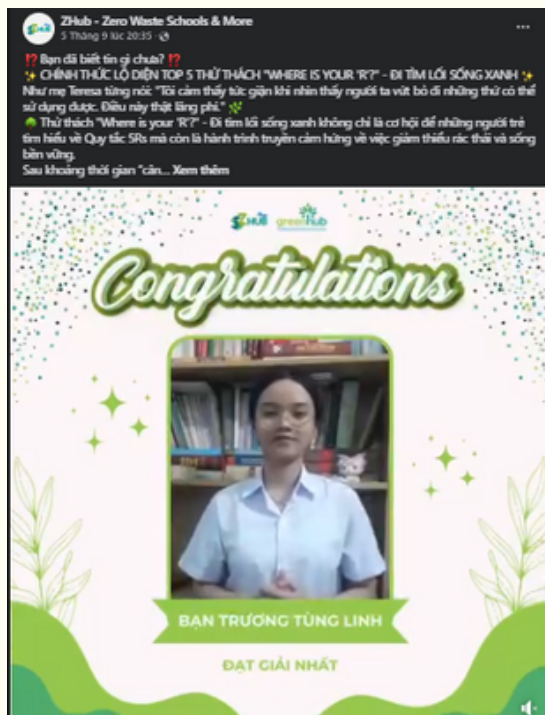


Figure 20: The Challenge Where is you “R” received an video about her 5R activities from a Secondary school student

The challenge took place from the 2nd to 22 of August, 2024, connecting like-minded people to spread awareness of Zero Waste practices.

Each video is not simply a contest product but also a strong call for environmental protection, encouraging people to practice a Zero Waste lifestyle. At the end of the challenge, participants not only receive a participation certificate entry, but also learned about the value of building a community committed to a sustainable future. Together they have written a beautiful story about love for nature and responsibility for the planet, and this journey has only just begun. 🌍

LINK TO THE CHALLENGE VIDEOS:



VII. ZHUB PLAN IN QUARTER 4/2024

Deploying follow-up activities at Lam Dong Kindergarten and To Hien Thanh Primary School

ZHub will deploy a series of follow-up activities to raise environmental awareness for new ZHub members. The program will include training sessions on Zero Waste lifestyle, 5R rules, waste separation, organic waste composting theory and practice, for teachers and students of schools.

In addition, teachers will learn how to integrate environmental knowledge into school teaching, helping students become more aware of the importance of environmental protection. These activities not only create a positive learning environment but also contribute to building a generation of citizens with a high awareness of environmental protection.

Organize experiential programs/activities at school

Organize experiential programs and activities at school, giving students the opportunity to practice and apply the knowledge they have learned in real life. These activities can include field trips to learn about ecosystems, tree conservation projects, or creative competitions on environmental protection. Through this, students not only raise awareness but also develop teamwork skills, creative thinking and environmental responsibility.

This activity will help raise awareness among students about environmental issues, thereby promoting practical actions in schools and in the community. Through this, we can build a healthy and sustainable living environment for future generations.

Strengthening young citizens' networks beyond school

ZHub will strengthen the network of young citizens activities, outside of the school environment, enabling them to participate in environmental protection and sustainable development activities. Youth groups will be encouraged to organize communication campaigns, volunteer events, and community activities to raise awareness of environmental protection.

By connecting young people together, ZHub hopes to create a powerful movement, empowering young people, where their voices and actions can create positive changes in the community.

Building a ZHub Expansion Plan

GreenHub will develop a plan to expand the Zero Waste School network. This will include collaborating with other schools to share experiences, teaching materials, and successful practices. We will organize workshops and training sessions for teachers and administrators at new schools to help them better understand the ZHub approach and benefits.

We believe that, with joint cooperation and efforts, ZHub will become a model for education and awareness raising on environmental protection and sustainable development.



H&M is the first and main sponsor of ZHub Programme -
Zero Waste Schools and More

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