



## MEDIA RELEASE

### LAUNCH OF INAUGURAL ZERO WASTE MANAGER COURSE

*NEA supports businesses to build competencies in waste management and integrate 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - into organisational culture*

**4 March 2024** – The National Environment Agency (NEA) has partnered training providers – NTUC LearningHub (NTUC LHUB), Republic Polytechnic (RP), and the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) – to introduce a new Zero Waste Manager course<sup>1</sup> in the first half of 2024. Efforts to reduce waste generation in companies and organisations can help them to improve resource efficiency, lower costs, and enhance their corporate social responsibility.

2 To increase awareness of the amount of waste produced and the potential to reduce it, NEA introduced the Mandatory Waste Reporting scheme in 2014 covering large hotels and malls, and extended it in 2020 to industrial premises and convention and exhibition centres. During NEA’s consultations with companies regulated under the Mandatory Waste Reporting scheme in 2022, the industry acknowledged that formal waste management training for their workforce would be useful to bridge knowledge gaps and gain a better understanding of sustainable waste-to-resource management practices. To support businesses in building waste management competencies, NEA has worked with training providers and the waste management industry association to develop the course.

3 The Zero Waste Manager course equips participants with the knowledge and skills to be able to implement and monitor 3R efforts, integrate the 3Rs into the organisational culture of companies and also to fulfil regulatory requirements such as Mandatory Waste Reporting<sup>2</sup>. NEA encourages companies to formalise waste reduction responsibilities and to appoint and train Zero Waste Managers to lead waste management and reduction efforts on their premises, especially those covered under the Mandatory Waste Reporting scheme.

4 The course will also benefit companies in the waste management sector looking to build up their competencies to provide value-added services, such as waste consultancy and audit services.

5 Companies and prospective Zero Waste Managers can tap on subsidies offered by SkillsFuture Singapore for the course<sup>3</sup>. Companies can also tap on Workforce Singapore’s

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<sup>1</sup> An overview of the course and infographic is appended in Annex A. Quotes by representatives from NTUC LHUB, RP and WMRAS are appended in Annex B.

<sup>2</sup> More details can be found here: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/waste-management/mandatory-waste-reporting>

<sup>3</sup> Individuals can also enrol in SkillsFuture Singapore’s SkillsFuture Career Transition Programmes (SCTP) in areas of sustainability for relevant skills training and employment facilitation support into sustainability-related job roles or industries.

Career Conversion Programme for Sustainability Professionals, as part of their overall training to upskill/reskill their new hires or existing employees, in green areas of work aligned to their business needs.

6 More information on the course can be found at [go.gov.sg/zero-waste-manager-course](https://go.gov.sg/zero-waste-manager-course).

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**About the National Environment Agency**

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment for Singapore. Its key roles are to improve and sustain a clean environment, promote sustainability and resource efficiency, maintain high public health standards, provide timely and reliable meteorological information, and encourage a vibrant hawker culture. NEA works closely with its partners and the community to develop and spearhead environmental and public health initiatives and programmes. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to build a liveable and sustainable Singapore for present and future generations.

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## **Overview of the Zero Waste Manager Course**

The course is designed to equip prospective Zero Waste Managers with the skills to (i) plan, implement and monitor 3R efforts to improve waste management outcomes in their premises, (ii) educate stakeholders on the 3Rs and integrate the 3Rs into organisational culture and (iii) comply with regulatory requirements on waste management such as Mandatory Waste Reporting requirements.

### **Target Audience**

The course is recommended for middle managers who are involved, either full-time or with adjacent roles, in waste management of their premises.

### **Learning Objectives**

Course participants will be able to:

1. Describe waste issues, waste management policies and regulations
2. Understand Mandatory Waste Reporting and its requirements
3. Identify general waste collectors and types of waste
4. Understand 3R and implement 3R Programme(s)
5. Communicate effectively with all stakeholders

### **Course Overview**

The course's key topics include Singapore's waste management landscape and plans, regulations such as the Resource Sustainability Act (RSA) and Mandatory Waste Reporting scheme, implementing 3R programmes, organisational communication skills, as well as relevant case studies and Mandatory Waste Reporting practice.

### **Estimated Course Duration**

The estimated course duration is 2 to 3 days. This may vary across training providers and is also subject to future refinements to the course.

# Zero Waste Manager course to build waste management competencies

Companies, especially those under the Mandatory Waste Reporting scheme, are encouraged to appoint Zero Waste Managers



Shopping malls



Hotels



Industrial premises



Convention/  
exhibition centres

## The new course will equip Zero Waste Managers to:

- ✓ Champion 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) efforts in their premises
- ✓ Educate stakeholders and integrate the 3Rs into the organisational culture
- ✓ Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, such as Mandatory Waste Reporting



Companies and prospective Zero Waste Managers can tap on SkillsFuture Singapore's course fee subsidies for the Zero Waste Manager courses.

Details on the course can be found  
at [go.gov.sg/zero-waste-manager-course](https://go.gov.sg/zero-waste-manager-course)

For more information, please visit [www.nea.gov.sg](https://www.nea.gov.sg)

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**Quotes by Representatives of Training Providers for the Zero Waste Manager Course**

Mr Tay Ee Learn, Chief Sector Skills Officer, NTUC LearningHub said,

"NTUC LearningHub is dedicated to fostering a sustainable business landscape, where waste becomes an opportunity, and every individual contributes to a circular economy for a more resilient future. By partnering with the National Environment Agency in the Zero Waste Manager course, we want to empower businesses with the competencies to navigate the ever-evolving environmental challenges, while unlocking cost savings through efficient waste management strategies. At the same time, workers can enhance their lifelong employability by acquiring in-demand and emerging skills that are aligned to the green economy and environmental stewardship."

Dr Lim Boon Whatt, Director, School of Applied Science, Republic Polytechnic said,

"Adopting a circular economy is critical as we strive to become a zero-waste nation. Our partnership with the National Environment Agency will allow us to equip waste management professionals with the knowledge and skills to achieve the ambitious outcomes outlined in the Singapore Green Plan. Through the Zero Waste Manager course offered by Republic Polytechnic, individuals of all ages can be empowered to play their part in helping Singapore become a role model in resource sustainability."

Mr Matt Stanelos, Vice Chairman, Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) said,

"In developing The Actioneer Angle of Sustainable Development course under the Zero Waste Manager initiative, WMRAS aims to empower businesses with ideas and methods to advance waste-to-resource management competencies. By understanding the value of sustainable 3R, businesses can achieve substantial cost savings while employees gain skills vital for today's eco-conscious job market. We are dedicated to bridging the gap between environmental responsibility and economic success. Hence, join us in this transformative journey as we redefine waste management, turning challenges into opportunities. Together, we can build a resilient, responsible, and prosperous future for businesses and our planet."