

NEWSLETTER



RECYCLING OUR ELECTRONIC WASTE



Above: The Go Green Committee briefing the staff about the drive during assembly.

THE COLLECTION

According to the 2020 Global E-Waste Monitor Report published by the United Nations University, Malaysia generated 364,000 tonnes of e-waste in 2019, a 21% increase in just 5 years. .

In conjunction with Earth Day, our Go Green committee organised a four-day electronic waste collection drive to promote responsible e-waste management.

The drive was a collaboration with Tzu Chi, a Taiwanese international humanitarian and non-governmental organization with a global network of volunteers and employees.

The foundation actively promotes recycling to the community, and is involved in resource conservation as well as humanitarian relief efforts.

For the convenience of the staff, collection bins made out of cardboards were lined up at the foyer. E-waste such as phones, tablets, cables, keyboards, fax machines, laptops etc. were collected.

This was Thumbprints' first e-waste drive and the committee hopes to organize more events like this to promote and educate the staff about the importance of proper e-waste recycling.

OUR WASTE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"We want to encourage our staff to be mindful of how they sort their waste. E-waste that ends up in landfills releases dangerous chemical and gas that leak into the groundwater," says Phoebe, a member of the Go Green Committee.

"It is important to us that we play our part, no matter how small, to help reduce human impact on the environment."

In addition to the e-waste drive, the Go Green committee will be organizing a used-item collection drive that has been held annually since 2020. The drive usually takes place towards the end of the year, so keep an eye out for more information.



A staff putting an unused VCD player in the collection bin.

IMPACT OF E-WASTE

E-waste contains toxic and hazardous substances such as lead, that when improperly disposed poses severe risk to human and environmental health.

ACCORDING TO THE UN, IN 2021, A MASSIVE 57.4 MILLION TONS WAS GENERATED WORLDWIDE AND ONLY 17.4% OF THOSE WAS RECYCLED.

Exposure to high levels of contaminants such as mercury and thallium from electronics could lead to devastating health effects such as cancers and neurological damage.

As consumers, other than managing our waste, we can also contribute less waste by consuming less electronics.



Thumbprints staff posing with the volunteers of Tzu Chi.