A Youth Movement by
National Environment Agency

Frequently Asked Questions
(NEA YES Leaders Programme)

1. **What is YES?**

   Youth for Environmental Sustainability (YES) movement traces its roots to the Youth for the Environment Day (YED), an annual observation held since 2011. In 2021, NEA evolved YED from a single-day event into the YES movement, in support of the Singapore Green Plan and Clean & Green Singapore. This movement hopes to support youths' interest in environmental sustainability by providing a more sustained platform to engage and develop environmental leadership capabilities.

   Key Goals:
   1. Build strong knowledge about Singapore's environmental sustainability issues.
   2. Develop future environmental leaders.
   3. Engage other youths more effectively for sustained, meaningful impact.

2. **What is NEA YES Leaders Programme?**

   Long before climate change became the critical global priority it is today, Singapore has sought to balance our economic growth with environmental sustainability. The Singapore Green Plan and Zero Waste Masterplan, launched in recent years, are part of our continued commitment to a greener future. These plans will also support our pledges to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals.

   Sustaining Singapore's green legacy will need long-term commitment and the effort from everyone, especially our youths. The youth leaders of today will be responsible for stewarding a green, liveable and climate-resilient home for our future generations. To contribute meaningfully to this, our youth leaders will

need to develop a holistic understanding of sustainability and liveability, within Singapore's context.

The NEA YES leaders Programme provides a platform for passionate and active youth leaders to learn from local policy makers, regulators, developers of national campaigns and programmes, as well as industry experts. They will develop key knowledge surrounding sustainability issues and approaches in Singapore and build their skills to develop and run sustainability projects within their Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and communities. In addition, NEA YES Leaders will also receive guidance from YES Advisors, comprising of individuals who are accomplished in driving sustainability initiatives in local contexts.

3. **How can I expect from the programme?**

The Programme comprises of modules delivered by NEA and industrial experts to build up your knowledge and skills on sustainable development, and effectively implement your projects:

- **Mandatory modules:** Mandatory modules covering sustainable development in Singapore, waste management to build your environmental knowledge. The modules also include community engagement and behavioural insights to help prepare you for project planning and implementation.
- **Electives:** Based on your interests and availability, you could choose other topical modules on environment and workshops to attend, in addition to the mandatory modules.
- **Behind-The-Scene Learning journeys**: to experience behind-the-scenes environmental management in action and learn from experts in corporates, NGOs and industries.
- **Networking opportunities**: to network with peers and practitioners, and participate in flagship events such as the Clean & Green Singapore event and CleanEnviro Summit Singapore.
- **Advisory and support**: to implement and champion projects on campus, complementing the national efforts on sustainability.
- **Funding**: to support project implementations within campus.

Upon completing the programme, participants will join NEA YES Leaders network of youths!

4. **What are the dates I will have to commit for this programme?**

    Key Modules and Milestones

No	Type	Milestone	Tentative Date (TBC)	Duration
1.	Selection Exercise	Interview and Selection Exercise	2nd or 3rd week of April 2026	1 day
2.	Training	**YES Sustainability Immersion Week (Mandatory 80% Attendance)** During this week, participants will learn from experts from government agencies and industries on environmental topics such as sustainable development circular economy in Singapore. You will also get to learn about implementation of community engagement and Behavioural Insights to encourage stakeholder involvement and change for sustainable living. The exciting week will comprise workshops, knowledge sharing, discussions and exclusive learning journeys.	15 Jun 26 – 19 Jun 26	5 days
3.	Event	Cohort 3 Graduation Ceremony and YES Fest	Weekend in the period of July 2026	3 days (including Friday)
4.	Briefing	Virtual Briefing on project Planning, including project proposal form and YES Funding	2 Jul 2026	7.30pm – 8.30 pm
5.	Training (Electives, optional for sign up)	Various learning journeys on environmental topics and Design Thinking workshop	Dates to be confirmed.	

6.	Project Implementation	Participant(s) will implement their projects on their own schedule. Scheduled consultation sessions with YES Advisors and NEA's YES team will be arranged. Dates of consultation sessions will be released after the YES Sustainability week.	July 2026-May 2027	
7.	Event	Graduation Ceremony and Project Showcase	June/July 2027	

Please note that majority of the modules will take place over a week in June, which coincides with the summer break of most IHLs. The remaining modules will take place over four separate days in other months.

Participants will need to fulfil at least 80% of the **YES Sustainability Immersion Week** for successful graduation. Participants will have to inform the NEA YES organisers in advance, and submit necessary documents as proof of absence, which will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

8. Are there any criteria for participation?

Nominees are required to meet the following criteria:

Nationality	The programme is only open to **Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents**.	
Institutes of Higher Learning	Participant is currently studying in any of the following Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs):	
	ITEs	• ITE College Central • ITE College East • ITE College West
	Local Polytechnics	• Nanyang Polytechnic • Ngee Ann Polytechnic • Republic Polytechnic • Singapore Polytechnic • Temasek Polytechnic
	Local Universities	• Nanyang Technological University • National University of Singapore • Singapore Institute of Technology • Singapore Management University • Singapore University of Social Sciences

		• Singapore University of Technology and Design • University of the Arts
	Art Institutions	• Lasalle • NAFA

Commitment	• Able to commit to YES Sustainability Immersion Week, in terms of fulfilling the minimum attendance requirements. • Project Implementation: Milestones, timeline and duration of each project are planned by the respective participant(s), working at their own pace and schedule.

Project	The nominee(s) is required to complete a project as part of the YES Leaders programme. The nominee's proposed project will need to be endorsed and supported by the Institutes of Higher Learning for implementation within the campus or a community.
	
	The scope needs to be within NEA's purview (refer to FAQ for more information) largely summarised as follows:
	  - Maintaining a high standard of public health
	  - Improving and sustaining a clean environment
	  - Promoting resource efficiency and conservation
	
	Participants are highly encouraged to embark on Zero Waste related projects, in alignment with the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and Zero Waste Masterplan. We highly welcome projects which will complement NEA's ongoing campaigns surrounding the circular economy, such as Recycling Right and Say Yes to Waste Less.

Expectations of the nominee	• As the programme aims to develop youth leaders to champion sustainability, candidates are expected to display leadership qualities track records and have an open attitude to learning holistically about environmental management in Singapore, beyond topics covered in their project. • Nominees should be passionate about environment and sustainability and see themselves as stewards who are committed to the sustainability journey in the long run.

	• Participants are expected to share the knowledge gained through the programme with their wider community (e.g. within their teams, clubs, or the wider IHL) and influence their peers to take meaningful action for sustainability. • Participants are expected to be of good character.

9. **When is the deadline for nomination?**
The nomination form and project proposal should reach NEA by **20 March 2026**.

10. **What is the programme/project duration?**
The bulk of the trainings will take place in June 2026 (refer to the commitment dates in section 2). Most of the duration of the programme would be on flexi mode, where participants are able to plan and implement their projects based on their own time and availabilities. Final project report has to be submitted by **Apr/May 2027,** even though participants may choose to complete their projects earlier.

11. **My project involves a longer timeframe than the YES Leaders Programme duration. Can I still do my project under YES LP, and will I be funded?**
Yes, your project can still be completed under the YES Leaders Programme and funding. You may want to plan your projects in phases, so that one of the phases can coincide and be completed during your YES Leaders Programme participation. You may also want to consider planning the project phases such that it can be handed over to your juniors or other groups from the same club or course, should they be onboarded for the next cohort of the YES Leaders Programme.

12. **What is the recruitment process like?**
Participants are identified and nominated by their respective IHLs. A selection exercise will be conducted in April and finalise the list of participants.

13. **Can I choose the type of projects and the topic?**
Yes, you can scope the project but do keep to topics under NEA's purview so that we can provide you with relevant advice on the project (refer to section 3 above).

To ensure that the projects are well-supported by the organiser's resources, they should ideally serve one or more of the following objectives:

- Maintaining a high standard of public health
- Improving and sustaining a clean environment
- Promoting resource efficiency and conservation

For more information on topics under NEA's purview, please refer to
www.nea.gov.sg

14. **What are the topics not under NEA's purview?**

    Examples of topics **not** under NEA's purview include Biodiversity, Greenery/Horticulture/Community Gardening, Urban Development, Water conservation, Renewable Energy.

15. **Are there any other requirements for the project?**

    Projects by participants must incorporate YES movement branding and where relevant, support related national campaigns in its publicity materials. Logo guides and files can be requested from the NEA Officer working with the IHL. Usage of the logos is subjected to clearance from NEA and project teams/participants are reminded to submit logo usage requests **2 weeks in advance**.

16. **What do I have to fulfil as a leader of NEA YES Leaders Programme?**

    As a NEA YES Leader, you will be privileged to attend trainings by NEA officers who are policy makers and developers of national programmes and campaigns, EcoFriends Awards recipients as well as industry practitioners who have experiences in environmental management and community engagements.

    a. As a trained NEA YES Leader, you will gain an in-depth understanding of environmental sustainability in Singapore's context.
    b. During the course of the programme, you can help spread the right environmental knowledge gained from the programme with fellow students and youths and influence them to champion sustainability projects in your campus.
    c. After you have graduated from your school, you will remain in NEA YES Leaders network of youths and we hope that you will continue to champion sustainability in the community, workplace and beyond.
    d. We would also welcome you back to volunteer to guide other youth projects and support YES movement and NEA's campaigns in the future.

17. **Will my attendance for milestones be tracked?**

    Participants will need to fulfil 80% of the training milestones for successful graduation. Participants will have to inform the NEA YES organisers in advance, and submit necessary documents as proof of absence, which will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

18. **Can my team and/club members join the participants with me?**
    We would love to have more youth leaders joining the programme if they meet the eligibility criteria, subject to space availability and passing the selection exercise. If they are unable to participate in the programme, the participants who do attend can share the knowledge gleaned from the programme with their fellow club/team members to benefit the wider community.

19. **Will I be assigned a mentor for the project?**
    There will be scheduled check-ins with experienced NEA YES Advisors but day-to-day mentorship is not part of the programme. During the scheduled check-ins, participants can share their project and progress and seek guidance from the Advisors. Advisors are NEA officers and NEA's EcoFriends Award winners.

20. **Will NEA provide any funding for our projects?**
    Yes, the YES Fund will be available. The form and information will be shared with you and your IHL POCs at a later time.

21. **Can I obtain an excuse letter from NEA to attend the milestones?**
    Yes, we can provide an email stating the programme's date and time. Some of the training needs to be done on the weekdays as the sites hosting the learning journeys are operational and could not support weekend visits.

22. **Will I receive a certificate after finishing programme?**
    Yes, a certificate will be issued upon the completion of programme and participants meeting the requirements.

23. **What happens after I complete the programme?**
    You will be joining our NEA YES Leaders Network where you will get further exposure through activities such as:
    - Attending NEA Events to expand network connections and industry learning
    - Volunteering opportunities with NEA such as advising other youth projects
    - Supporting national campaigns

24. **Beyond the NEA YES Leaders Programme, if I have other projects or events and I would like to support YES Movement, could I request to incorporate YES branding into our publicity materials?**

    Yes, we are happy for your support to YES movement! Please submit logo usage clearance request to NEA Point of Contact for assessment.