

Melting Ice, Sinking Cities At Singapore Botanic Gardens: What HDB Households Can Take Home

Description

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The **Melting Ice Sinking Cities home sustainability** conversation hits harder when you walk through the new CDL Green Gallery exhibition at Singapore Botanic Gardens. It is the kind of show that does not lecture â?? it reframes. By the time you leave, the questions are practical: what do I change at home, and which changes actually matter?

Five take-aways for Singapore households, built around what the exhibition shows.

The Exhibition In Brief

â??Melting Ice, Sinking Citiesâ?? is the latest exhibition at the CDL Green Gallery, the small but ambitious sustainability space inside Singapore Botanic Gardens. The Galleryâ??s permanent brief is to translate climate data into Singapore-relevant context â?? and this edition does it well, with city-scale visuals that make Singaporeâ??s vulnerability concrete.

Entry is free, the gallery is air-conditioned, and the visit takes 25 to 40 minutes if you read everything.

Take-Away 1: The Aircon Conversation Has Changed

Singapore households cool more aggressively than peers because the climate forces it. But the galleryâ??s data makes the case for tighter set-points: bumping the aircon from 22Â°C to 25Â°C cuts electricity for that unit by 20 to 30 per cent, with negligible comfort loss when paired with a fan.

- Aim for 25Â°C with a ceiling or stand fan running
- Service the aircon yearly â?? uncleaned units lose efficiency fast
- Use timer-off settings overnight

Take-Away 2: Refrigeration Is The Second Lever

After aircon, the fridge is the largest household electricity load. The exhibition references National Environment Agency data showing how much fridge age affects efficiency â?? a 12-year-old fridge can use twice the electricity of a current four-tick model.

Replacement payback often takes only three to four years. Climate Vouchers under the Climate Friendly Households Programme can subsidise the swap.

Take-Away 3: Water Is The Sneaky One

Singaporeâ??s water tariff increases land in 2024 and 2025 already pushed many households to notice. The exhibition reframes water through a different lens â?? embodied carbon. Hot water is the worst offender; cold-wash laundry and shorter hot showers are quick wins.

- Wash full loads only â?? fewer cycles overall
- Cold wash where the label allows â?? most do
- Shorter showers â?? and skip the second hot rinse in cooler months

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Take-Away 4: The Plant Move Is Real

Household-level greenery cools indoor surfaces and lowers ambient temperatures. The exhibition does not over-promise â?? a balcony of plants will not slash your aircon bill â?? but combined with a balcony shade and a fan, the effective comfort temperature shifts by one to two degrees.

HDB balconies and corridors are the easiest places to start. NParks gives away free plants regularly under the Garden City programme.

Take-Away 5: The Buying Filter

The exhibition is light on consumer guilt, which is the right call. It frames buying decisions instead: pick the better-rated appliance, keep things for longer, repair before replacing.

For Home & Living buyers this June, the practical filter is: four-tick or better, durable rather than disposable, and avoid disposable trend cycles.

Visit Notes

- CDL Green Gallery is at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, near the Tanglin Gate
- Open daily, free entry
- Allow 40 minutes if you read panels properly
- Pair with a Healing Garden walk after for the full mind-and-home reset

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