

Council steps up efforts to cut waste

PETALING Jaya City Council (MBPJ) deals with 600 tonnes of garbage a day, which is equivalent to the weight of 111 Asian elephants.

In 2017, the council spent RM80mil to dispose of the waste at landfills, which amounts to 20% of the council's budget.

"This money we spend on waste management can be put to better use if we can all reduce waste at source, especially our household waste," said Petaling Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Azizi Mohd Zain after launching the 4th PJ Waste Summit 2017.

He said the council had distributed 71,300 rubbish bins for free to all landed properties as part of their measures to increase the city cleanliness.

The 1.2-litre bins cost the council

RM6mil. Meanwhile, 150 leach bins were distributed to all low-cost housing in the city.

In addition, the council appointed 17 Cleanliness Ambassadors this year comprising mostly residents from the high-density, low-cost flats areas such as Taman Medan.

Cleanliness Ambassadors are the intermediate contacts between the council and residents on matters related to waste, said Mohd Azizi.

"These ambassadors are paid RM1,200 a month to carry out recycling awareness activities, report illegal dumping, coach residents with poor waste disposal attitude and ensure the neighbourhoods are at their best in terms of cleanliness.

"We see positive changes in places that were once rubbish

hotspots after the appointment of Cleanliness Ambassadors. Most of them are individuals who have already been championing cleanliness in their neighbourhoods even before we appointed them. They are residents with initiative who place importance on cleanliness," said Mohd Azizi.

Making efforts to increase household recycling from the existing five percent to 22% by 2020, the council will establish the Eco-Recycling Plaza in SS8.

"MBPJ's pilot project on recyclable waste collection has been successful. At present, the council collects recyclable waste from 6,500 landed properties.

"The Smart PJ Waste Solution Lab in SS2 was formed to manage food waste from the SS2 market,"

he added.

To further boost the cleanliness goal, the council bought several equipment such as the road-sweeper machine to provide better service to the public.

At the waste summit, MBPJ Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department director Lee Lih Shyan informed the public to be on the lookout for the waste bins at construction sites without the council logo.

"Report to the council if you see construction debris at construction sites not using the council approved bins. It is compulsory for any project which requires council approval to use our waste contractors to discard their waste. We do this to eradicate illegal waste dumping," he said.