

# Composting way to sustainability

Machine can support up to  
100kg of food waste a day

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A FOOD composting project is finally taking off at Block 3, Desa Mentari with the support from the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ).

The council provided a food composting machine to the community, which has been involved in several green initiatives, at an event launched by the Petaling Jaya mayor Daruk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar over the weekend.

It was also attended by Petaling Jaya MP Maria Chin Abdullah, Seri Setia assemblyman Halimey Abu

Bakar and Subang MP Wong Chen. Sayuthi said the council wants to promote waste-to-energy types of initiatives among the community.

Block 3, Desa Mentari was selected and provided with the anaerobic digestion composition machine as part of MBPJ's long-term goal to strive towards being a sustainable city by 2030 as well as creating a zero waste community.

"The council has two other food composting machines located in SS2 and SS8. This is the first one in Desa Mentari, and is also sponsored by the council.

"The council wants to emphasise

3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) and promote a circular economy (where the goal is to reduce waste and reuse manufactured goods).

"Through this composting effort, the residents could even sell their liquid compost and biogas in the future," said the mayor who wants to reduce the money spent on discarding waste at the landfill.

He added that the composting machine could support up to 100kg of food waste each day.

On average, the council spends about RM77mil for waste management in Petaling Jaya.

Some 700 tonnes of waste is discarded in the city each day and

20% of the council budget is spent on waste collection and the cleaning of public areas.

Sayuthi said in Japan, the community would spearhead such green projects but over here, the council was trying to introduce the composting concept to the community.

Petaling Jaya Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department director Lee Lih Shyan said in 2016, the Block 3, Desa Mentari community came third at the state government organised river and beach cleanliness competition.

They took second place in the

same competition in 2017.

In April, the community was roped into the composting project and has since gathered some 800 litres of liquid compost.

Sayuthi highlighted that 10 years ago, MBPJ first engaged with the Block 3 residents to rehabilitate the then polluted Sungai Way river that flows through their neighbourhood.

He said with the help of the residents, the river water quality improved by leaps and bounds.

The block residents took a step further with the help from Global Environment Centre and created a community garden along the river.



(From left) Lee, MBPJ councillor Zamri Mohammad, Block 3 Resident Association chairman Jalaludin Suhod, Mohd Sayuthi, Maria Chin, Halimey and Wong during the official launching of the recycling and composition centre at Block 3, Desa Mentari, Petaling Jaya.