

Maybank Energy Audit

by Nur Farahin Salleh, Year 1, NUS

The Maybank Energy Audit was another way to promote the conservation of energy through green means. The outreach is to the heart-landers who may not have been exposed to these green messages due to the language barrier from television advertisements or newspapers that are being used to convey the messages. This event aims to inform the households on these initiatives as well as to gauge whether or not the message of conserving electricity has been inculcated into their daily lives. This was done by asking permission from the owner to extract their electricity usage for the next 6 months.



From my previous experiences in volunteering, I have learnt that the Charity Organisation is essential in making the volunteering experience a breeze and something memorable. Lucky for me, the people who volunteered were more than friendly and it was easy to start conversation with them. After walking through half a block, I found out that most of the households are aware of the need to conserve energy basically to lower their electricity bill. However, we lent a listening ear to the families as they shared with us about their high electricity bill which went beyond our expectations as they are living alone in the house. This showed us that the heart-landers are more than willing to talk to us on Sunday mornings and for some, as long as they need not provide their personal contact details. In my group, we felt that there was a need to approach different households in a different way depending on their choice of spoken language as this tended to ease communication between both parties. We also had to be aware of the age of the person we were talking to and speak in a manner that is respectful for a person as young as us. The Maybank staff was a friendly bunch and this made the experience more enjoyable. All in all, I enjoyed my day volunteering for this event!



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... if it is not from the heart, it is not worth doing ...

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The Maybank Energy Audit gave me an opportunity to be more comfortable in interacting with people from all walks of life and to be versatile in both English and Malay. The experience would be great for those who feel that they need to practice in communicating your ideas in a simple manner so that it is easily understood. A main learning point that I took away from this experience was that if you volunteer with heart and without asking for anything in return, you will feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that someone's day might have just be brighten up!



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A big thank you for all the volunteers who made a difference and contributed!

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It costs close to S\$900,000, about \$6 an hour, to run our youth development programmes for one year but almost priceless to see friendships being forged and lives transformed. Your consideration to generously support us will enable our charity to develop more youths through our **youth development**, **youth leadership** and **youth enterprise** programs both locally and globally, and develop a community spirit that seeks to give and not receive.

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Information is correct as of 22 June 2009