

## **MEDIA FACT SHEET A**

### **LANDSCAPE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION PLAN**

The Landscape Sector Transformation Plan (LSTP), part of the Future Economy Council Built Environment cluster, is a tripartite effort led by NParks, together with companies and associations from the landscape industry, Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and government agencies. The LSTP is a holistic transformation plan that aims to grow Singapore's landscape sector up to 30% over the next 10 years through digitalisation, mechanisation and professionalisation.

The LSTP will support the need for enhanced greenery management and value-added skills in the landscape sector, as Singapore realises its vision of being a biophilic City in a Garden. It will provide more productive and innovative landscape companies with a highly skilled and professional workforce, and better jobs for Singaporeans. Landscape workers will be trained to appreciate ecosystems, integrate ecological processes and incorporate the use of technology.

There are six levers under the LSTP:

- **Introducing new technology to raise industry standards and efficiency**

Under the LSTP, NParks will help landscape companies move ahead from maintenance to management, by enabling service providers and landscape workers to be competent in digital technology and sustainable landscape management.

For example, NParks is encouraging its contractors to use ride-on mowers, robotic mowers, wood chippers, as well as provide access to Maven, its in-house database where officers and contractors can get information on trees, parks and gardens on the go. NParks will also be setting greenery design and management standards for landscape companies that include the use of technology and mechanisation in its landscape operations.

Some of the current technology that the landscape sector is making use of are:

- Tree inspection drone
- Robotic mowers
- Hedge trimmers
- Tree-diagnostic equipment, such as wood resistance micro drill and PICUS (sonic tomograph)
- Contractor Fleet Management System
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) software by landscape design companies

There are several upcoming technologies that landscape industry can benefit from. They are, but not limited to:

- Tree Tilt Sensors
- Tree Failure Analytics
- Automation
- Artificial Intelligence

- **Training the workforce to improve skills and professionalism**

Landscape workers will be trained to appreciate ecosystems, integrate ecological processes and incorporate the use of technology. This will help them to better understand the science behind our urban ecosystems, conservation and native biodiversity.

By professionalising the workforce, NParks is looking at the shift of the landscape industry from basic landscape maintenance to value-added skills in greenery management.

- **Raising productivity through government support**

The Landscape Productivity Grant (LPG) aims to encourage landscape companies to purchase landscape equipment for the purposes of achieving productivity benefits and gain better operational efficiency when they work on projects such as landscape design,

construction and maintenance. Companies which are supported for the grant will be able to defray their costs when they purchase new equipment.

To date, a total of 72 unique companies have been supported in mechanising their operations under NParks' Landscape Productivity Grant. In addition, NParks also encourage the landscape industry to tap other forms of support provided via the Business Grants Portal ([www.businessgrants.gov.sg](http://www.businessgrants.gov.sg)).

- **Developing and tendering out nursery land**

NParks has worked closely with URA to safeguard more than 100 ha of land for long term nursery use. Since November 2017, NParks has launched more than 15 plots of land and more will be launched progressively from now till 2025.

This will help to align the nurseries' operations standards with NParks standards, and further develop and maintain productive nurseries for Singapore's landscape sector.

- **Exporting local landscaping services**

Under the LSTP, NParks is also helping to identify potential local landscape companies for export promotion in landscape management and consultancy services. This will help to internationalise Singapore's landscape sector and capabilities.

- **Promoting best sourcing in contracts**

NParks will be piloting changes in the way maintenance is being carried out. Service providers and their staff would be required to be competent in digital technology and automation, in addition to the core landscaping and ecological skills

Best Sourcing involves striking a good balance between the way work is done and delivered and the budget available to do the work. NParks has been taking the lead in pushing Best Sourcing for the landscape sector, e.g. the Quality weightage in tender evaluation has been raised steadily from 20% to 40% in the last ten years. Today the

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tender evaluation is a combination of Price and Quality Weightage at 60:40. More details will be provided at a later stage