

Scheme for collecting e-waste set to expand

By SAMANTHA BOH

SOME 500 underprivileged households in Marine Parade and Mountbatten are not only getting brighter homes but possibly cheaper electricity bills as well.

Electronics giant Panasonic Asia Pacific is donating energy-saving lightbulbs based on the number of unwanted mobile phones, laptops and other electronic items discarded through the Heartland E-Waste Recycling Programme, which was piloted in the two neighbourhoods in July 2013.

The seven-month pilot was a partnership between Panasonic, the South East Community Development Council, the National Environment Agency and e-waste recycler Cimelia. After a successful trial which resulted in a collection of 10,204kg of recyclables

made up of 1,812 pieces of e-waste, the programme is now being expanded to five more neighbourhoods in the district over the next nine months.

Residents will be able to dispose of gadgets at 25 locations in seven neighbourhoods through monthly collection drives.

Collections will be made on the first Sunday of each month, and rotated across Marine Parade, Mountbatten, Braddell Heights, Geylang Serai, Kembangan-Chai Chee, MacPherson and Potong Pasir. The first collection will be held at the Braddell Heights, Potong Pasir, MacPherson, Mountbatten and Katong community clubs on Feb 1.

The details were announced yesterday, when the second phase of the Heartland E-Waste Recycling Programme was launched by South East District Mayor Maliki Osman and Mount-



South East District Mayor Maliki Osman (right), Mountbatten MP Lim Biow Chuan (second from right) and Panasonic Asia Pacific's director of environment and external affairs group Yuji Arami at the home of Madam Kng Kheat Hong yesterday. Dr Maliki and Mr Lim led a group to install energy-efficient lightbulbs in needy households. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

batten MP Lim Biow Chuan.

Dr Maliki said he hoped "more residents will step forward to do their part in recycling their e-waste, at the same time helping fellow Singaporeans".

E-waste products contain toxic chemicals that can affect the environment and public health if incinerated or disposed of in landfill.

Of the 2,719 lightbulbs earned

in the pilot run, 320 were installed yesterday by students from Singapore Management University and ITE College East, led by Dr Maliki and Mr Lim.

✉ samboh@sph.com.sg