

IIA Singapore President, Ms Tan Boon Yen shared her views on “What would be necessary for Singapore to become a zero-waste nation? How is your organisation contributing towards the vision -- and are there costs and benefits involved?”, which was published in The Business Times on 21 January 2019.

“To make a significant positive impact on the environment as a nation, we need to consider the waste produced, understand how we reduce and manage waste and be willing to invest in environmental technologies that benefits not only Singapore but also globally.

Waste is not only a cost to business but is an operating risk especially where it is hazardous. Subscribing to zero waste is a step towards achieving eco-efficiency. Businesses also have a role to play in influencing consumer choice and promoting eco-friendly products. The environmental impact of waste is experienced globally and it is time for business to put zero waste management on their agenda.

Internal auditors have a role to play in evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisations’ zero waste programmes. In addressing areas like leadership commitment, employee involvement, organisational culture and management of change, internal auditors help organisations to uphold its ethical responsibilities and respect the communities and environment. These are the values on which the reputation of an organisation is built.”