



Treelodge@Punggol is the first HDB precinct to have solar panels on the roof. PHOTO BY OOI BOON KEONG

## Public housing goes green

**SINGAPORE** — Public housing has gone green. Treelodge@Punggol is the first public housing project in Singapore to attain the Green Mark Platinum Award given to energy and water efficient buildings.

The newly-completed eco-precinct Treelodge@Punggol marks a milestone for the Housing & Development Board, with playgrounds built from recycled materials and a green roof that helps to lower temperatures within the flat.

The roof is equipped with solar panels — a first for any HDB block in Singapore.

The energy generated is used to power lights in common areas, like the corridors.

Apart from harnessing solar power, HDB senior executive engineer Ng Bingrong said the roof also has 400 sq m of space to collect rain water.

"Rain falling on the roof is drained into a tank situated on the 16th storey of the block,

and is treated using a chemical-free system. The water is then stored in a tank for common area washing and irrigation," he said.

The water tank has a capacity of 7,000 litres, sufficient for a month's washing.

Recycling is also a cinch with two rubbish chutes on every floor — one for regular waste, and one for recycling.

The flats also come with larger windows to allow more natural light in. And in the bathroom, the toilet has an integrated wash basin so that the water can be recycled and used to flush the toilet.

HDB said the added eco-features have raised overall construction costs by about five to eight per cent.

But it says the total estimated energy savings (from the use of solar energy and recycled rainwater) is about two gigawatt hours, enough to power some 400 four-room households for a year. SHARON SEE