

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my concern about the alarming problems of solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce, namely bottled water sold in tuck shop, the polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils and the flyers and posters used to promote campaigns in schools.

In my view, bottled water, which is always found in schools' tuck shops, creates a major source of solid waste. Some people claim that selling bottled water is fine as the bottles can be recycled. However, I do not think this is the best way to go green because not many students will bother recycling the water bottles after drinking it. Students often throw bottles into rubbish bins nearby but not recycling bins as they think it is more convenient to do so. Therefore, I suggest the government could install some water dispensers in schools so that more students will be encouraged to bring and refill their own water bottles instead of buying bottled water from tuck shops.

Secondly, students usually have lunch at school. Most of them will choose to order takeaway food. Therefore, a lot of polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils are used. I think the government could impose a levy on polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils. For example, people will be charged five dollars for each lunchbox and utensil. This can avoid the overuse of them. Besides, school should educate students the importance of going green and the detrimental consequences of using polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils.

Students often receive paper flyers and posters which are used to promote campaigns in schools. However, students throw the flyers and posters in the rubbish bins as soon as they receive the promotional materials. My idea is that schools could send email flyers and posters to students instead of distributing paper flyers ones, which is more environmentally friendly.

I hope the government and everyone in schools can pay more attention to these three problems and do something to save our planet.

Yours faithfully,

Coco Weng

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