

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce. In order to raise public awareness of school waste issue and address the need to reduce waste, I would like to make the following points and suggest what the government and schools could do to go green.

To begin with, the bottled water sold in tuck shop creates a lot of waste. First, the bottles that contain the water are made of various plastic materials. One of which is called polyethylene terephthalate aka PET. It takes 700 years for it to fully decompose. Therefore, I think schools should encourage students to bring their own water bottles, provide more water dispensers and promote the use of recycling bins. Students will hence reduce the consumption of bottled water and it will help solve the waste problem.

Secondly, many polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils are discarded after lunchtime. It is known that it takes at least 500 years for polystyrene to decompose. Much of the disposable packaging today will still be found in around 500 years. Therefore, I think schools should encourage students to bring their own lunchboxes and utensils and not to buy takeaways too often.

Lastly, lots of flyers and posters are used for promoting campaigns in schools. I believe these flyers and posters will sooner or later be discarded by students after they are read, which will eventually cause a lot of waste. Therefore, I think schools could send online posters and emails to students instead of using paper leaflets.

To sum up, I think schools and the government should encourage students to live a green life by running powerful and effective campaigns. I hope that people around the world could work together to protect the environment and work together on addressing the environmental issues. We all should shoulder the responsibility to make our planet a healthy and green home.

Yours faithfully,
Carrissa Lee