

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my views on the large amount of solid waste schools in Hong Kong produce, which is contributing to the worsening solid waste pollution in Hong Kong.

First, regarding bottled water sold in tuck shops, I believe that those plastic bottles used are simply unnecessary as in most of the schools, there are drinking fountains, which allow students to fill their own water bottles with drinking water and some even allow them to drink water from the fountains directly. Another feasible way is to encourage students to clean the plastic bottles after drinking the water and then recycle them. Knowing the inconvenience for students to use the recycling bins frequently due to the minimal number of them in schools, I think schools could add some more in visible places near rubbish bins so that students will think twice and put recyclable bottles into the recycling bins instead.

Besides, concerning polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils, I suggest using reusable containers and utensils for lunch, for example, reusable bowls and chopsticks, instead of disposable ones. Just like what we do when eating out at restaurants, the food containers and utensils can be washed and used again. If students are concerned about the hygiene problem, they can rewash the utensils on their own or bring their own ones. As many of us know, things made out of polystyrene are not biodegradable and can only be used once. Therefore, we should avoid using them.

My last argument concerns flyers and posters used to promote campaigns in schools. There are usually lots of advertising posters on noticeboards at schools, which are replaced regularly to provide students with the latest news. Flyers are distributed to inform students of new activities. However, how many of us really read them when we receive them? With advanced technology, I think we can make good use of it on informing students of the latest news or activities by sending emails to students involved. Because of the quick speed of sending emails and students' frequent use of mobile phones and computers, the efficiency of advertising can be enhanced, lowering the amount of paper used on making flyers and posters.

All in all, Hong Kong has long been infamous for not doing enough to reduce waste. We should address the root cause of the problem and take actions as soon as possible to raise the awareness of protecting the environment. I hope the government and all schools can do more by educating students starting from their young age. This way, Hong Kong, and even our planet can be saved.

Yours faithfully,
Freeby Lee