

You are concerned about the solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce. You would like to raise public awareness on the following three problems in particular:

- The bottled water sold in tuck shops
- The polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils
- The flyers and posters used to promote campaigns in schools

Write to the editor of the South China Morning Post and express our views on what the government and schools can do to go green. You should write about 250 words.

Dear Editor,

Reduce solid waste at school!

I am writing to express my opinion on what the government and schools can do to go green.

As a student, I am surprised and incredible to find out that so much solid waste is produced at school. It is a horrible fact that should be addressed.

First of all, I hope the schools will install water dispensers to reduce the amount of bottled water sold in tuck shops. Therefore, students can bring their own bottles to fill the water. This will be more convenient for students and cleaners. Also, I think most students pay less attention to environmental protection. They do not know the importance of it so I suggest the government and schools could do more promotion, just like inviting professionals to give lectures. It can raise students' awareness of environmental protection.

Secondly, I find it unacceptable that a lot of polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils are wasted at lunchtime. Only on our floor, it takes two or more big garbage bags to fill the polystyrene lunchboxes every day. How can so much rubbish be produced in school? We must mitigate the problem, otherwise the school will become a landfill. I propose that students could use their own biodegradable lunchboxes and utensils when they go to canteen to have lunch. In order to enhance students' motivation to bring their own lunchboxes, the schools also can give discounts to students who do so. I propose the government could set up a rule that users should pay more money if they need to use polystyrene lunchboxes or utensils. They would be great ways to reduce waste.

Finally, I am concerned about the flyers and posters used to promote campaigns in schools. Most schools use lots of paper to prepare learning and teaching materials such as notes and assignments to facilitate learning and students also print lots of flyers and posters for promotional activities. After the activities, the paper becomes useless, and these practices are wasteful. So how can we reduce the paper used at school? I hope the schools will use electronic learning materials, flyers, and posters instead of paper ones. It not only can reduce waste and protect the environment, but also can save money in printing. Furthermore, we can use both sides of paper. For example, we can use the back of flyers or posters for drafting, drawing, writing, etc. Paper can also be recycled.

In conclusion, reducing solid waste is not all about money-saving but it can also reduce the burden on landfills and make our environment cleaner and better. More can be done to help reduce solid waste. Take prompt action to save our earth. A little change can make a big impact!

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong