

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinion on the solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce. I am aware that most of the schools in Hong Kong have produced lots of solid waste such as the bottled water, polystyrene lunchboxes, and utensil, also the flyers and posters. All the waste created serious situation in landfills as it cannot decompose quickly. Therefore, as a concerned citizen and a student, I would like to express my deep concern about raising awareness of the following three points.

To start with, I do not think having bottled water sold in tuck shop is a good idea. According to the Internet, the plastic water bottles contain poisonous chemicals, and those chemicals can leak into water. It can directly harm our body as plastic leachate can impose detrimental health effects on consumers, which would have long-term effect on their life. Therefore, I would like to suggest the government reduce the production of bottled water, because the water bottling process releases 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually. Also, schools should promote a concept to students that they should bring along their own bottles to prevent them from buying bottled water.

Apart from this, I would also like to mention about the commonly use polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils. As Polystyrene lunchboxes would make up greenhouse gases such as Chlorofluorocarbons, which is the element that is toxic and hazardous. It can also cause climate change and pollution, most importantly, causing global warming. Moreover, since polystyrene is light in weight and can be crumbled easily, it is common for it to end up out in woods, rivers and privies. Styrofoam will break down into microscopic styrene and other harmful chemicals, then linger in the soil and water for centuries. To fix this critical problem, we should stop using polystyrene lunchboxes, as to avoid increasing the seriousness of global warming. Furthermore, schools can produce recyclable lunchboxes which are made from food fibers, so that food wasted by students can also be reduced.

Lastly, do we really need to promote campaigns by distributing posters and flyers in person? I mean, having face-to-face interaction is a great idea, but in this case, flyers and posters will mostly be thrown away right after they have been distributed to students. Cutting down the trees can easily harm us. If there are less trees in the environment, less photosynthesis will occur. As trees can absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen during photosynthesis, we will have less oxygen for breathing and more carbon dioxide will be produced. This greenhouse gas contributes to respiratory disease from smog and air pollution. Using the Internet and school websites to promote campaigns is the best way to ameliorate this issue, and to save humans.

I sincerely hope the government and schools will take immediate action to solve these problems as living a green life is significant and important. If we can go green for more, the Earth will be healthier, so why don't we act now?

Yours faithfully,

Beth Lo