

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce. I would like to raise the public's awareness about three problems. Bottled water being sold in tuck shops, plastic utensils that are not recycled, and the frequent re-printing of textbooks by publishing companies.

To begin with, I think bottled water should not be sold in the tuck shops as we could have water for free by just bringing a water bottle with us! The Environmental Protection Department said that Hong Kong throws away four to five million plastic bottles every day. It is because of the "convenient and instant" culture deeply rooted in our minds that contributes to the idea of just throwing away plastic bottles without a thought as they are "just plastic bottles". Little did they know that one plastic from one person may seem little, but when everyone does that, the consequence is terrifying!

Also, polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils should be substituted by re-usable ones. Polystyrene is the most common type of plastic. It is mostly used in packaging because they are inexpensive and durable, but they are slow to degrade once we throw them into the landfills. It leads to plastic pollution in the environment. Moreover, plastic is toxic to marine life and therefore adversely affects wildlife, even humans. We should use fewer polystyrene lunchboxes and utensils to reduce the use of plastic. This can help protect the wildlife.

The last problem is the frequently revised edition of textbooks. A new edition of a textbook is published when the author determines that new information needs to be added. However, the new information changes are mostly insignificant. Therefore, a lot of paper is wasted because the old ones could not be used or sold anymore. Trees will be cut down because of the need of producing more paper and global warming will be more severe. Gradually, the Earth will be destroyed by us. We can prevent this by reusing the paper on both sides and recycle it so that it can be made into new paper by setting up recycling bins around the school campus.

I hope that this letter will raise the public's awareness about the solid waste that schools in Hong Kong produce. I am looking forward to my points being accepted by the government and schools and therefore "go green". We should protect our environment and protect our future.

Yours faithfully,

Kelly Yim