

Name: _____

Class: _____ ()

Reducing Waste in Our Beautiful Hong Kong

Stewards Pooi Tun Secondary School

Narrator: Ma Hei Yiu, Yoyo

Editor: Tang W. Y. Winnie

Script Writers: Tsoi Hiu Ching, Angel; Ma Hei Yiu, Yoyo; Tang Wing Yin, Winnie

Hong Kong is a wasteful city. The first evidence is our shopping habits. We're invited by the new arrivals, the big sales, the brand names. According to the Friends of the Earth, each Hong Kong citizen, on average, buys 30 pieces of clothing a year. But, nearly 2 million pieces of new clothes are dumped.

Another evidence is our eating habits. As stated, by the Center for Health Protection. Nearly 70 percent of people eat out a week. However, they like to order more than they can take. The unfinished foods are just dumped into the rubbish bins.

Hongkongers also like to consume takeaway food, causing a lot of disposable wastes like Styrofoam boxes and plastic bags. According to the EPD, One hundred and thirty five tones of Styrofoam are disposed of every year.

Hong Kong's citizens enjoy a high living standard. Our consumption is not based on needs, but rather on fads. The unnecessary renewal of furniture just because of a good bargain is a typical example. The careless dumping of the still usable furniture, indeed, is another great waste. Those surplus clothes, disposable items and used furniture are all delivered to the refuse collection points, and then to the landfill. According to the research by the EPD, Hong Kong people generate about 15,000 tonnes of rubbish a day. And the landfills will be used up in 5 to 8 years. It's high time for us to rescue our city!!

Our government has launched several campaigns on different occasions to reinforce the 3R's concept. That is reduce, reuse and recycle. Since 2006, the government has been launching the "No Plastic Bag" day. With the support of supermarket chains, the campaign yields preliminary success. The government has also increased the number of recycling bins: blue for paper, brown for plastics, and yellow for metal containers. By providing convenience, the government is encouraging citizen to recycle. The government has also done a good job in education and promotion. We can witness this success particularly in primary schools. For example, the used clothes recycling activities, the bookmark design competitions...

The support of business is also essential. The MTR has set a good example by installing recycling bins to collect the no longer needed free newspapers from the passengers. Recycling is useful, but reducing is also important. We can use paper printed on one side only for photocopying. The more waste we reduce, the more beautiful Hong Kong will be! ARE YOU READY?