

On-going Initiatives on the Management of Single-use Plastics in Hong Kong

2009

- **Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme**

The PSB Charging Scheme is the first producer responsibility scheme (PRS) introduced in Hong Kong. First phase of the Charging Scheme was implemented on 7 July 2009, the Charging Scheme has been extended to cover the entire retail sector since 1 April 2015 under which all retail outlets.

2018

- **Stop the sale of plastic bottled water**

The sale of plastic bottled water of 1 litre or less has been progressively ceased since 2018 in automatic vending machines at government premises.

- **Install more water dispensers and water filling stations**

Since 2018, the EPD has been progressively increasing the number of water dispensers in government venues and water filling stations in country parks to inculcate the “bring your own bottle” culture.

- **“Plastic-Free Takeaway, Use Reusable Tableware” campaign**

The Environmental Campaign Committee and the EPD collaborated with the food and beverage industry to jointly hold the campaign in 2018 and 2019 to encourage members of the public to go plastic-and-disposable-free when they order takeaways.

- **“Plastic Free Beach, Tableware First” campaign**

The EPD launched the campaign at various public beaches in the summer of 2018 and 2019 to encourage members of the public and eateries in the vicinity to go plastic-free on beaches by avoiding the use and distribution of disposable plastic tableware.

- **The Green Outreach**

The Green Outreach, a community outreaching team on waste reduction and recycling was set up in phases to bring closer collaboration with different community stakeholders in source separation and clean recycling.

2019

- **Reduce the use of disposable tableware in Government premises**
The government has already ceased the provision of plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in most Government premises and canteens since 2019, while relevant requirement on the avoidance of such disposable tableware would also be imposed when awarding new contracts or renewing existing contracts.

2020

- **Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials**
The two-year Pilot Scheme was rolled out in Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin progressively in 2020. All types of waste plastic collected from non-commercial and non-industrial sources would be processed into recycled raw materials or products for proper handling.
- **“Plastic-free” School Lunch Pilot Scheme**
The Scheme serves to provide the “Four Treasures” (refrigerators, steam cabinets, dishwashers and disinfection machines) to about 50 schools, with a view to encouraging students to bring their own lunches using reusable food containers.
- **“Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign**
The on-going Campaign encourages the public to “Use Less, Waste Less” and practicing green living, promotes the message “Save More, Recycle More”, and disseminates knowledge and the latest information about waste reduction and recycling.
- **A new brand for the Community Recycling Network**
22 Recycling Stores and over 100 Recycling Spots (mobile collection points with weekly schedule) under a new “6” brand have commenced operation progressively since late 2020, accepting single-use plastics among other relatively low-value recyclables. Together with the 9 existing Recycling Stations (known previously as community green stations), the new community recycling network plays a more proactive role in promoting source separation of waste and clean recycling in the community.

2021

- **PRS on plastic beverage containers public consultation**
The Government will take forward the PRS on plastic beverage containers (PPRS) that requires stakeholders to jointly share their eco-responsibilities. Subject to the views collected in the public consultation and the legislative procedures required for putting forward the final proposal, it is expected that the PPRS may be implemented by 2025 the earliest.
- **Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme**
The EPD has rolled out a one-year RVM Pilot Scheme to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the application of RVMs in local context.
- **Smart Water Dispensers Pilot Scheme**
The Scheme provides about 80 primary and secondary schools with smart water dispensers to encourage students to inculcate a living culture of “bring your own bottle”.
- **Public consultation on regulation of disposable plastic tableware**
The Government plans to consult the trade, the public and other stakeholders on the phased regulation of disposable plastic tableware. Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, it is hoped that the first phase of regulation can be implemented in around 2025.