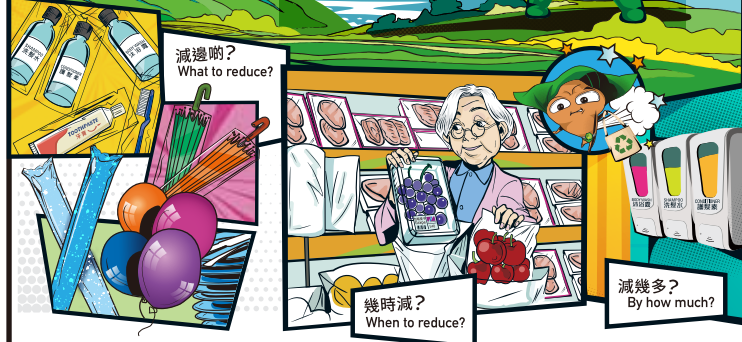


# 管制即棄塑膠

Public Engagement on Control of Single-use Plastics / 公眾參與



意見收集期至 29.12.2021  
Views Collection Period until

## Types of single-use plastic products to be discussed in this exercise

**Local product packaging**

- box for containing fruit / eggs
- non-beverage container
- pre-packaging for vegetables
- multi-pack ring (i.e. those for binding several canned beverage)

**Local packaging for logistics and online shopping**

- foam tray and platter for fresh fruit, meat, fish or poultry
- wrapping for binding several onsale products
- plastic wrap
- plastic tape
- bubble wrap
- plastic rope
- packing peanuts

**Local retail packaging**

- inflatable cheer stick
- glow stick
- single-use tableware sold at retail outlets (e.g. cutlery, stirrer, straw, plate)
- balloon and balloon sticks
- banner
- gift wrapping
- event / festival decoration

**Toiletries distributed by hotels**

- umbrella bag
- supplementary tool sold together with a product for its usage or consumption, such as plastic straw attached to a paper beverage carton
- other toiletries like plastic stemmed cotton buds
- miscellaneous items such as signage for meetings, conventions and exhibitions

**Festival and celebration products**

- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- shower cap
- comb
- showering product in small bottle

**Others**

(\*The Government has just completed Public Consultations on Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and the Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware. Hence, these items would not be the main focus of the present public engagement.)

## Waste prevention — How?

### What to control?

To tackle the problem of single-use plastics in a more effective way, we need to analyse the characteristics of different products from the following aspects:

- Is it causing adverse environmental impact?
- Is it difficult to recycle?
- Are there reasons to control it at a later stage?

### Single-use plastic is not the only choice we have

Single-use plastic products	Possible Alternatives
Packing peanuts	Using waste corrugated paper as filling material
Umbrella bag	Umbrella dryer / Reusable umbrella bag
Plastic shopping bag	Cotton shopping bag
Plastic stemmed cotton bud	Paper/wood/bamboo stemmed cotton bud
Plastic tableware	Reusable tableware

## How to control?

### (1) Total ban or restriction

To ban or restrict the use / the sale of certain single-use plastic products, which may include:

**Non-essential products**

- Festivals and celebration products

**Products with readily affordable or reusable alternatives**

- Toiletries distributed by hotels
- Reusable umbrella bag
- Paper/wood/bamboo cotton buds
- Certain packaging

### (2) Other measures (regulatory / voluntary)

**Regulatory measures**

- Charging
- Producer responsibility scheme
- Limit the use of virgin plastic as raw material of certain product

**Voluntary measures**

- Voluntary scheme and campaigns
- Enhancement of recycling
- Promoting the use of alternatives
- Trade charter scheme
- Public education and publicity activities

## Enhancing existing measure — the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme

- Tighten the exemptions
- Avoid multiple layer of packaging
- Limit the number of exempted plastic shopping bags (PSBs)
- Adjust the charging level

## Other ways to reduce single-use plastics

**Reuse**

Reuse is to use an item again or in a different way.

**Recycle**

**Green shopping habit**

- Bring your own bag / bottle / box
- Buy products with minimal packaging
- Reuse packaging materials as far as possible, such as plastic bag, plastic box, etc.
- Practise clean recycling

If we could not reuse the single-use plastic product, the next step is to recycle it. The Environmental Protection Department has established a new community recycling network, known as the GREEN@COMMUNITY, which includes Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots covering the whole territory.

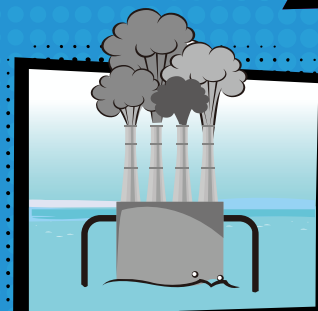
## Views Collection

- Question (1): How concerned are you about each of the following issues with single-use plastics?
- Single-use plastics are littered in the natural environment, which causes pollution and harm to wildlife
  - Use of single-use plastics increases carbon footprint and poses climate change hazard
  - Single-use plastics are difficult to recycle and take up valuable landfill space
  - The society's over-reliance on single-use plastics promotes a wasteful culture
- Question (2): What types of product should be put under control? For those that should be controlled, should actions be taken in short-term (within 3 years) or medium-term (3 – 5 years)? What should be the approach for controlling them?
- Question (3): Enhancing existing measure - the Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme
- (3.1): Do you agree that the current exemption for PSB carrying frozen/ chilled foodstuff in airtight packaging can be removed?
- (3.2): Do you agree that foodstuff already fully wrapped by non-airtight packaging should not be provided with free PSB?
- (3.3): Do you agree only ONE PSB should be exempted for carrying foodstuff not fully wrapped by any packaging (e.g. bread sold at bakeries, fruits sold at wet market)?
- (3.4): What is the minimum charging level that can discourage you from using a PSB (HKD)?
- \$1 - \$1.5 - \$2 - others: \_\_\_\_\_(please specify)

- Question (4): Do you agree that, if more information on the recyclability and percentage of recycled content of a single-use plastic product is provided by the manufacturer, it would be helpful for consumers to make an informed purchase decision?
- Question (5): Do you agree there is a need to develop a platform for sharing information on plastic alternatives among different stakeholders (including businesses, material suppliers and consumers)?
- Question (6): When there are different brands available for the same type of merchandise. Which of the following green considerations would affect your choice?
- Whether the product can be re-used (e.g. reusable metal cutlery vs single-use plastic cutlery for parties, reusable umbrella bags vs disposable umbrella bags)
  - Whether "green material" is used (e.g. products and packaging with recycled content)
  - The brand's "corporate environmental responsibility" (e.g. the brand offers "take-back" service for the collection and subsequent recycling of their products)
  - Whether the product is not over-packaged
- Question (7): One of the reasons that plastics are so commonly used is their comparatively cheap price. Replacing plastics by non-plastic / reusable alternatives may drive up the costs of the products. To reduce the use of single-use plastics, are you willing to pay more? If yes, assuming that a single-use plastic item costs \$10, how much are you willing to pay for the same product made from non-plastic / reusable alternatives?
- less than \$0.5 (i.e. less than 5% of product price)
  - \$0.5 – 1 (i.e. 5 – 10% of product price)
  - \$1.1 – 1.5 (i.e. 11 – 15% of product price)
  - more than \$1.5 (i.e. more than 15% of product price)

## What are single-use plastics?

Plastics are light, durable and inexpensive. They are commonly used in our daily lives. However, as they can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, affecting our ecosystems, endangering animal lives and also threatening human health.

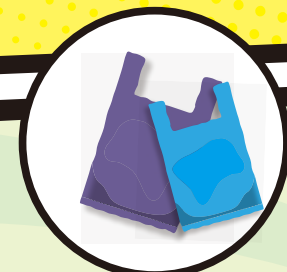
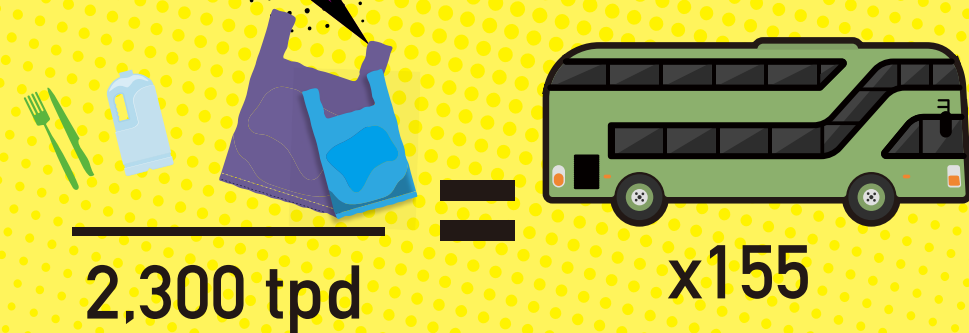


Besides, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the demand for single-use plastic items, for example, face masks, and bottled hand sanitizers. The pandemic has also popularised single-use food packaging, takeaway, delivery services and online shopping, which increase the society's reliance on single-use plastics.

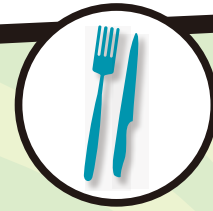


## Where are we now?

According to "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong - Waste Statistics for 2019", 11,057 tonnes per day (tpd) of overall municipal solid waste (MSW) were disposed of at landfills in 2019, in which about 21%, i.e. around 2,300 tpd, were plastics, which is equivalent to the weight of around 155 double-decker buses.



**33%** (768 tpd)  
Plastic bags (including plastic shopping bags and other bags)



**9%** (200 tpd)  
Plastic dining wares (including Polyfoam-dining wares)



**5%** (106 tpd)  
Plastic beverage containers



**4%** (85 tpd)  
Plastic non-beverage containers



50¢

1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme

2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme covering the entire retail sector

Launching of Recycling Fund



2009

2015

- Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials
- "Plastic-free" School Lunch Pilot Scheme
- "Reduce and Recycle 2.0" Campaign
- A new brand for the community recycling network, GREEN@COMMUNITY
- Established the Green Tech Fund



2020

2019

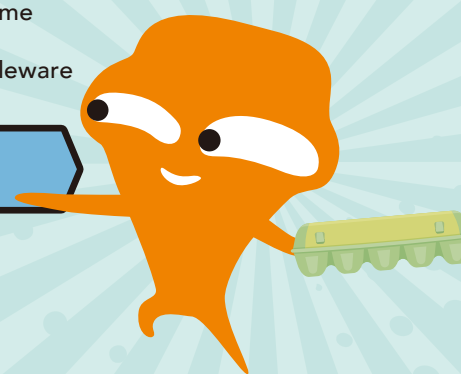
- Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035
- Public Consultation on the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers
- Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme
- Public Consultation on Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware



- Reduced the use of disposable tableware in government premises
- Installation of more water dispensers at government venues
- Pilot Programme on Smart Water Dispensers in Schools



What's Next?



## What should we do



PREVENTION

- Cease the use of **non-essential** and **hard-to-recycle** products
- Replace plastics by reusable alternatives



REUSE

- Despite the material limitation of single-use plastics, to reuse an item as far as possible



RECYCLE and RECOVERY

- Clean recycling, separate recyclables by category and take recyclables to proper recycling points
- Buy/use items that can be easily separated and recycled, and select products with recycled content



PROPER DISPOSAL

- Proper disposal to avoid littering in the natural environment e.g. take your litter home at hiking