



電子通訊
E-Newsletter

December, 2019

The Green Earth wishes everyone a better, greener and healthier life in 2020!

Green Policy Advocacy



Hong Kong: the most severe waste crisis in its history

The latest figures of the Environmental Protection Department revealed that Hong Kong’s municipal solid waste disposal per capita in 2018 was at its highest since 1991. Plastic recycling rate sank to 7%. Plastic beverage bottle export recycling rate slumped to a regrettable 0.2%. It is beyond dispute that passing the legislation on municipal solid waste charging before the end of the Legislative Council session in mid-2020 is of utmost urgency.

Hong Kong : a free port for waste trade

In comparison with the year before, industrial waste in 2018 increased by a record-breaking 24.4%. Whether waste import has contributed to such a high growth is a matter that requires further investigation. We urged EPD to keep a close watch on the issue.

Furthermore, our investigation uncovered that waste traders have been making use of Hong Kong's free port to re-export low-end plastic waste to developing countries. As a result, Hong Kong became the second and third largest source of plastic waste of Thailand (for the first nine months of 2019) and the Philippines (for the first seven months of 2019) respectively.

[Press release](#)

*Plastic waste outside a mosque in Indonesia.
Credit: Stiv Wilson, The Story Of Plastic*



Light Pollution

Responding to the Government's review of light pollution measures, we have investigated the prevalence of light pollution in the high-risked districts such as Mongkok, Causeway Bay and the Victoria Harbourfronts. TGE urged the Government to apply mandatory measures onto the switch off schedule, and strengthen control on emerging light pollution sources, such as LED panels.

Green Public Education/Engagement

First Hong Kong Trails Day promoting nature trail conservation

TGE organized the first Hong Kong Trails Day and the 40th birthday party for MacLehose Trail on 19th October to promote nature trail conservation. Guests shared oral history of “Memories of MacLehose” during the kick-off ceremony. The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam Sing and the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, Dr. Leung Siu Fai repaired MacLehose Section 10 together with other guests by building “stone baskets” and by filling gullies with recycled yard woods.

[Highlights in HK Trails Day.\(Chinese version only\).](#)



Explore stories behind Hong Kong trails

From now till the end of January, visitors will find guiding boards along eight selected hiking routes. Guiding information including history, natural ecology, country trail erosions and restoration methods, etc, will be shown upon scanning of the QR code. The "Sustainable Trails" Self-guided Tours are designed by TGE aiming at making hiking journey fun and educational with interesting stories and practical information of nature trail conservation.

[More](#)

Plantation Enrichment Programme – Tree Care Day

Autumn is a season of weeding. On 9 November, 80 Towngas volunteers revisited “Towngas X TGE” tree-planting site in Clearwater Bay Country Park and to weed and add fertilizers to ensure healthy growth of the young seedlings.



Green Corporate Engagement

Corporate beach cleanups

Over the past three months, we collected and removed more than 550 kg waste from coastal areas. We are grateful to have the enthusiastic support from our corporate partners including Canon Hong Kong Company Limited, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and Veolia Environmental Service China Limited.



Green Elites Campus Accreditation Programme

TGE is participating in CLP Green Elites Campus Accreditation Programme. Through school talks, upcycling workshops of plastic waste and country park cleanup activities, primary students are able to learn about environmental problems caused by plastic waste and to establish a plastic-free lifestyle particularly in school or festive events.



Green sharing



Sharing with the business sector on the trend and importance of good ESG performance



Sharing with Veolia Hong Kong's team at their new head office on waste challenges



Sharing with tenants of Kerry Properties on waste charging policy and plastic pollution

Green Footprints

Green Event Support



Though event organizers faced with more unstable factors recently and even cancelled their events, many of them have not forgotten their responsibility in making their event green. All green preparation work in various events is still going on. Some of the events TGE has supported in the past season:

- . St James Go Run
- . Pink Walk
- . HK168 Ultra Trail Running
- . Tai Po Half Marathon



The Plastic Free Precinct 2019

TGE worked with The Star Street Precinct to organise The Plastic Free Precinct recycling hub for 17 days in October. Assisted by a group of energetic green ambassadors, the hub engaged public in learning correct separation of each type of plastic, and to promote green lifestyle and reduce use of plastic in Start Street Precinct.



Purchasing insurance can reduce carbon emissions?

TGE is pleased to note that Zurich Insurance (HK) tries to raise awareness on carbon reduction through its “one policy one tree” campaign. From now till 31 January, 2020, the insurer will plant one tree in Zurich Forest in Madagascar, Africa, for every successfully enrollment for Zurich insurance policy via www.zurich.com.hk. The policyholder will receive a tree certificate which indicates the species and location of the tree. A mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of CO₂ in one year. Let's act to reduce carbon emissions!

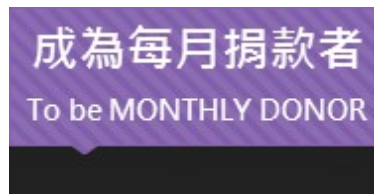


Green Articles

The articles TGE has published from October to December:

1. [Is tear gas in Hong Kong making polluted city take a toxic turn? \(2019/10/31\)](#)
2. [催淚煙或礙健康 政府應做6件事 \(2019/11/16\)](#)
3. [傷心玻璃樽 \(2019/11/14\)](#)
4. [傷心四腳蛇 \(2019/11/15\)](#)
5. [0.2%膠樽回收慘不忍睹 4招求翻身 \(2019/12/3\)](#)
6. [香港 - 塑料垃圾自由港 促請做好把關 免發展中地區淪為垃圾崗 \(2019/11/11\)](#)
7. [城市燈光須有分寸 拒劣質光污染 \(2019/11/2\)](#)
8. [多一個拒買即棄膠樽飲品的理由 促請飲品商盡早停用PVC包裝物料 \(2019/12/5\)](#)

With your kind support given to The Green Earth, we could make a small difference. Your encouragement and support will certainly help us to keep moving forward on the challenging green journey.



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