

## **2021 *Drink Without Waste* Achievements**

**By the participants of the Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group**

### **ADM Capital Foundation**

In 2021, the ADM Capital Foundation complemented its active participation in *Drink Without Waste's* various committees with improved systems in its own operations. In the office, a recycling system was installed and gradually expanded, and a set of Bring-Your-Own (BYO) cups and food containers was made available for takeout, in addition to the reusable tableware that is available for use in the office.

At the year drew to an end, the Foundation conducted an internal review of waste reduction, reuse and recycling practices in our office: as an organisation that incubates and shares space with many of Hong Kong's leading environmental NGOs, our staff and colleagues are perhaps more cognisant of the importance of such practices than most. Positively, our survey demonstrated just that. The majority of our teams are actively recycling drink bottles, other plastics, metals, glass and paper – when they use them. Our staff are mostly also seeking ways to reduce their footprint through means other than recycling, ranging from adopting bring-your-own (BYO) practices and wearing reusable masks to purchasing more sustainable items with less packaging or simply buying less.

Ongoing challenges include finding ways to reduce waste and recycle containers when using delivery services and increasing awareness and use of lesser-known recyclable items, such as drinks cartons, coffee cups, plastic take-out boxes and rechargeable batteries.

Brainstorming with our teams, we will refine our approaches in the office, including adopting new approaches. To kick off 2022, we want to make sure the whole office is on the same page, so we will run an educational seminar on recycling, reduction and reuse practices that are working for staff already, and advise on what materials can be recycled and where in the vicinity. To help us reduce our waste, we will be supplementing our collective-use cutlery and containers to aid staff in their BYO efforts. To improve our recycling, we will be providing clearer guidance on our collection bins, to better inform staff of what can and cannot be recycled. We will also send out periodic emails to remind and inform staff on the latest measures and initiatives.

### **A.S. Watson Group (PARKnSHOP)**

Caring for the planet is in heart of Watsons Water's Social Purpose. In 2021, as part of Watsons Water 2030 zero waste to landfill aspiration, we focused on further empowering our consumers to live a more sustainable lifestyle by launching two product innovation.

The first one focuses on reducing packaging of our beverages, with the launch of Watsons Sleeveless Distilled Water. We are the first major local beverage manufacturer that have launched a label-less plastic water bottle design. Being crystal-clear in design, it helps to showcase the purity of our water and enhance recyclability of our bottle.

The second on encouraging packaging reuse. Watsons Water partnered with PATHWATER in 2012 to be the first Hong Kong beverage manufacturer to produce prefilled bottled water packaged in highly reusable bottle. With the bottle body made with aluminum body that's very durable that is made for repeated usage for occasion such as hiking trip. We have applied the sleeveless design to the bottle body as well to enhance its recyclability. In addition, the aluminum bottle is made from 70% recycled material, and it is 100% recyclable. This offers a new solution to environmental conscious lifestyle in the modern era.

In 2022, Watsons Water will further invest to care for our planet. This include introducing new eco-friendly product to fulfill our consumer's need; and collaborate with different organizations or associations to expand the network of Smart Bottle Reverse Vending Machine and Smart Water Refilling Machine. Our ultimate goal is make waste-less / waste-free experience more accessible and more convenient.

We see education being an important element to a healthy development of Hong Kong's Circular Economy. Via the YouTube link below, we are happy to share here how our Smart Water Refilling Machine encourages the public and students to inculcate a habit of "bring your own bottle" at early stage of life and to live a waste-less lifestyle.

Video reference: <https://youtu.be/50QQgv7QdVw>

### **Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Limited**

This year we have achieved significant progress in expanding our recycling networks to different parts of Hong Kong. Through the Neighbourhood Bottle Reward Scheme and the stable upstream collection service, we developed 2,300+ collection points, recovered over 8,000 tonnes of plastic beverage bottles and glass containers. Also, being a part of the DWW Partnership Scheme, we have partnered with corporates from various sectors, including Swire Properties, ExxonMobil Hong Kong and Clean Waterways Initiatives, to set up 60+ return locations for plastic bottles, glass bottles and metals cans.

In 2022, we will continue to work with different parties to promote the collection of used beverage packaging. We will leverage our recycling network to provide more convenient and trustable packaging return locations to the general public. As part of New Life Plastics, we look forward to the commencement of the plastics recycling facilities at EcoPark in Q1 of 2022.

### **Business Environment Council (BEC)**

The Business Environment Council (BEC) is proud to be a member of the Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group since its formation back in 2017.

In 2021, BEC continued to push for government policies that promote and support the circular economy, and drive change in corporate and individual behaviours in waste treatment, sorting, recycling and resource conservation. We published a baseline report on "Circularity Assessment of Hong Kong", and with that we organised events to demonstrate the business case for

circularity and encourage circular business mindset, sustainable design practices that emphasize less packaging and the selection of materials that are re-useable and/or recyclable.

In the BEC Building, we have further reduced waste and improved recycling rate in the past year. We also worked with our tenants to promote sorting and clean recycling. In October, we extended our focus to include clothing waste and participated in the Get Redressed Clothing Drive campaign. As a corporate membership organisation, BEC stands ready in 2022 to collaborate with our members and the wider business community in translating pledges and commitment into real action.

### **Coordinate4u**

Coordinate4u is a small consultancy firm focused on sustainability and training. Over the last year we have shared the work of *Drink Without Waste* initiative and its members with our clients and the community to help raise awareness and develop wider business participation around improving single use beverage packaging, reuse and refilling. We have facilitated discussions with our corporate clients that resulted in improved strategies and supply chain participation. In the public space we created opportunities such as:

1. Hosting on RTHK ([www.facebook.com/MorningBrewHK](http://www.facebook.com/MorningBrewHK)):
  - a. Helga Vanthournout from Wealth of Flows discussing HK PRS for plastic beverage containers
  - b. Nigel Mattravers from ALBA discussing the New Life Plastic plants collection and processing of packaging
2. Hosting at Green Drinks ([www.facebook.com/groups/HKGreenDrinks/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HKGreenDrinks/)):
  - a. Ashley Bang from ADM Capital Foundation with Edwin Lau from The Green Earth, Topic: Should we ban Disposable Plastic Tableware.
  - b. Helga Vanthournout from Wealth of Flows, Topic: Producer Responsibility Scheme covering Plastic Bottles: why should we care.
  - c. Amandine de Gorguette a HKU Master of Science in Environmental Management student, Topic Digging into the Plastic Footprint of SMEs

For 2022 we will continue raising awareness within the business and community sectors, so as to encourage participation in Drinking with Less Waste by implementing the 4Rs.

### **Designing Hong Kong**

Designing Hong Kong Limited proudly supported the *Drink Without Waste* initiative by providing secretarial support services during 2021. We designed and led the "Neighbourhood Bottle Reward Scheme" recovering close to 50 million plastic bottles. By initiating research into the availability of water dispensers during COVID, we identified the need to replace water fountains with bottle refill stations. Other research identified the opportunity provided by the vacancies in wet markets to provide conveniently located recycling stores. We will continue to offer secretarial and manpower support to the *Drink Without Waste*.

### **EcoDrive**

EcoDrive is a Hong Kong section 88 not-for-profit established in 2018 which focuses on educating the public about environmental impact of the city's habitual and alarming use of single-use plastic. The not-for-profit provides screenings and talks to schools and companies throughout the year. Despite the pandemic and with the support of ECF, EcoDrive educated over 38 schools and over 3500 students this year. EcoDrive creates campaigns that build awareness to the general public about the plight of single-use plastic in Hong Kong and the environmental impact. A variety of approaches are deployed with an emphasis on education. The not-for-profit produces videos and films such as Start Small Start Now, providing screenings and presentations, infographics, textbooks and solutions to schools, businesses and the community. EcoDrive utilises the power of celebrities and trendsetters and secures billboards on buildings, bus shelters, mini buses, trams, MTR ads as well as outdoor TV and social media to create greater understanding about the plastic situation. It encourages the public to make lifestyle changes and to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

### **Campaigns BY ECODRIVE:**

1. Enough Plastic May 30-end July 2021: One of Hong Kong's largest and most visible campaigns on single-use plastic. The theme this year is 少塑從「揀」 - reducing single use plastic by making better choices. Awareness was heightened by using the popularity & reach of artists Aaron Kwok and Karen Mok who created a catalogue of images that stresses the importance of our everyday choices and how they can have a direct impact on the environment. There were over 15 million views on the stars sharing their tips on social media plus millions of eyeballs on the campaign on prominent outdoor ads and minibuses. <https://youtu.be/nkhTsng-bEY>
2. My Impact app was developed and launched along with Enough Plastic for people to download tips, to pledge an action and to measure their personal plastic reduction which can also be used for team building, competitions and sharing amongst friends, families and companies. The goal is to record and achieve a measurable, real reduction of participating individual's plastic waste. From 1st June 2021 to 2 December 2021:
  - a. Total reduced plastic logged: 4079 kgs
  - b. Total Recycled plastic logged: 2572 Kgs
  - c. Total logged: 6651 Kgs
  - d. Groups include: LGT, KPMG, A&O, LKK, LIS School
  - e. App Downloads: 1680
  - f. Active users: 689<https://youtu.be/AfFU1a1uOZc>

### **Friends of the Earth**

Plastic pollution continues to be a major global environmental crisis. Irresponsible use of single-use packaging has polluted the environment, entangled and maimed wildlife, and found themselves back in our food chain. *Drink Without Waste* has demonstrated that stakeholders

from different sectors and parts of the society can join hands to tackle environmental challenges. We at Friends of the Earth (HK) are committed to continue our environmental advocacy work in promoting a zero carbon, zero waste lifestyle. Going forward, we will continue to engage the government, businesses, and communities to drink more sustainably. We will encourage equitable solutions like deposit-refund schemes to encourage sustainable changes in businesses practices and personal behaviours. We will continue to focus on protecting the local and regional environment to create a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

## **Fung Group**

This year, colleagues at Fung Group has organized and participated in various sustainability campaigns which advocates the 4Rs. Through a clothing drive hosted in partnership with Redress, they successfully collected 617kg of clothing to be redistributed to those in need. In a volunteering activity with Soap Cycling, Fung Group volunteers reprocessed 400 bars of soap and 35L of bottled liquid soap. In a food redistribution session, volunteers repackaged 485 boxes of food weighing a total of 5384kg.

For Mid-Autumn Festival, the Group organized a mooncake donation drive with Feeding Hong Kong to distribute to underprivileged communities, as well as a mooncake box recycling activity with Greeners Action. Fung Group also participated in EcoDrive's Enough Plastic campaign to encourage colleagues to avoid using single-use plastics in their daily lives. The Group is thankful for the passionate participation from their colleagues and hope to continue inspiring collective and individual action towards a more sustainable future.

## **Green Power**

廢物議題為綠色力量其中一個關注範疇，我們以「紙包盒回收」作切入點，倡議生產者責任制，期望為香港建立可持續的廢物回收鏈。過去一年的「現金回收紙包盒計劃」回收得近 10 噸紙包盒，為社區及回收業界回收紙包盒踏出重要一步。

## **Hung Fook Tong**

Protecting the environment is of grave concern to Hung Fook Tong, which is why it continues to sponsor the “Recycle Actions of Returning Plastic Bottles” (「交」樽減碳回收行動) initiative managed by RVM Technology Limited, by offering discount coupons as incentives for using recycling machines found at over 80 locations across Hong Kong. Owing to these machines, more than 116,000 bottles were collected and recycled in the first six months of 2021.

In 2021, two reverse vending machines for plastic bottles recycling have been placed at selected Hung Fook Tong stores (Cyberport and Fortress Hill) to encourage customers to recycle cleaned PET/PP beverage bottles. This is in addition to three recycling bins placed since 2019, as part of the trial plastic recycling program co-organised with the Jane Goodall Institute (Hong Kong) and V Cycle, a local green social enterprise. The recycled products were sent to overseas

markets for processing and eventually turned into rPET products. Hung Fook Tong plans to place recycling machines or recycling bins at more of its retail shops to encourage plastic bottles recycling by its customers.

Looking into the future, with the increasing public concerns about the impact of single-use plastic packaging on the environment, Hung Fook Tong is also looking at the possibility of redesigning its packaging materials to minimise the use of plastics at the source.

### **The Hong Kong Jockey Club**

The Club shares the community's goals of reducing waste and encouraging the reuse and recycling of resources. It also strives to support the *Drink Without Waste* initiative as far as practicable in its operations.

The Club's policy on avoiding single-use plastics has included stopping the sales and provision of water in single-use plastic bottles except in emergency situations. Bottled water has been removed from vending machines and free drinking water is available for all staff and visitors at the Club's offices, clubhouses as well as the other operations that it manages. Meanwhile, a total of 85 water points have been installed at Sha Tin and Happy Valley racecourses.

Meanwhile, the Club also strengthens the recovery of single-use plastic and drink cans at race meetings by employing a team of "Green Angels", whose main task is to assist racegoers with clean separation. The Club's efforts in helping reduce its environmental footprint underscore its commitment towards the betterment of Hong Kong. More information about the Club's environmental commitment and progress can be found on its website [www.hkjc.org.hk](http://www.hkjc.org.hk).

### **MTR Corporation Limited**

Since 2019, MTR has installed water dispensers at selected stations to encourage passengers to use refillable drinking bottles in place of single-use plastic beverage containers. In 2021, MTR has installed two more water dispensers at Tai Po Market and East Tsim Sha Tsui stations. Passengers are now able to refill drinking water free of charge in 12 MTR stations. All these water dispensers have been dressed up with a new look for easy identification. Since launch, these water dispensers have helped passengers avoid use of over 670,000 disposable water bottles. Water vending machines are also available at Kwun Tong, Causeway Bay and Shau Kei Wan stations.

To promote recycling of plastic bottles, MTR has participated in the "Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme" rolled out by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Five RVMs are provided at Admiralty Centre, Paradise Mall, Telford Plaza, Maritime Square 2 and The LOHAS, enabling easy recycling of used plastic beverage bottles in these communities connected to MTR facilities. With a collection figure of over 53,000 plastic beverage bottles in May 2021, the RVM in Telford Plaza has come first among the 60 RVMs launched through the RVM Pilot Scheme.

MTR will continue to review the effectiveness of these programmes and identify suitable stations/ properties for installation of water dispensers, water vending machines and RVMs to promote reduction and recycling of single-use plastic beverage bottles.

### **Nestle**

In order to promote clean recycling of Type 5 Polypropylene (“PP”) plastic, Nestlé Hong Kong, a member of Hong Kong Beverage Association, has joined forces with Hong Chi Association to implement a “Type 5 PP Plastic Recycling Pilot Campaign” in Yuen Long since August 2020 with over 30 recycling points. The Campaign is the first recycling campaign in the city’s community focusing only on Type 5 PP plastic and it complements the existing community recycling network which mostly caters Type 1 PET and Type 2 HDPE plastics.

As of 30 June 2021, the pilot campaign recycled around 900KG of Type 5 PP plastic, whose weight is equivalent to over 22,500 takeaway meal boxes, and it doubled the expected level! Not only did the pilot campaign achieve the purpose of recycling, but it also took a step forward to upcycle the collected plastic into 3,500 eco-friendly clothes hangers, successfully turning waste into resources and enabling a circular life cycle for the plastic!

In view of the wide support received for the pilot campaign, Nestlé Hong Kong has expanded the recycling network to Kowloon and Hong Kong Island districts in 2021, providing a total of 50 recycling points under the campaign and aiming to collect 1,500KG of Type 5 PP plastic in a year.

Apart from setting up more recycling points, the campaign will also actively promote environmental protection, such as enhancing general public’s environmental awareness and encouraging them to recycle or upcycle plastics through online workshops and activities.

While the campaign is strengthening the recycling power for a new page in plastic recycling in the community, Nestlé Hong Kong will continue its sustainability journey towards 100% recyclable or reusable packaging by 2025.

### **Plastic Free Seas**

Despite Covid restrictions, Plastic Free Seas had a very productive year. We reached more than 10,000 students with 127 educational talks on the issue of plastic marine pollution, focusing on solutions and empowering students with the knowledge and the tools they need to make change happen and reduce single-use plastic waste. We were proud to continue as Clean Waterways Initiative’s education partner with 7 educational boat trips. Our work with schools goes beyond our education talks, and we motivated at least 5 schools to initiate mask design competitions and/or liquid carton collections so far with more planning to start in 2022.

Through our corporate, school and community cleanups, we removed over 7 tonnes of waste during 40 beach cleanups, recycling all the clean beverage bottles and cans we found. Beach cleanup programmes not only engage with the public to allow them to take action, but are a

tool to educate and encourage people to reduce the amount of single-use plastic they use by showing them the problem first hand.

During our monthly community recycling collections in Discovery Bay we collected 38,112 liquid cartons in the first half of the year, in addition to other hard-to-get recycled items. The monthly collection programme finished mid year after we introduced the local Green@Community station to DB management and a weekly community pop-up recycling collection Spot commenced. In the second half of the year we facilitated the collection of over 4,500 liquid cartons with weekly collections from the local coffee shop Uncle Russ Coffee. We also partnered with Circular City to pilot a reusable coffee cup program with Uncle Russ Coffee in the summer, and 4,509 single-use cups were avoided by the end of the year.

### **Swire Coca-Cola HK**

Swire Coca-Cola HK (SCCHK) strives to be at the forefront of reducing, recovering and recycling beverage packaging.

Our mineralized water brand Bonaqua® underwent major rebranding in mid-2021, in which we also innovated in packaging design and included more sustainable packaging choices. The brand has switched to clear plastic bottles to enhance its recycling value and water bottle labels now carry clear information about material components to facilitate better recycling. SCCHK also produced its first label-less bottles for Bonaqua®, which enables more efficient recycling by eliminating one packaging component. The brand has also made sparkling water available in aluminium cans to provide consumers with yet another recyclable option.

SCCHK has piloted the “Tap, Return and Earn” Beverage Bottles Redemption Scheme since September 2019, through which our reverse vending machines have collected more than 4.1 million bottles to date, making this trial programme a successful one not only in changing consumers’ recycling behaviour, but at the same time offering valuable references to the Government and the industry.

Starting from September 2021, SCCHK operates an Incubation of Network Return Operator (NRO) project to promote at-source and clean collection of eight types of recyclables in large-scale residential estates. With the aim of driving home-based recycling and addressing core public concerns about the effectiveness of the city’s recycling, we partner with well-recognised service providers and offer convenient return points, effective on-site separation and proper recycling of the collected recyclables.

With our joint-venture recycling facility New Life Plastics commencing operation in 2022, SCCHK can further enhance our effort in closing the loop through packaging recycling. In the coming year, we also target to extend packaging recovery to other types of beverage packaging. We will further explore other collection channels and look into running various schemes in parallel to strengthen the recovery and recycling network.

### **The Green Earth**

Since 2018, The Green Earth has conducted over 200 brand audits on single-use beverage PET bottles left on non-gazetted beaches throughout Hong Kong aiming to find out the source of the problem.

Our published research findings put pressure to getting at least the leading local beverage producers to eventually set aside resources for cleaning up their mess.

The Green Earth, from day one, advocates the holistic waste management approach rather than merely recycling as we understand so well that recycling is not an efficient means and can hardly recover much higher rates of used bottles from almost every corner of the city while producer responsibility legislation is still non-existence.

We keep advocating the public, the government and the producers to avoid producing single-use beverage bottles by bringing their reusable bottles and providing water/drinks refilling facilities. The pace of setting up refilling facilities in public venues is rather slow as producers put relatively more efforts in launching recycling programs to demonstrate their preferred responsibility.

The government consultation on producer responsibility on plastic beverage containers has ended on May 21, no updates were released but we are getting close to the year end. Instead of waiting for the government to regulate, producers should work harder and faster at the higher level of waste management - avoidance!

### **Vitasoy international Holdings Limited**

Vitasoy is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle and sustainable consumption. In 2021, the Company launched a number of education and recovery programmes to promote the benefits of plant-based nutrition, as well as the importance of clean carton recycling, for the environment.

The integrated stakeholder engagement programmes included online and offline eco-talks, workshops, plant tours and roadshows. More than 330,000 members of the public were reached through these education initiatives and by visits of the mobile truck to the 18 districts across Hong Kong.

Vitasoy also worked with property management companies to launch the educational roadshows. They promoted the concept of sustainable consumption – in which a plant-based diet requires less water and land resources to produce quality nutritional food and beverage. It also advocated for clean recycling to support the development of a circular economy.



Vitasoy continued to partner with MilMill, the first pulp mill and education centre to recycle beverage cartons in Hong Kong, as well as schools and organisations on its Clean Carton Recycling Programme. The programme has expanded its recovery network to more than 420 collection points in the past year.

Vitasoy has incorporated messages of resource conservation in its Go Green Life marketing campaign, featuring the 100% rPET bottle, Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) and Water Refill Stations. Vitasoy has continued to expand the application of recycled PET packaging to other product ranges.

In 2022, Vitasoy will continue to promote a green lifestyle with sustainable consumption and clean recycling. Through collaborations with different stakeholders and educational activities, Vitasoy will work towards using more environmentally friendly materials and minimising the impact of waste generated by public consumption.

**15 Feb 2022**