

***Drink Without Waste Limited* welcomes the Audit Report on water dispensers**

Water dispenser surveys show that FEHD and HAD have suspended water fountains. *Drink Without Waste* urges all government departments to upgrade their water fountains to bottle refill stations

In his latest report, the Director of Audit urges government to replace drinking fountains (“bubbler”) at its sports grounds with bottle filling dispensers as soon as possible. The recommendations are made to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bottles and to reduce waste at source. See Audit Report No. 77 https://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/e77ch03.pdf.

In Audit’s view, in light of concerns over bubbler contamination amid the Covid-19 epidemic, LCSD should consider stepping up the replacement of the bubblers in sports grounds by bottle-filling water dispensers as far as practicable," the report said.

In 2021, the *Drink Without Waste* campaign raised awareness using the hashtag #DrinkHKwater, it aimed to raise awareness about water treatment in Hong Kong, how to protect the quality of water, and to develop waste reduction habits, such as bringing your own bottle and using bottle refill stations. *Drink Without Waste* published a Water Dispensers Survey. We reported that almost 60% of public water dispensers are suspended. All water fountain type dispensers managed by LCSD and FEHD were suspended due to hygiene concerns. The LCSD operates public parks, promenades, pleasure grounds, beaches, sports and cultural facilities. The FEHD operates public markets among others.

In response to the Audit Commission’s recommendations, *Drink Without Waste* concludes as follows:

1. We are pleased with the recommendations in the Audit Report.
2. While we applaud LCSD's initiative to provide at least one bottle refill station (Type A) at each sports ground by the end of 2021-22, we urge the LCSD to replace all water fountains with bottle refill stations.
3. The report recommends bottle refill stations as they address hygiene concerns. We recommend that fountain-type water dispensers and water filling stations are kept separate.
4. We urge all government departments – not just LCSD - to replace their fountain type water dispensers with bottle refill stations as soon as possible.

The *Drink Without Waste* initiative is led by the Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group, a coalition of beverage manufacturers and importers, waste handlers and recyclers, institutions, retailers and NGOs in Hong Kong. The Working Group seeks to reduce the volume of used beverage packaging going to waste by 70 to 90%. For more information, please visit <https://drinkwithoutwaste.org/>

Water dispenser survey: Summary results

Government Department	Existing water dispensers for public use			New water dispensers planned for public use (mostly bottle refill stations)
	In use (Mostly bottle refill stations)	Suspended (Mostly water fountains)	Suspended %	
FEHD	0	15	100%	0
LCSD	28	1018	97%	0
HAD	21	16	43%	5
AFCD	24	5	17%	5
EPD	28	2	7%	375***
TD	0	0	-	0
AA	100	0	0%	50
DH	190	0	0%	0
Hospital Authority	344	0	0%	0
Total	735	1056	59%	435
Others **	~1000		NA	

* Last updated: 17 September 2021

** Estimated number of water dispensers present in other government premises (Police stations, courts, centres for tax, business registration, immigration).

*** Future locations of new dispensers under EPD budget include LCSD and TD facilities.

Water dispensers under LCSD's management



Northern District Sports Ground
Water dispenser suspended



Wan Chai Promenade
Fountain type water dispensers suspended, bottle refill station open



East Coast Park Precinct
Fountain type water dispensers suspended, bottle refill station open

Water dispensers in LCSD's sport grounds

Photographs 4(a) to (d)

Examples of water dispensers in LCSD sports grounds

(a) Type A (bottle-filler type)



(b) Type B (bubbler type)



(c) Old Type C
(bottle-filler/bubbler type)



(d) New Type C
(bottle-filler/bubbler type)



Source: Photographs taken by Audit staff in July, August and October 2021