

# **“Plastic-Free Takeaway, Use Reusable Tableware” pilot programme saves over 1 million sets of disposable tableware**

The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) collaborated with the Hong Kong Catering Industry Association to jointly hold a publicity and education campaign entitled "Plastic-Free Takeaway, Use Reusable Tableware" to encourage members of the public to go plastic-and-disposable-free when they order takeaways. The first phase of the campaign – a two-month pilot programme at three major fast food chains in Hong Kong – concluded successfully on January 15. During the pilot programme, members of the public together reduced waste and saved more than 1.2 million sets of disposable tableware, and redeemed over 100,000 gifts (sets of reusable stainless steel cutlery or a complimentary hot drink).

The EPD spokesman said, "The campaign has enhanced the public's understanding of the importance of going plastic-free, and promoted behavioural changes to foster a green lifestyle by providing suitable incentives. During the pilot programme, the ECC and the EPD proactively promoted the campaign via social media, radio and newspapers. Given the extensive network of the three major fast food chains across the territory, the programme successfully aroused public awareness and support for going plastic-free, and had an impact on publicity and public education. This has helped promote the plastic-free practice in society and enabled the plastic-and-disposable-free culture to take root at the community level."

Under the pilot programme, members of the public could receive a sticker for each takeaway order made at the participating fast food chains without obtaining any disposable tableware. After collecting six stickers, they could redeem reusable stainless steel cutlery sponsored by the ECC for free, or enjoy a complimentary hot drink sponsored by the participating fast food chains, so as to encourage members of the public to cultivate the good habit of bringing their own tableware and reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware. During the pilot programme period, the three major fast food chains distributed over 1.2 million stickers to take-away customers. Members of the public also redeemed about 86,000 sets of reusable stainless steel cutlery and some 22,000 cups of complimentary hot drinks.

The ECC and the EPD are working on the next phase of the publicity and education campaign with a view to further promoting the plastic-and-disposable-free message to members of the public. Views from various stakeholders to enhance the campaign are welcome.

In addition, starting this month, the Government has taken the initiative in banning plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in designated premises and canteens mainly serving government staff. Bureaux and departments, when inviting tenders for new or renewing existing contracts, will stipulate the requirement for restaurant operators in suitable

government venues to avoid using disposable plastic tableware wherever practicable, including not providing disposable tableware for dine-in customers, not providing disposable tableware by default or in sets for take-away customers, and using tableware made of greener materials (e.g. plant fibre) to replace disposable plastic tableware. The EPD will commence a consultancy study in the first quarter of 2019 to consider possible control measures for disposable plastic tableware in Hong Kong in the long run. The study will in tandem take into account the experience gained from promoting using less disposable plastic tableware in government premises and the food and beverage sector.

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## **More drop-in boxes for Caring and Sharing Scheme applications**

The Government announced today (January 29) that more drop-in boxes for the Caring and Sharing Scheme (CSS) will be made available for the public to submit their forms when the CSS starts receiving applications from this Friday (February 1).

In addition to the 31 drop-in boxes announced earlier, extra boxes will be provided at about 200 estate offices of the Housing Authority (including Public Rental Housing estates and estates under Tenants Purchase Scheme and the Buy or Rent Option) and 14 enquiry centres of the Home Affairs Department. Details of the drop-in boxes can be found at Annex and on the dedicated website ([css.gov.hk](http://css.gov.hk)).

A Government spokesman said, "The provision of more drop-in boxes aims to help prospective applicants in submitting completed application forms together with documentary proof to the Working Family Allowance Office (WFAO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency.

"Application documents can also be sent to the WFAO by post to PO Box No. 2600, Mong Kok Post Office," the spokesman added. As announced earlier, the Government will adopt a lenient approach in handling applications sent by mail with insufficient postage to ensure that they can be processed."

The WFAO has also contacted the offices of Legislative Council Members, District Council Members, and non-governmental organisations who have collected application forms in bulk, with a view to making special arrangements for collecting bulk submissions (200 application forms or more) from them if necessary.

Anyone who intends to make bulk submissions (200 application forms or more) is requested to contact the WFAO at telephone number 3105 8321 or by email at [whlchan\\_wfao@wfsfaa.gov.hk](mailto:whlchan_wfao@wfsfaa.gov.hk) for arrangements.

The capacity of the 24-hour telephone enquiry hotline (3897 1088) has also been increased further to 60 lines to cater for public demand.

Successful applicants with no local bank account under their sole name will be invited to collect cash cheques in person from WFAO. The Government is actively exploring more locations for the collection of cash cheques to enhance convenience for such applicants, and will announce details at a later stage.

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## **Police appeal for information on fatal traffic accident in Sai Kung**

Police today (January 29) appealed to the public for information on a fatal traffic accident in Sai Kung on January 11 in which an 82-year-old woman died.

At about 10.10am that day, a light goods vehicle (LGV) driven by a 23-year-old man was travelling along Nin Chun Street towards Yi Chung Street. When approaching the junction with Yi Chung Street, it reportedly knocked down the 82-year-old woman who was crossing the road.

Sustaining serious head injuries, the woman was rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in unconscious state and was certified dead at 1.50am on January 26.

The driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm after the accident. He has been released on bail pending further enquiries and is required to report back to Police in late February.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Kowloon East is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 2305 7570 or 2305 7500.

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## **Appeal for information on missing woman in Hung Hom (with photo)**

Police today (January 29) appealed to the public for information on a woman who went missing in Hung Hom.

Lee Lau Sik-fun, aged 54, went missing after she left a care home in Chi Kiang Street yesterday (January 28) morning. Staff of the care home made a report to Police on the same day.

She is about 1.6 metres tall, 58 kilograms in weight and of medium build. She has a pointed face with yellow complexion and short straight black hair. She was last seen wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and carrying a white rucksack.€€

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing woman or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542, or email to [rmpu-kw-2@police.gov.hk](mailto:rmpu-kw-2@police.gov.hk), or contact any police station.



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## [LegCo subcommittee visits Wang Chau \(with photos\)](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Subcommittee to Follow Up the Issues Related to the Wang Chau Development Project visited the sites for Phases 2 and 3 of the public housing development at Wang Chau in Yuen Long (Wang Chau Project) today (January 29) to better understand the current conditions of the sites.

Accompanied by representatives of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Home Affairs Department, the Housing Department, the Lands Department and the Planning Department, Members first received a briefing on the progress of Wang Chau Project. Members then visited the sites for Phases 2 and 3 of Wang Chau Project to learn more about the existing brownfield

operations. Members also exchanged views with the villagers of Tseng Tau Village, Wang Chau, and brownfield operators of car parks, garages, open storage yards and logistics industry to have a better understanding of their concerns.

The engineering feasibility study for site formation and infrastructure works for Phases 2 and 3 of Wang Chau Project is expected for completion in early 2019. It is expected that around 13 000 public housing units could be provided.

Members participating in the visit included the Panel Chairman, Mr Chu Hoi-dick; Panel members Mr Leung Yiu-chung, Ms Alice Mak, Dr Lo Wai-kwok and Mr Kwong Chun-yu.

