

30 October 2016

## 24<sup>th</sup> Clean Up the World in Hong Kong *Green Power Appeals to Public on Countryside Waste Reduction*

**Green Power** appeals to the public to show more concern on countryside waste today at the 24th “Clean Up the World in Hong Kong” held at Wan Chai Gap Park, announcing findings of a survey on countryside waste in Hong Kong. <sup>(1)</sup>

The survey, conducted by Green Power earlier on, showed that only 40% of the respondents regarded the problem of countryside waste as severe, as compared to 80% on coastal waste. **Mr. Henry LUI, Senior Conservation Manager, Green Power** attributed this misperception to the fact that most countryside litter are scattered along the side slopes of the trails, which are far less perceptible than coastal waste washed ashore.

“This may result from the discovery of huge amounts of litter found in the coastal areas near the south of Lantau during Summer this year. With a closer look at the slope of the trails, large amounts of litter accumulated at the slope of the trails can be seen, and we hope the public will be more concerned with this subtle, yet real litter problem along the hiking trails.”

The three most commonly found waste in countryside are tissue papers, food packaging and plastic bags, which account for 70%, 64% and 47% respectively. These are followed by fruit peels and plastic bottles, which are about 40%. **Mr. LUI** suggested refraining from the use of paper towel, bottled water and disposable cutlery. With regards to a small number of interviewees who smoke when visiting the countryside, he reminded people to avoid causing fire hazards when visiting the countryside, by not smoking.

**Mr. LUI** once again stressed the importance of people taking away their litter away and added, “Even when litter is disposed of in rubbish bins in the countryside, strong winds and foraging wild animals may cause litter to scatter. These animals may also mistakenly consume the rubbish as food, while cleaning workers need to work extra hard to clear up the mess. It would be a great help to the environment, If we put extra effort to reduce waste from the source by disposing the litter in the urban areas.”



The survey shows that over 40% of interviewees already have the habit of taking some of their litter home, and similar percentage of respondents agree with the authority in reducing the number of rubbish bins to encourage people to develop this green mindset. About 43% of respondents think that the authorities should allow three to five years to educate the public before total removal of litter bins from countryside can be implemented.

The event, organised by Green Power and supported by HK Electric, was held at Wanchai Gap Park today, officiated by **Mr. LAI Chuen Chi, Patrick**, Assistant Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Acting); **Mr. YEE Tak Chow**, General Manager (Corporate Development), HK Electric and **Dr. CHENG Luk Ki**, Division Head of Scientific Research & Conservation Department, Green Power.

**Mr. LAI** said “In order to achieve the desired results in environmental protection, the support and participation of the general public is essential. It is encouraging to see volunteers take part in “Clean Up the World in Hong Kong” to support the environment, promote waste reduction at source, and take away their own litter. ”

**Mr. YEE** said “HK Electric has been supporting this event for the past twenty-two years and are glad to help preserve the natural beauty of our countryside by organising our volunteers to clear litter dumped along two popular hiking routes in Aberdeen and Pokfulam after the ceremony. A simple appeal action to hikers will also be conducted by volunteers today to promote the “Bring Your Litter Home” message.”

<sup>(1)</sup> “Hong Kong Countryside Rubbish Survey” was conducted between 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> October. 315 Surveys were received. Survey was conducted through an online survey, with web users over the age of 16 who visited the countryside within a year.

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