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Rubbish bag trial is a big success

Residents reduced waste and increased recycling



▲ Environmental groups Friends of the Earth and Greeners Action trialled the waste levy scheme in Tai Kok Tsui for one month. (Sing Tao Daily)



Knowledge

Environmental levy on plastic shopping bags

Since 2009, the environmental levy has been set at 50 cents for each plastic shopping bag provided at registered retail outlets. Shoppers are also encouraged to bring their own bags as part of the scheme.

A HOUSEHOLD waste **levy** scheme has been tried out in Tai Kok Tsui (大角咀) and according to environmentalists, the amount of rubbish fell. Friends of the Earth (地球之友) and Greeners Action (綠領行動) trialled the scheme in a residential block between 21 November and 20 December. The government is also holding a **consultation** on the waste charges at the moment.

Each household was given 15 15-litre plastic bags worth HK\$3 a piece, and 45 five-litre bags, worth HK\$1 each. The **participants** were paid the value for the unused bags at the end of the trial.

Households produced 30 percent less rubbish on average. Before the trial, households threw away 110 kilograms. This fell to 76.9kg. Daily recycling increased from 5.4kg to 22.2kg. About 78 percent of participants said their **awareness** of reducing waste improved. Thirty-eight percent said they would be **motivated** to reduce waste if they were charged HK\$1 for each five litres they produced.

Friends of the Earth said the plan highlighted the value of charging **individual** flats for waste instead of an entire residential block.



Parents go on march over cross-border school places



▲ Parents marched against plans for school places for cross-border students. (Sing Tao Daily)

PARENTS marched in protest over the Education Bureau's (教育局) decision to set aside almost 1,200 Primary 1 places in Tuen Mun (屯門) for cross-border students. They said it **deprives** local children of choice.

The parents marched from Tuen Mun Government Offices to Tuen Mun Town Hall with **banners** and balloons. They called on the Bureau to withdraw the policy. They also demanded that it lists schools within 40 minutes travelling time from the border.

Cross-border students will be able to apply to one of 3,177 places in Hong Kong. There are 1,198 in Tuen Mun, 1,157 in Yuen Long (元朗) and 200 in Tung Chung (東涌). Some schools in Tuen Mun are opening extra classes to cope. Three schools are to open four to nine Primary 1 classes.



Exercise

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. How much did the five-litre waste bags cost?

- A. \$15
- B. \$3
- C. \$1

2. How many plastic bags did each household receive?

- A. 60
- B. 70
- C. 80

3. About 78 percent of people said they became more aware of ____.

- A. reducing waste
- B. collecting waste
- C. disposing waste

4. How many P1 places will there be in Tuen Mun for cross-border students?

- A. exactly 1,200
- B. almost 1,200
- C. about 500

5. The parents marched to ____.

- A. Central Government Offices
- B. Tuen Mun Town Hall
- C. Tuen Mun Park

Word Search

Find the answers in the word search.

- The ____ ended on 20 December.
- People will create less ____ if they are charged for it.
- Hong Kong needs more Primary 1 ____.
- Schools in Tuen Mun may open too ____ classes.

P	L	A	C	E	S
B	E	H	A	V	E
W	T	R	I	A	L
W	A	S	T	E	H
T	K	J	G	N	A
P	M	A	N	Y	C

Answers on G12

Vocabulary

levy (n) 稅款
consultation (n) 諮詢

participant (n) 參與者
awareness (n) 意識

motivate (v) 激勵
individual (adj) 個別的

deprive (v) 剝奪
banner (n) 橫額



Challenge

★★★★★

Vocabulary Builder

environmentalist



- environmentalist (n) 環保人士
- The **environmentalist** campaigned for lower carbon emissions.
- environment (n) 環境
- Students learn better in a quiet **environment**.
- environmental (adj) 環境的
- We are causing too much **environmental** pollution.

Goodies Learning Card

Did You Know?



How much waste does an average HKer produce every day?

About 2kg a day

Goodies Learning Card



Did You Know?



How many primary schools are there in Tuen Mun?

There were 37 last year.

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