

Kitchen waste reduction scheme

As part of HSBC's Global Environmental Efficiency Programme, the HSBC Centre and Cloudlands residential complex in Hong Kong have installed organic waste-processing machines in a pilot project to reduce waste sent to landfill. Organic kitchen waste is processed into water which can be reused for irrigation. The scheme has resulted in savings of US\$1,200 per annum through reduced waste disposal costs.

Aims

The scheme has two main aims: to reduce the volume of waste to support the Group's waste reduction targets, and to identify an alternative to landfill, recognising that landfill capacity is shrinking and decomposing organic waste results in the emission of methane, a gas that contributes to climate change.

The project has the following benefits:

- Facilitates the separation of kitchen waste from other waste, e.g. plastic and paper, which increases the volume of other recycled waste and reduces the contamination of waste streams.
- Increases the volume of recycled waste and thereby reduces the waste disposed to landfill.
- Reduces waste disposal to landfill and the volume of carbon dioxide and methane produced as part of the natural decomposition process.
- Evaluates a new technology and, potentially, a long-term solution to waste management.
- Raises awareness of sustainable waste management among staff and residents at the HSBC Centre and Cloudlands.



In Hong Kong, recycling kitchen waste on-site reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill.

Achievements

The machine biologically decomposes the waste, breaking down the organic material through fermentation, turning it to water (90%), carbon dioxide (5%) and solid waste (5%).

Some 120 kilogrammes of organic kitchen waste is processed daily by the machines, which means 30 tonnes of organic kitchen waste does not end up at landfill annually.

'It is exciting to see that we are processing over 30 tonnes of organic kitchen material every year into mainly water. Apart from reducing our disposal to landfill, this initiative offers a good opportunity for our colleagues and family members to change the way they dispose of organic household material. We are proud to be a pioneer in using this type of recycling technology in Hong Kong'.

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