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Realisation of a Low Carbon City – Sustainable Packaging Management in Action

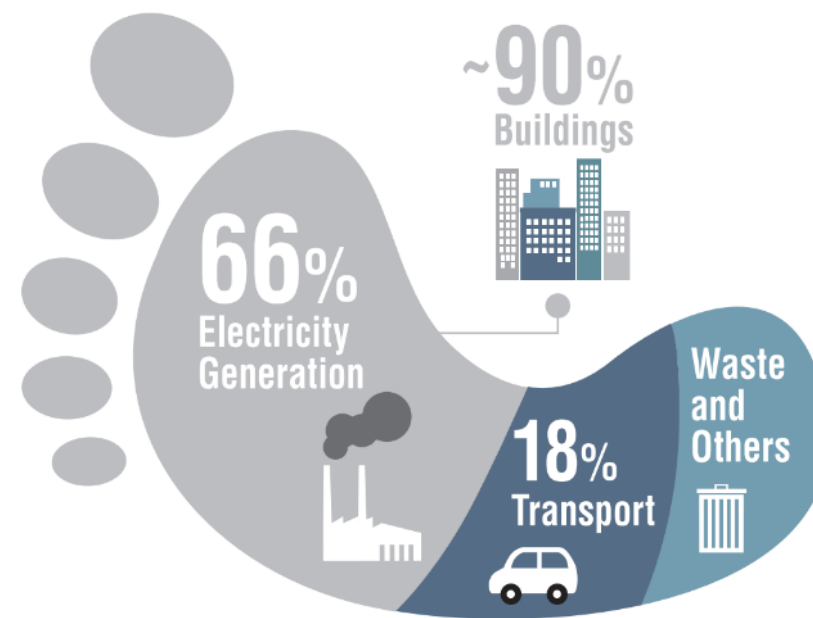
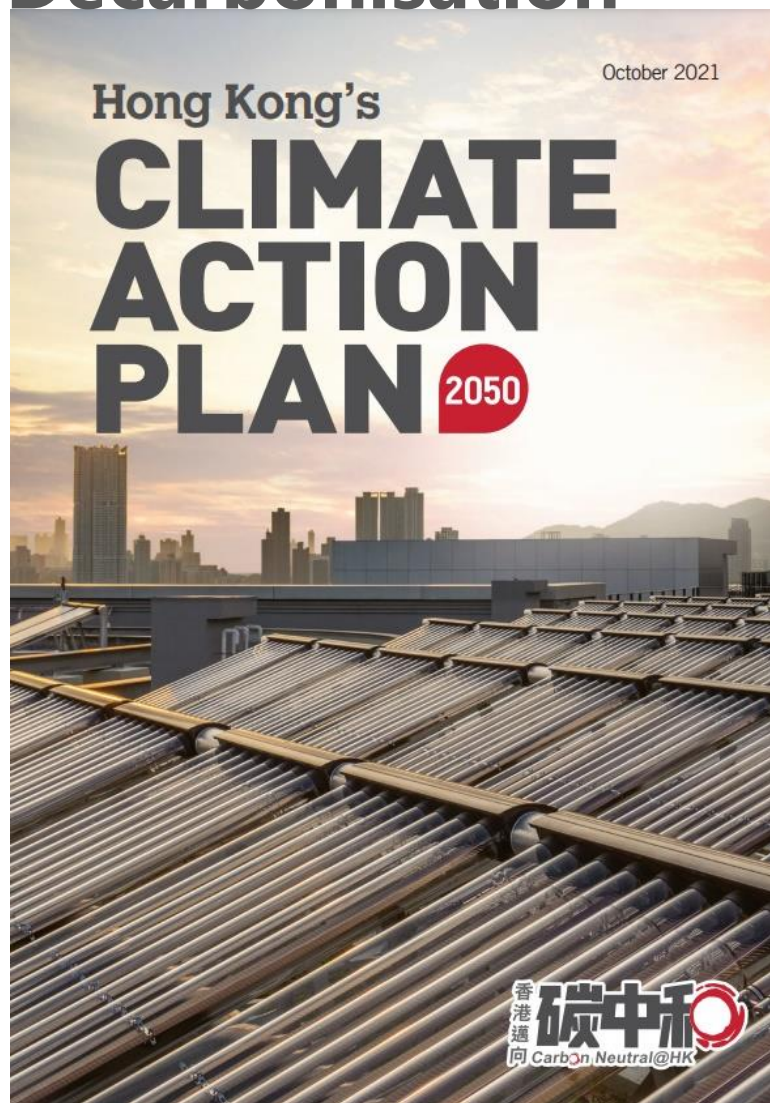
C F Leung
Director – Operations, Business Environment Council



"Re-thinking" the Choice of Packaging



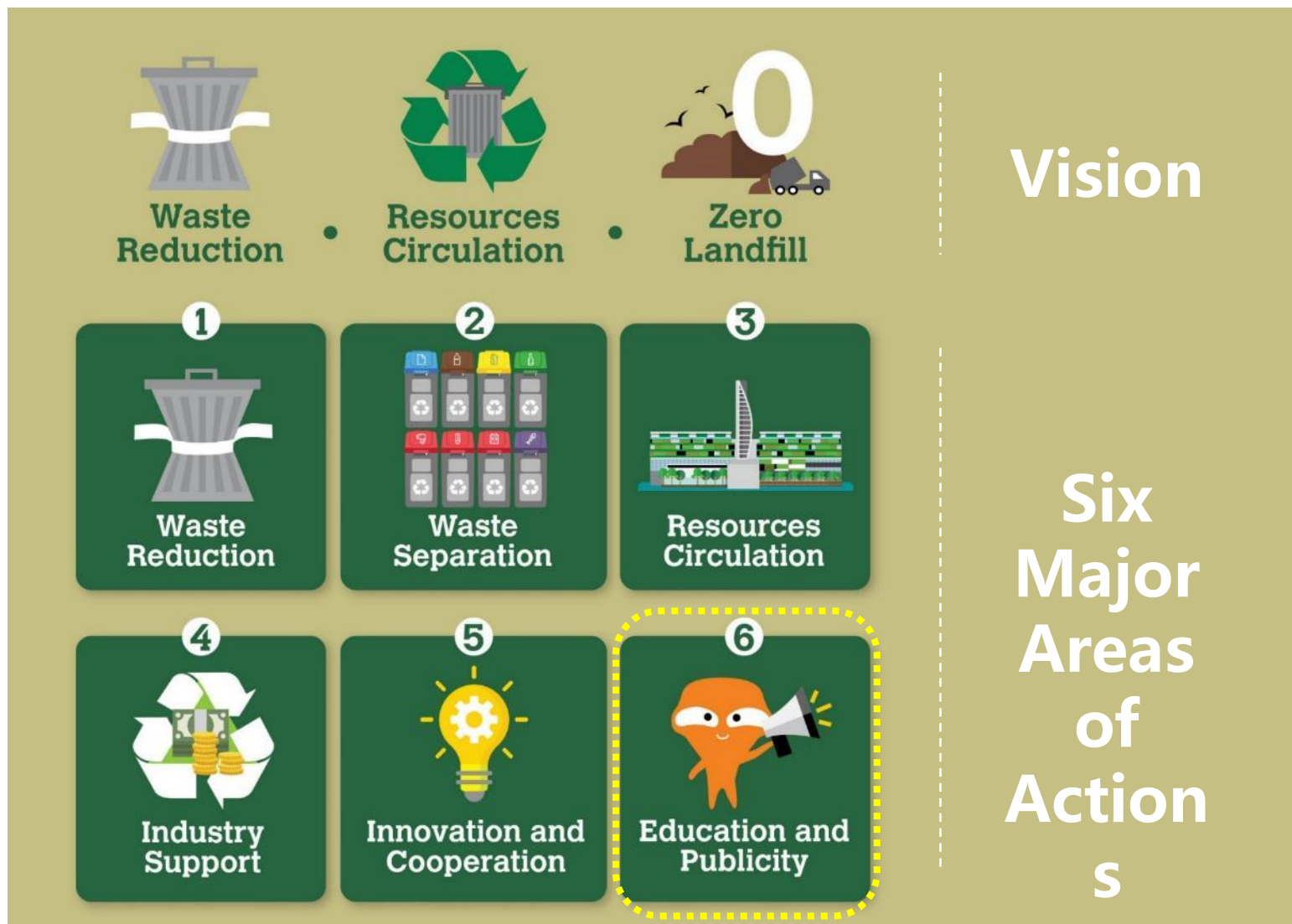
Waste Management - Being an Integral Part of Decarbonisation



Hong Kong Carbon Emission Sources @ 2019

In 2019, waste accounted for about **7** % of the total emissions in Hong Kong, being the 3rd-largest single source of carbon emissions.

Join Hands in Sustainable Packaging Through Education and Publicity



Development of Practical Guides on Packaging Reduction and Management



Background

- Commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in June 2021



環境保護署

Environmental Protection Department

- Covering key packaging-consuming industries



Objectives

- Providing **industry-specific practical tips and experience sharing** on achieving sustainable packaging management
- Offering guidance and reference, with tailor-made templates, to prepare **packaging reporting** and disclosure of packaging data in a harmonised structure
- Supporting the HKSAR Government's vision of **achieving carbon neutrality** ultimately



Status of Sectorial Guides

Published



Supermarkets and Grocery Stores

To be finalised and published soon



Logistics



E-commerce

Under development



Hotel and Hospitality



Electronics and Electrical Appliances

Process of Guide Development



A Collaboration-centric Process

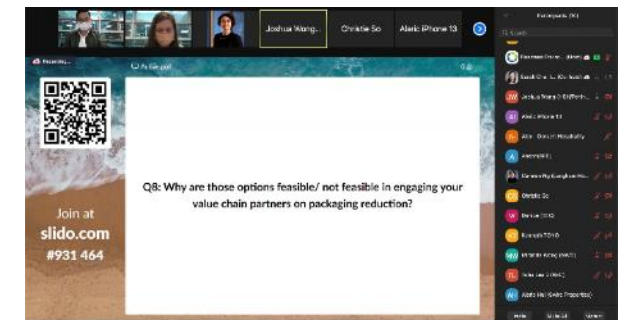
- Emphasising voices, opinions and experience from industry practitioners
- Collaborating with the sectors concerned through **round-table meetings** (in hybrid mode) and **online surveys**
- Using **interactive tools** such as Slido to gauge practitioners' views on different initiatives about packaging management



Round-table meeting with the Logistics sector



Round-table meeting with the Electronics and Electrical Appliances sector



Interactive tool (Slido)

Overview of the Guide (Example: Supermarkets and Grocery Stores Sector)

Introduction

- About this Guide
- Glossary
- Scope and Classifications of Packaging in Supermarkets and Grocery Stores Sector

Core Part

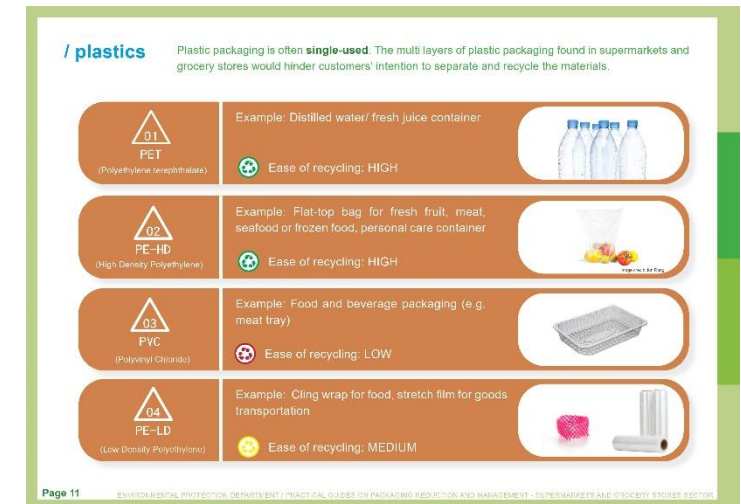
- Practical Tips for Achieving Sustainable Packaging

Resources

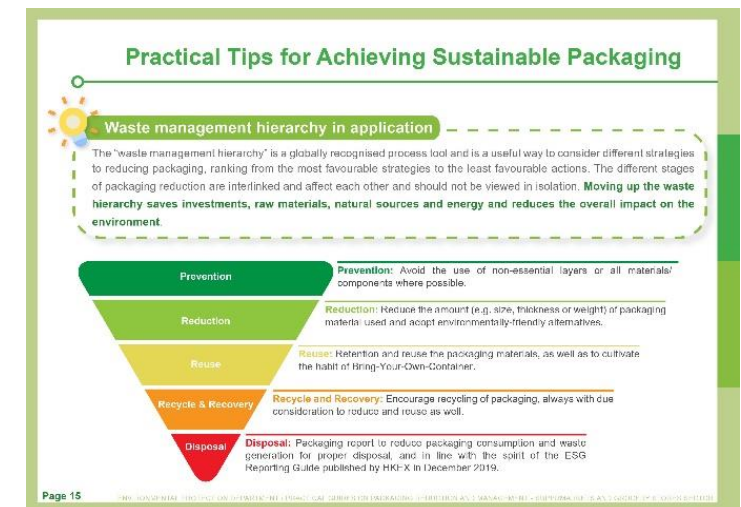
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Useful Resources

Useful Tools

- Summary Checklist on Practical Tips for Supermarkets and Grocery Stores
- Packaging Reporting Templates
- A "Step-by-Step" Self-Assessment Tool to Sustainable Packaging Management



Scope and Classifications of Packaging



Practical Tips for Achieving Sustainable Packaging – Following the Principle of Waste Hierarchy

Illustration of Practical Tips

Based on the core elements of the waste hierarchy, the following practical tips offer a framework for reducing packaging consumption and generation of packaging waste. It is anticipated that these tips can assist supermarkets in balancing the benefits amongst environmental protection, cost reduction, corporate image, as well as expectations from customers and other stakeholders. For summary checklist of practical tips, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

1 Prevention - Avoiding/ Eliminating non-essential packaging

It is not unusual to see local supermarkets providing free service packaging such as single-use plastic bags for loose fruits, vegetables, or frozen food etc. It is also common to see fruits and vegetables packed with layers of primary packaging such as cling wrap and plastic tray which are non-essential and over-functional. Eliminating these non-essential and excessive packaging has an instant effect on reduce packaging waste.

Therefore, local supermarkets are suggested to **review the packaging strategies to eliminate or avoid the use of packaging materials**, for example, selling food in loose form, setting up a

packaging-free corner for selected products, and ceasing free distribution of flat-top bags or plastic shopping bags carrying frozen/ chilled food. Local supermarkets could also take reference to the traditional mode of food retailing practised by the old-fashioned grocery stores and wet markets, of which packaging-free products are easily found.

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Table 1: Examples of potential packaging-free products	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Product with long shelf life (e.g. grain, bean)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Imported product in its original form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Packaging with multiple layers (e.g. soup pack)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local product and own-brand product

To help reduce plastic waste, local supermarkets are strongly encouraged to **avoid packaging of local products and the use of single-use plastic packaging materials** such as polystyrene/ expanded polystyrene (EPS) food containers and cups, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) trays and composite plastics.



When evaluating the necessity and suitability of packaging, local supermarkets could make reference to Table 1 to select products which contain non-essential packaging and do not require additional packaging. For products which **match at least one of the following criteria**, local supermarkets should consider **selling them in loose form or reducing the non-essential packaging layer(s)** as far as practicable.



While the store-front operation uses a remarkable amount of packaging, local supermarkets **should not overlook the packaging consumption of their controllable back-end operations**, such as in-store warehouses, distribution warehouses, fresh food centres, and fleets. For instance, the transport of fresh/ refrigerated food

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Observation:
Multiple layers of non-essential packaging

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Suggestions:

- Selling food in loose form
- Setting up packaging-free corner
- Ceasing free distribution of flat-top plastic bags

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Summarising criteria on products suitable to be sold in a package-free format

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT / PRACTICAL GUIDES ON PACKAGING REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT - SUPERMARKETS AND GROCERY STORES SECTOR

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Providing referencing photos of good practices

Illustration of Practical Tips

Example of best practices from both local and overseas companies/ organisations

should be handled by temperature-controlled trucks to avoid the use of EPS containers. Overuse of stretch film could often be prevented when appropriate care is given to the logistics operations. If a certain level of protection is required during the transfer and delivery of goods, bulk packaging should be prioritised.

Experience to learn

+ Hong Kong

- A leading supermarket chain has launched a trial of packaging-free fruits and vegetables at 3 stores in the local universities since May 2019. In 2021, the trial has been extended to 10 stores which reduced importing prepacked fruits and vegetables. An annual saving of over 90,000 plastic trays from those trial stores was recorded. They have also launched a "Share Your Bag" scheme at 20 stores to encourage customers reducing the use of plastic shopping bags. Customers could wash the used bags and leave them at the share station in the stores for others to reuse. Around 15% reduction in the plastic shopping bags usage was observed when comparing 2021 with 2019.
- Several supermarket chains provide monetary incentives for customers who bring their own containers in the food corner/ restaurants.
- Several supermarket chains provide reusable shopping bags for sale near checkout station to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags.



Experience to learn

+ United Kingdom

- A supermarket chain has removed single-use plastic wrappings from some loose products (such as fruits and vegetables), bakery and produce aisles, saving 489 tonnes of plastics annually. They have also stopped packing selected vegetables with plastic trays such as tomatoes, carrots, and asparagus.
- Several supermarket chains have removed packaging including expanded polystyrene, PVC and non-detectable black plastics while some has pledged to go extra mile by halving the volume of plastic packaging they use by 2025.



+ Japan

- A supermarket chain has implemented a "Stop Free Shopping Bag Programme" to avoid numerous plastic packaging, which helped reducing the use of 2.7 billion of plastic bags in 10 years.

+ New Zealand

- A supermarket chain has launched a "Food in the Nude" programme and cooperated with suppliers to reduce most of the single-use plastic packaging for fruits and vegetables across the supply chain.



+ Singapore

- Four major supermarket chains have teamed up with the government and business sector to launch "One Less Plastic Campaign" to encourage customers to use reusable shopping bag, which features a bar code to keep track of its use.



+ The Netherlands

- A supermarket chain has stopped offering free plastic bags for fruits and vegetables.

Packaging Reporting

5 Guiding Questions to Packaging Reporting:

- How to define the reporting boundary?
- How to identify the source of packaging consumption?
- What are the commonly found packaging materials and forms?
- How to collect data, do estimation and calculation with different approaches? (with reporting templates provided)
- How to properly report and disclose the packaging consumption data?

Step-by-step guidance for packaging reporting and management

i Define reporting boundary

Companies should firstly determine the scope for packaging reporting, it would be a better approach to follow the reporting period and boundaries as their ESG Reports, Sustainability Reports or Annual Reports.

Apart from stores, packaging materials consumed in other operating units, e.g. distribution centre, fresh food centre, warehouse, etc. should also be included and reported.

For any company who would like to go extra mile and take leadership to set a higher standard on packaging disclosure among the peers in the industry, they are most welcomed to include the packaging of their non-own-brand imported products in their reporting boundary with reference to the report templates suggested in this chapter.

ii When defining the source of packaging consumption within the reporting boundary, products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods from the producer to the customers should be taken into account.

Therefore, packaging generated from the following operation points should be measured:

ii Identify source of packaging consumption

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Scenario of reporting scope

Packaging filled/ consumed at the point of sale
(e.g. cling wrap/ plastic bags of fruits and vegetables)

Primary and secondary packaging consumed for self-manufactured own-brand products
(e.g. bakery products)

Packaging filled/ consumed at self-managed warehouse/ distribution centre/ logistic services
(e.g. carton boxes, wooden pallets, bubble wraps, sealing tapes)

Packaging filled/ consumed at self-managed fresh food centre
(e.g. plastic trays for fresh products)

Company A imports peaches packed in their original carton boxes and delivers to the fresh food centre for processing. The peaches are repacked and wrapped by fruit protective nets and put into plastic containers individually. The containers are then wrapped together with cling wrap by the staff and sent to supermarket stores for sale. Part of the well-conditioned carton boxes from overseas were reused for local transport from their fresh food centre to supermarket stores. Some extra corrugated paper boxes were used to group the peaches for storage and distribution as well.

For Company A, they should report the quantity/ weight of the fruit protective nets, plastic containers and cling wrap used, while the original carton boxes containing the peaches from overseas will not be counted. However, the additional corrugated paper boxes used for local transport should also be reported.

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2 Approach 2: Data obtained from the packaging materials used on sold products

+ Calculate the average weight of packaging per stock keeping unit (SKU) then multiply by the total number of products sold during the reporting period with reference to sales record.

+ Companies should identify components of the packaging according to different materials and forms, and record the weight of each material and form.

Example (1) : Steak packed into plastic tray with cling wrap

Product name/ code	Packaging material	Packaging form*	Weight of the packaging material per unit of product (g)	Number of products sold during the reporting period	Total quantity of packaging consumed (kg)
			(A)	(B)	(C) = (A) x (B) / 1,000
Steak	Plastics	Plastic tray	5	2,000	10
		Cling wrap	1		2
		Artificial decorative leaf	0.1		0.2
		Label	1		2
Composite	Absorbent meat pad	3	6		
		Sub-total	20.2		

* Companies can select appropriate items to report, subject to data availability.

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Appendix 2 - Packaging Reporting Templates

Report templates on types of packaging materials consumed during the reporting period: (Approach 1)

Company: _____

Venue: _____

Business Nature of the Venue: _____

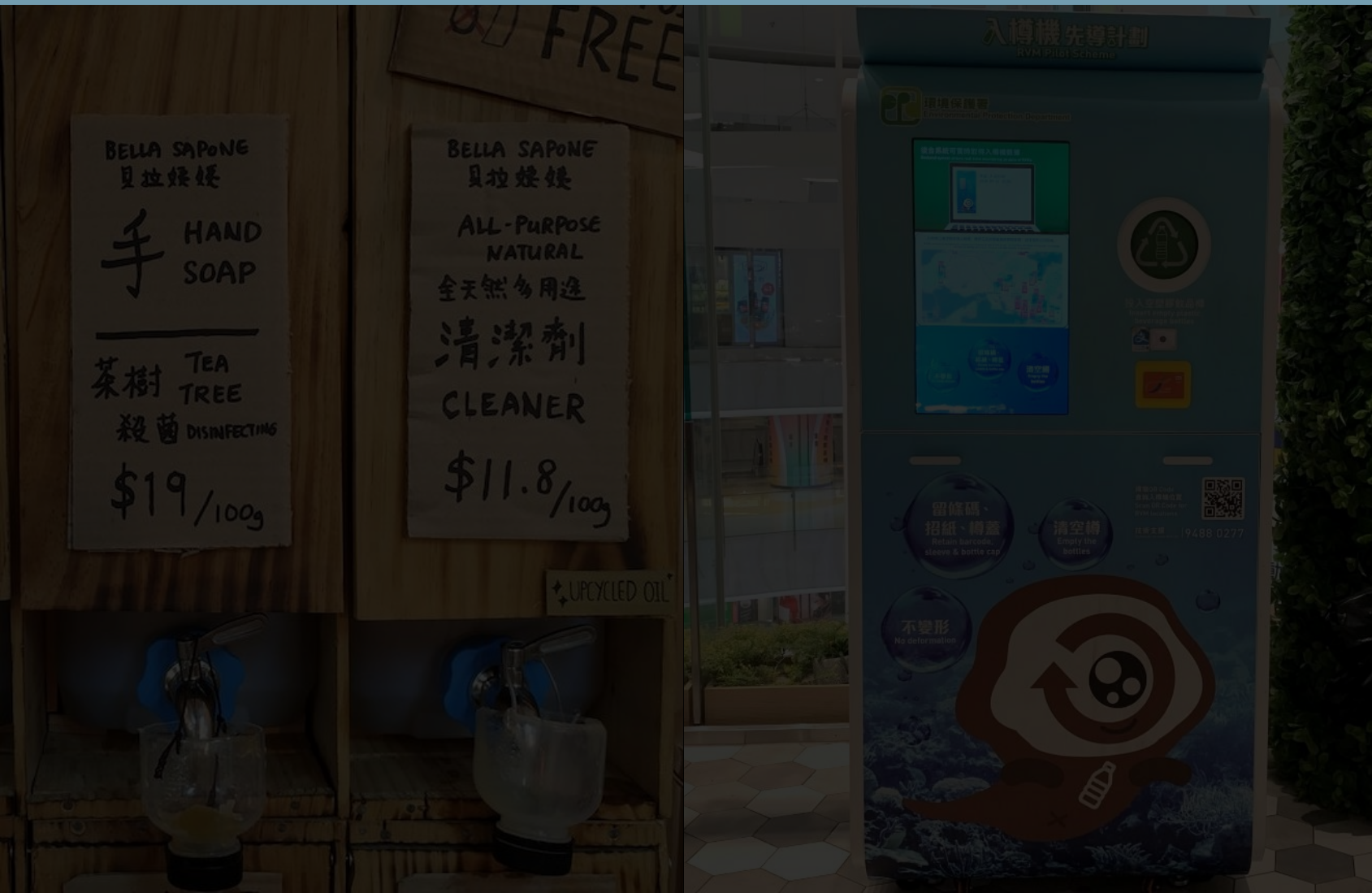
Reporting Period: From _____ To _____

Data obtained from procurement and inventory record

Packaging material	Packaging form*	Quantity of packaging in storage at the beginning of the reporting period (tonnes) (A)	Quantity of packaging purchased/ obtained during the reporting period (tonnes) (B)	Quantity of packaging in storage at the end of the reporting period (tonnes) (C)	Remarks	Total quantity of packaging consumed (tonnes) (D) = (A) + (B) - (C)
Plastics	e.g. Cling wrap	40	60	20	made of LDPE	80
	e.g. Plastic trays e.g. Fruit protective nets					
Sub-total						
Paper						
Sub-total						
Metal						
Sub-total						

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Sharing of Real-case Examples



Sharing of Real-case Examples

Reuse & Refill



A local lifestyle grocery store offering zero-waste refillable items



Sharing of Real-case Examples

Recycling & Recovery

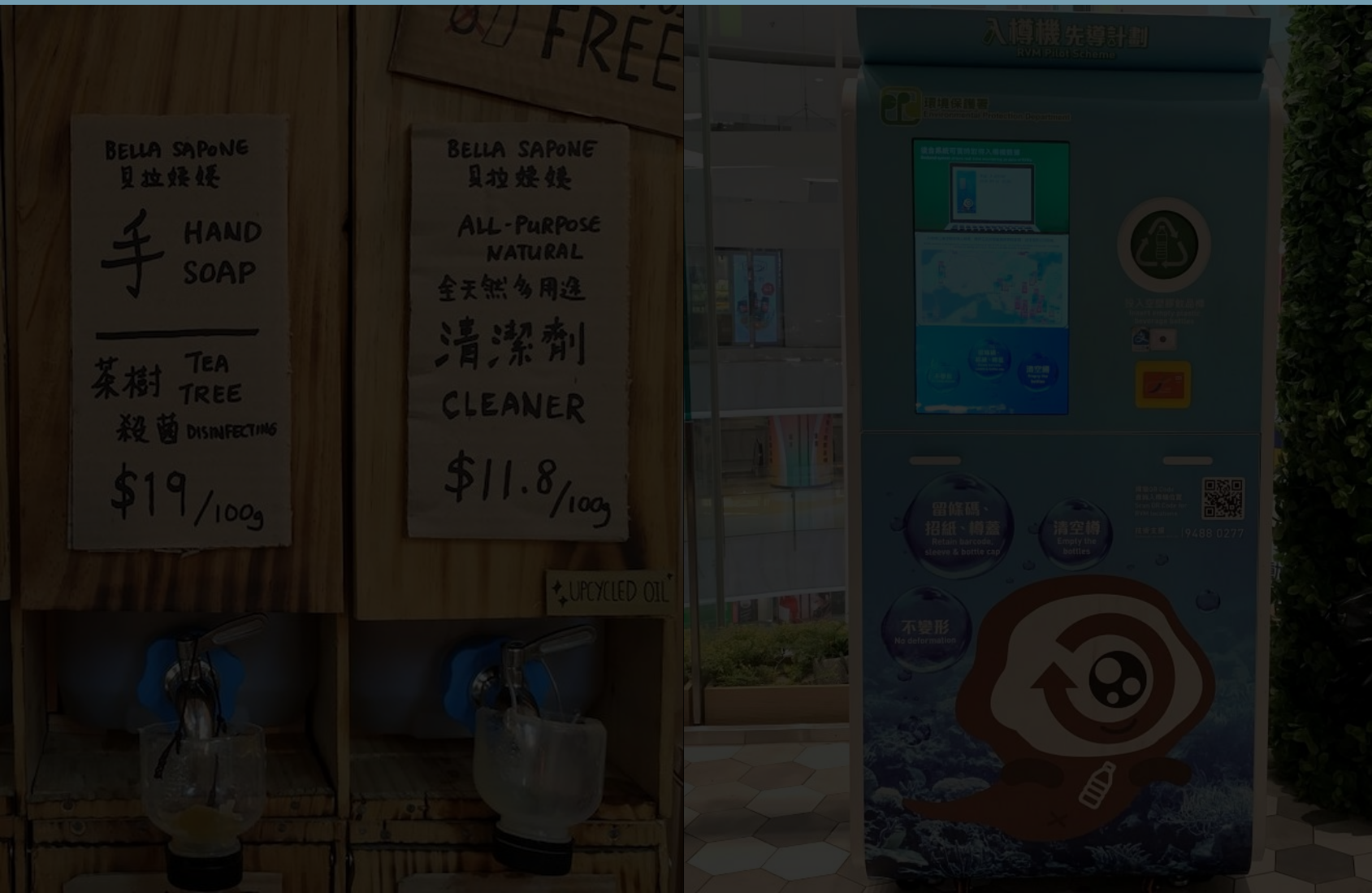


A supermarket chain setting up a reverse vending machine



Sharing of Real-case Examples

Packaging Reporting

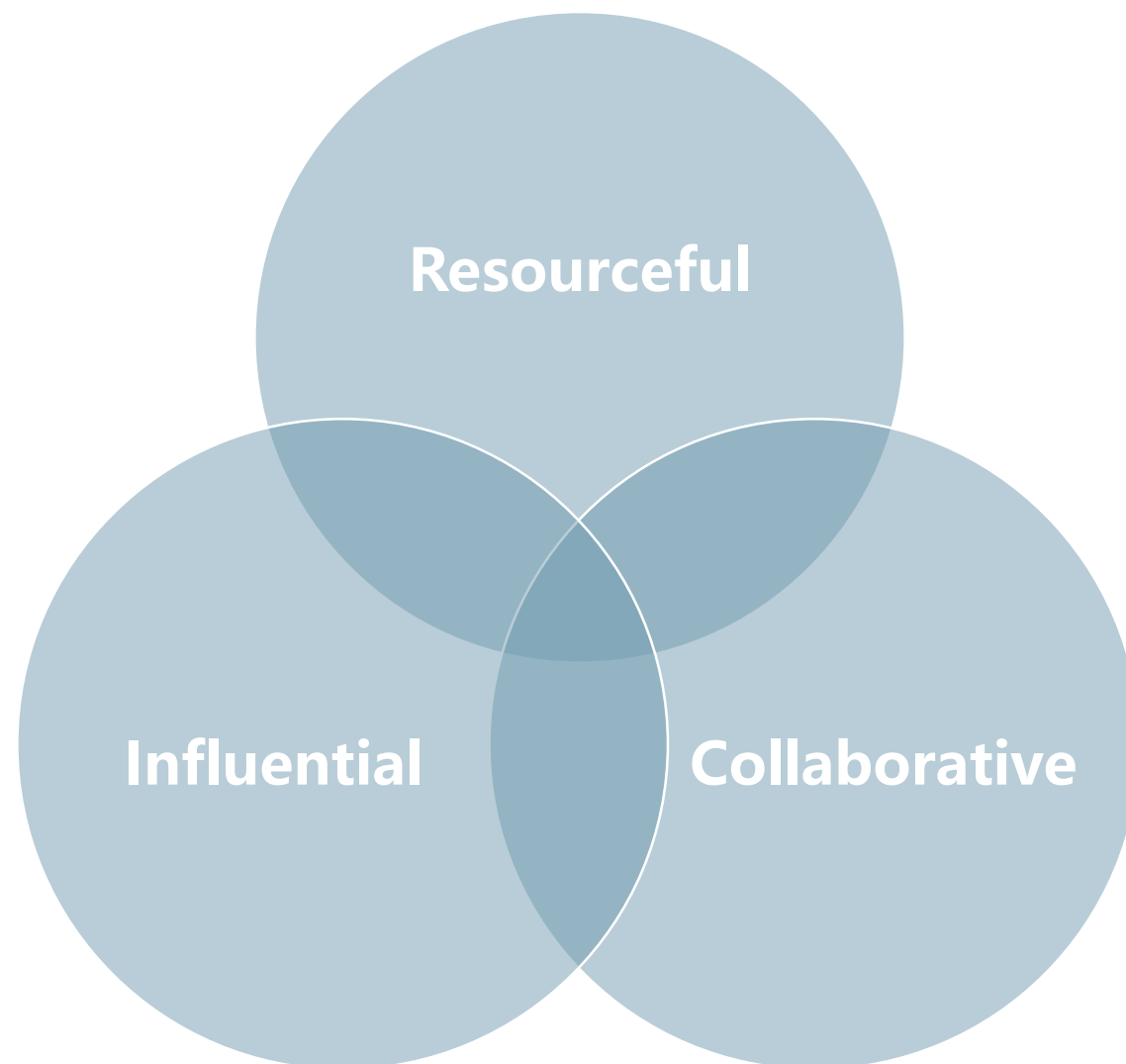


The Global Commitment 2021 Progress Report

A supermarket chain reporting the Group's consumption data of plastic packaging and progress of reduction targets at the Global Commitment Signatory Report of New Plastics Economy



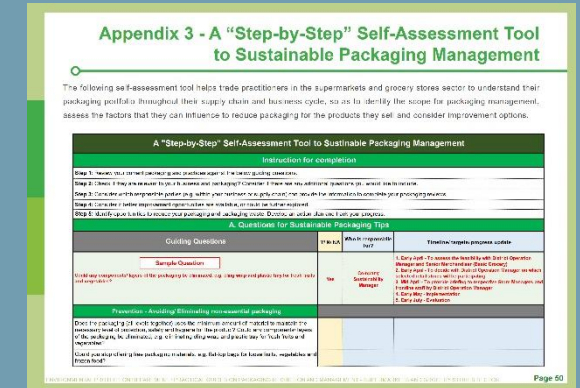
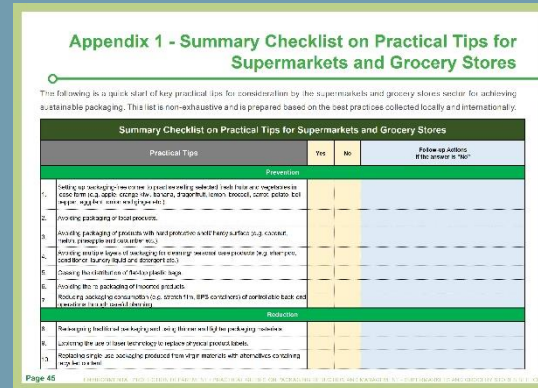
Unlocking Opportunities for Listed Companies on Sustainable Packaging Management



Conclusion and Take-home Message

Self-evaluation

- Practitioners can refer to the Guides to perform a **step-by-step self-evaluation**
- Exploring **gaps in packaging management** along the supply chain and throughout business cycle
- Formulating a **holistic packaging reduction plan** and considering improvement options



Packaging Reporting

- Disclosing packaging consumption data in a more **systematic and standardised manner** with the aid of the step-by-step guidance

Engagement

- Using the Guides to **engage with relevant departments** within the organisation, including:



ESG & Sustainability Team



Legal and Compliance Team



Procurement Team



Research & Development Team



SAVE OUR EARTH
愛護地球
減少使用膠袋
如有需要可使用
平靚膠袋盛載以下貨品
05

Amazing Offers
12.92

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30^{-YEARS}

Thank You