

# Promoting Sustainable Consumption

## 推廣可持續消費



The Council promotes and supports sustainable consumption through comparative product testing and dissemination of information which enables consumers to make environmentally friendly choices, while also encouraging consumers to help conservation of natural resources as well as reducing waste.

消委會藉測試產品及發布資訊，推廣及支持可持續消費，幫助消費者選擇較環保的產品，並鼓勵消費者保護自然資源，減少廢物。

### Topical Issues on Sustainable Consumption

Over the years, the Council has looked into a number of topics and issues in relation to sustainable consumption, in which environmental parameters such as energy efficiency, recyclability of products and packaging materials, durability and emissions of volatile organic compounds are incorporated with a view to informing consumers about the use of products and their impact on health and the environment. The Council also sent submissions to the government to support initiatives concerning environmental protection.

### 可持續消費的議題

過往多年，本會研究不少與可持續消費有關的項目及議題，當中納入一些環境參數，例如能源效率、產品及包裝物料的可循環再生性、耐用程度及揮發性有機化合物釋出狀況等，藉以在產品使用，及其對環境及健康的影響，向消費者提供資訊。本會亦向政府提交意見書，表達支持各項有關環境保護的方案。

## Product Recycling 產品回收

### Recycling of Glass Beverage Bottles under the New Producer Responsibility Scheme

In its submission to the government, the Council supported the “polluter pays” principle and welcomed the proposed initiative to cover used glass bottles under a producer responsibility scheme to reduce their dumping at landfills, which would relieve the burden on landfills and prolong their life-span.

### 飲品玻璃樽生產者責任計劃

本會向政府提交的意見書，支持「污染者自付」原則，並歡迎建議中的生產者責任計劃涵蓋已使用的玻璃樽，以減少被棄置在堆填區的玻璃樽數量，從而減少堆填區的負荷及延長其壽命。



While used glass containers for food or beverages are recycled and turned into glass bottles for further use in some jurisdictions, it is not the case in Hong Kong as most glass bottles and jars are disposed of in landfills. Apart from beverage bottles, food and sauce bottles or jars account for one-third of the volume of waste glass bottles generated each year.

Waste reduction is a key element in sustainable consumption and efforts should be directed to reuse and recycle resources, and the public should be encouraged and facilitated to do so.

But while the general public may be ready for the practice of glass bottles recycling, the Council is of the view that the recycling fee should be set at a reasonable level and cover the costs of collection and transportation. Levies can be charged according to the trade volumes and related waste generated, and mechanisms should be in place to prevent full transfer of recycling fees from the manufacturers or suppliers to consumers.

Given that the number and location of collection points would be factors affecting the rate of recovery, efforts should be made to boost local demand for recycled materials. In this regard, government departments should take the lead in using recycled glass products.

The reduction of municipal waste also requires participation from all stakeholders, including the government, manufacturers, suppliers and consumers. Continued efforts should also be made to encourage the community to practice waste reduction in everyday life.

本會留意到某些國家把使用過的食物或飲品玻璃容器回收再造玻璃樽以供使用，但現時本港大部分的玻璃樽和玻璃瓶都被送往堆填區棄置。除了飲品玻璃樽，食品和調味料玻璃樽或玻璃瓶佔每年產生的廢棄玻璃樽總量的三分之一。

減少廢物是實踐可持續消費的其中一項關鍵因素。社會必須致力於重用和循環再造資源，並應鼓勵及促進公眾在這方面身體力行。

我們相信公眾可能已經準備好實行玻璃樽回收，然而，回收費用應設定在合理水平以及足以支付收集及運輸的開支。徵費數額應隨貿易量和產生的相關廢物來徵收。本會認為應建立機制，以防製造商或供應商轉嫁全部回收費用給消費者。

鑑於回收點的數量和位置會影響回收率，有關當局應致力促進本地對循環再造物料的需求。因此，政府部門可率先使用再造玻璃產品。

減少都市廢物有賴各持分者的參與，包括政府、製造商、供應商和消費者。社會各界應該不斷鼓勵在日常生活中實踐減少廢物的行為。

## Energy Efficiency Performance of Domestic Appliances

家庭電器的能源效益表現

Aimed at helping consumers choose electric appliances of higher energy efficiency, energy efficiency performance became one of the major aspects in a number of tests concerning domestic appliances conducted by the Consumer Council during the year.

### Warmth Keeping Function of Electric Hot Water Pots and Electric Kettles

The study conducted on 12 models of electric hot water pots revealed that the energy consumption of the tested models, which were measured over a 24 hour period keeping a full capacity of water at the highest temperature, was approximately 0.82-1.33 kWh per day, costing a maximum of HK\$533 a year in electricity charges.

為協助消費者挑選更節能的家庭電器，年內本會就不同的家庭電器進行的測試，將能源效益表現列為重要一環。

### 電熱水瓶及電熱水煲的保溫功能

本會測試了12款電熱水瓶的能源效益。測試量度樣本在24小時內，將最高容量的水保持在最高保溫溫度的耗電量。結果發現，每天用於加熱保溫的耗電量介乎約0.82至1.33千瓦小時(kWh)，而每年的電費支出最高達港幣533元。

In another test on 15 models of electric kettles, six were featured a keep-warm function. Their design of thermal insulation and warmth-keeping duration varied. The samples with only a 30 minute keep-warm function or with better heat insulation and/or a sealed lid performed better in the energy consumption test. In the worst case, two samples of normal kettle design (i.e. without heat insulation) consumed 1.2 kWh and 1.7 kWh per day respectively, costing an extra HK\$683 a year in electricity charges.

## Eco-Features of Refrigerators

The Council tested 12 models of refrigerators with a total storage capacity ranging from 250-350 litres, and the estimated annual electricity cost varied between HK\$290-\$585. Despite the variation, all samples were verified to be of Grade One according to the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme. Consumers were therefore recommended to refer to the annual energy consumption information shown on the energy label to make an informed choice. In addition, the study found that newer models were incorporated with eco-features such as compressors with inverter technology, environmental friendly refrigerant R600a and LED lighting systems.

Consumers taking long holidays away from home were advised to turn their refrigerators to vacation- or eco-modes, which would automatically adjust the temperature in the fresh food compartment to a higher level and subsequently save energy.

## Energy Consumption of Warm Air Clothes

### Dryers

Tests were conducted on the energy efficiency of four warm air clothes dryers and one drying bag by simulating the use for drying ordinary damp clothes including towels, T-shirts and/or jeans.

For warm air clothes dryers, the energy consumption to dryness was estimated to range from 0.81 kWh - 1.14 kWh per kilogram of clothes. This compared unfavourably with the energy consumption of an average electric tumble dryer of 0.81kWh per kilogram of clothes. In comparison, the drying bag's energy efficiency was even lower at 2.5 kWh per kilogram of clothes. Consumers were reminded to compare both the positive and negative aspects of various clothes dryers before making a purchase.

## After-Sales Services of Home Washers and Washer-Dryers

Maintenance and warranty services will have an effect on the life-span of the products, therefore they are crucial to consumers when choosing electrical appliances to support sustainable consumption.

另一個測試檢測了15個型號電熱水煲，其中六款有保溫功能。它們的隔熱和保溫功能各異。設有30分鐘保溫功能或具有較理想的隔熱及/或設有密封蓋子的型號在耗電量表現較理想。保溫效能表現最差的兩款普通電熱水煲（即沒有隔熱功能），用於保溫的耗電量為每天1.2及1.7千瓦小時(kWh)，令每年的額外電費支出達港幣683元。

### 雪櫃的環保設計

本會就12款總淨容量由250至360公升的雪櫃進行測試，結果顯示一年所需的電費開支估計大約由港幣290元至585元不等。雖然各樣本有上述差別，但全部達到強制性能源效益標籤計劃的一級能源效益要求。因此本會建議消費者參考能源標籤上每年耗電量的資料以作出精明選擇。報告中部分較新型號使用了環保設計，例如設有變頻式壓縮機，並用上較環保的製冷劑R600a及LED照明系統。

消費者若出外旅行較長時間，可將雪櫃調校至假期(vacation)或省電(eco)模式。這些模式會把冷藏室的溫度設定自動提高，減低耗電量。

### 輕便式乾衣架之能源耗用

本會亦就四款乾衣架和一款乾衣袋，模擬實際乾衣情況，採用棉質面巾、T恤及/或牛仔褲進行能源效能測試。

調查發現，輕便式乾衣架樣本的每公斤衣物耗電量由約0.81至1.14千瓦小時。與一部表現僅屬普通的家用滾筒式乾衣機的耗電量0.81千瓦小時相比，輕便式乾衣架樣本表現不算理想。乾衣袋能源效益的表現更為遜色，每公斤衣物耗電量為2.5千瓦小時。本會提醒消費者在購買前應比較不同類型乾衣電器的優點和缺點。

### 洗衣機及洗衣乾衣機的售後服務

產品維修和保養服務會影響產品的壽命，對支持可持續消費消費者而言，是購買電器產品的重要考慮因素。本會調查了市面上42個牌子的洗衣機及洗

In the Council's survey concerning the maintenance and warranty services of 42 brands of household washers and washer-dryers, warranty cover varied from 1-3 years. During the warranty period, two-thirds (28 brands) would provide repairs even after repeated failures, but they would not offer an exchange for a new machine.

After expiration of the warranty period, all but eight brands would offer extended warranty plans varying in price from HK\$300-\$3,000 for one year. The coverage and extra charges also varied considerably from brand to brand.

The survey also looked into the sale of spare parts to users who wished to arrange their own repairs. Out of the 42 brands, 29 (69%) would sell spare parts to users for repair purposes, while the remaining 13 brands (31%) declined on the grounds of safety.

Due to the absence of regulatory oversight, consumers are left with little choice and may have to dispose of the electrical appliance if spare parts and maintenance is no longer available. Traders were advised to balance the need for safety with the need for flexibility on the part of consumers when considering the sale of spare parts based on their nature.

In view of legislative protection in after-sales service of household electrical appliances in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and the European Union, it is evident that Hong Kong is lagging behind in this area.

## Where have all the Tested Products Gone?

The products used for testing by the Council were put to further use with a number of items donated to environmental bodies, charity groups and non-profit organisations for further consumption and recycling.

During the year, a total of 1,300 items were sent to five recipient organisations<sup>9</sup>, including electrical appliances, household consumables, health products as well as food and beverages.

"We collected different domestic appliances such as washing machines, television sets, refrigerators and electric fans from different sources, including the Consumer Council, for recycling and further use. These appliances will be checked by registered electrical workers to ensure safety and good condition before they are donated to needy families, chronic patients and disaster victims.

Donated items do not only bring a positive impact on the recipients' lives, but also put the new culture of 'green consumption' to practice, heighten people's awareness in protecting the environment and making full use of goods and products."

WEEE Go Green  
St. James' Settlement

"我們透過不同渠道，當中包括消委會，回收家用電器如洗衣機、電視機、雪櫃及電風扇，作再造及循環再用。這些電器經註冊電工檢查並確保電器的性能良好及安全後，會將之轉贈予有需要人士，包括基層家庭、長期病患者及天災受害者。

轉贈除了可以改善有需要人士的生活質素外，更可實踐「綠色家電」新文化，提高保護環境的意識，物盡其用。"

綠色家電環保園  
聖雅各福群會

衣乾衣機的維修及保用服務，發現各品牌產品的保用期由一年至三年不等。於保用期內，三分之二（28個）品牌表示，若屢修不妥，仍會繼續提供維修，但不會更換新機。

保用期屆滿後，除了八個牌子外，其餘均表示可提供續保計劃，一年續保計劃費用由港幣300元至3,000元不等；而各牌子在續保計劃之涵蓋範圍及其他須另付費用方面的差異頗大。

調查亦研究出售零件供消費者自行安排維修的情況。根據調查結果，42個品牌中，29個（69%）表示可銷售零件予消費者作維修之用；其餘13個牌子（31%）則以安全理由拒絕。

香港現時並無法例規管售後服務，當零件及維修服務不再供應時，消費者唯有棄置有問題的電器。本會認為，業界按零件性質考慮其銷售時，應平衡消費者在安全與靈活性兩方面的需要。

本會亦發現內地、台灣、新加坡和歐盟地區對家電產品售後服務設有法律保障，相比之下，香港在這方面的消費者保障明顯地落後。

## 產品測試完畢後的去向

部分經消委會測試的產品會捐贈環保團體、慈善組織及非牟利機構作回收及循環再用。

本年度，共1,300件物品轉贈五間獲分發機構<sup>9</sup>，當中包括電器、家庭消耗品、健康用品及食品飲料等。



<sup>9</sup> The five recipient organisations were: WEEE Go Green, Hong Chi Association, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Lee See Ping Home for the Elderly, St. James' Settlement and Hong Kong AIDS Foundation.

5間獲分發機構分別是綠色家電環保園、匡智會、東華三院馬季李示聘安老院、聖雅各福群會及香港愛滋病基金會。