



Annual Impact Report
(From the date of establishment to 31 March 2022)

Green Hope Hong Kong





Contents



About Green Hope	1
Our vision	2
Our work	2
Message from our Chairman	3-4
Our team	5
Our milestones	6
<hr/>	
Project highlights & impact	7
Nature clean-ups	8
Community recycling booth	9
“Green School” education program	10
Codex of Waste	11
Community newspapers	12
Media & public relations	13
Collaborations	14
<hr/>	
Financial highlights	15
Acknowledgements	16
Support us	17



About Green Hope





Our vision and Our work

Our vision

To inspire everyone to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle and strive for a sustainable Hong Kong

Our work

Green Hope Hong Kong (“Green Hope”) aims to promote a zero-waste community and strive for a sustainable Hong Kong. Since its establishment, Green Hope has carried out various activities and projects to encourage waste reduction, advocate zero waste, and raise awareness of circular economy principles. These activities aim to arouse public interest in and educate the public on sustainable development and environmental protection issues and engage them in discussions, thus encouraging them to adopt a greener lifestyle and cultivate a sustainable mindset.

Our key projects and initiatives include monthly nature clean-ups, community recycling booths, the “Codex of Waste” that records and analyses trash from our nature clean-ups, and our “Green School” education programs focusing on experiential learning. Our work in media and communications include editorial features published in community newspapers and monthly environmental news roundups, green tips and other updates published on our social media platforms. We also collaborate with social enterprises and charities on various community initiatives, such as the “Gift n Take” community fridge project and Lunar New Year rice cake charity sale, which promote resource sharing as a means to co-create a sustainable and impactful ecosystem.





Message from our Chairman

In 2020, a few nature-loving youths went on a hiking trip and discovered tents, wine bottles, disposable food containers and food residues left behind by campers, as wild animals foraged the waste dump for food amidst the putrid stench. It was a shocking lesson to have witnessed the inextricably intertwined forces of human selfishness and the fragility of nature.



One of them took out two plastic bags (originally used for carrying his spare clothes) from his backpack and began cleaning up the trash in front of him. But what could be stuffed into the two plastic bags was obviously a drop in the ocean. The young man returned to the city feeling powerless and believed that someone must take the first step to initiate change. After realising his own responsibility and how he wants to contribute to the Earth, he had a discussion

with his friends from different backgrounds and founded Green Hope. To this day, he still persists in doing nature clean-ups, hoping that our future generations can still enjoy nature's beauty.

It has been a year and a half since Green Hope's establishment. We began with organising nature clean-ups to reduce littering through concrete actions and hands-on engagement. We then began recruiting volunteers with the shared aspiration to contribute to our clean-up efforts. Our clean-up activities educate participants on how they can alleviate the issue of littering in nature through reducing waste in their daily lives. To educate the public on and facilitate the recycling process within communities, we started setting up pop-up recycling booths. To strengthen our connection and collaboration with schools and communities, we also started conducting immersive learning experiences in schools and joining community markets to advocate our green vision.



We would not have been able to achieve all of this in just one and a half years without the dedicated efforts of our hard-working staff, volunteers, and participants, who have been so enthusiastic in joining our activities in all scales, and all our partners who have believed in Green Hope.



Message from our Chairman

Back when I was in school, I came across a quote by Dennis J. Hall which has had a profound impact on me.

"We have not inherited the land from our fathers, we have borrowed it from our children."

—Dennis J. Hall, "The Land Is Borrowed from Our Children", 1975



The Earth will continue to exist even in the absence of humankind, but we will not have another Earth to reap from. Sustainable development is not about what the Earth demands but what humankind needs, to ensure that we and our future generations will continue to have a suitable environment for our survival and development.

I believe that, although humankind is the culprit behind many of the environmental problems we are facing today, at the same time, we are also the most capable species on Earth to tackle these problems. As long as we bring everyone together to work at solving these issues through education and real-life practice, even if each of us only does a little more, every bit and every step counts, and we can still make a huge difference in the world.

In face of the looming climate crisis and natural resources and food security issues, every one of us living on this planet bears the responsibility to prevent these problems from worsening and to ensure sustainable development for future generations. Although this goal may seem out of reach for now, I am convinced that, as long as we persevere and inspire more people to bring about positive change, we can eventually change society and even change the world for the better and give our Earth a "Green Hope".



Our team



Hector Tsang (Chairman)

Witnessing the degradation of Hong Kong's natural environment, Hector began reflecting upon his relationship with nature and realised that there is still room to further push for environmental education and community engagement in Hong Kong. With a few friends, he therefore established Green Hope, in the hope of connecting everyone in this city to contribute their strengths to protect the environment for future generations. Hector graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a bachelor's degree in Engineering.



Calvin Law (Vice-Chairman)

Calvin loves nature and believes that green living is not necessarily easier said than done; environmental protection can be integrated into our daily lives. Through Green Hope, he therefore hopes to provide a platform for everyone to understand environmental protection from different perspectives and practise sustainable living. Calvin graduated from the Faculty of Science of the University of Hong Kong.



Samuel Wong (Secretary)

Samuel founded Green Hope in the hope of inspiring the public to understand the importance of environmental protection and raising their awareness of environmental protection through hands-on experience, thus influencing them to gradually improve their living habits. Samuel graduated from The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is a member of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute and The Chartered Governance Institute in the United Kingdom.



John Tsang (Committee Member, Operations)

John has held project management positions at local environmental groups, managing various sustainable development projects, and has written articles for newspapers sharing his views on environmental issues. He believes that Green Hope can foster the public's independent thinking and reflection upon one's relationship with the Earth's resources as the basis of morality. John graduated from Northumbria University with a bachelor's degree (Honours) in Environmental Management.



Isabella Leung (Committee Member, Communications)

Isabella has held media relations, communications and marketing positions at various environmental groups and social enterprises and has relevant knowledge and insights on sustainability topics. Through Green Hope and leveraging her expertise and experience, she hopes to let the public understand that adopting a sustainable lifestyle is not difficult, nor is it just about doing what is right or wrong. Isabella graduated from the University of Surrey with a bachelor's degree in Media Studies.



Our milestones



October 2020
Green Hope was founded

January 2021
Open call for volunteers to join our first clean-up



May 2021
Engaged over 100 volunteers since our first clean-up

July 2021
Officially registered as a charity in Hong Kong



August 2021
Setup of our first community recycling booth

October 2021
1 ton of plastic waste recycled since August 2021



December 2021
1 ton of second-hand clothing recycled since October 2021

December 2021
1 ton of trash cleared through our nature clean-ups since January 2021





Project highlights & impact





Nature clean-ups

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Hong Kong's beautiful natural landscape has become an increasingly popular local travel destination. The amount of litter in nature has also significantly increased. Difficult to decompose, most of the discarded waste, such as surgical masks and plastic bags, not only pollutes the environment but may also be ingested by wild animals, thus harming the local ecosystem.

As mentioned in the Message from our Chairman, our first ever activity was a nature clean-up. The purpose of organising these nature clean-ups is to mobilise the public to clean up the litters on hiking trails and around coastal areas and take them to the waste management facilities in Hong Kong, thus keeping our nature clean and minimising the pollution caused by and the negative impact of litter on flora, fauna, and the environment they reside in. We also hope to enable our participants to gain a better understanding of the severe problem of littering in nature in Hong Kong and spark their interest in nature clean-ups, thus inspiring them to take concrete actions by adopting eco-friendly hiking habits and bear the responsibility to protect the environment. While hiking, we can do more than just cleaning up after ourselves (or what the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department coined as "Take Your Litter Home"). We can even prepare trash bags to clean up waste discarded by others. In the long run, environmental education, such as advocating the "Leave No Trace" principles, waste reduction or even a zero-waste lifestyle, is the first step to solving the problem of littering in nature.



Education

Education is the first step towards sustainable development and waste reduction. Regardless of your age, whether you are a child or an elderly person, you should still reflect on the impact of your daily habits and choices on the environment.

From 2021 to 2022, Green Hope has organised a total of 15 nature clean-ups, engaging 269 volunteers in clearing over 1 ton of trash.



Among the clean-ups we have done so far, our experience at Lobster Bay was by far the most unforgettable. We have collected a significant amount of trash, including large plastic buckets, rusty iron brackets, and other bulky wastes. Our stronger participants took the initiative to carry bulkier items, while those who were not as strong worked together to push through a large plastic bucket filled with trash. There were parents, along with their children, who made sleds out of waste to transport the trash. During our clean-up, there were also other visitors who didn't mind getting their cars soiled and offered to help us transport some of the trash to the public refuse collection points. It was the strong and loving spirit of helping each other out that made us truly believe that there are still many of us in Hong Kong who are willing to contribute to a greener environment.



Passing the torch

After all, our environment belongs to our future generations, and the responsibility to protect the environment must be passed on from one generation to another.



Community recycling booth

According to the "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2020" report published by the Environmental Protection Department in 2021, the per capita household waste disposal rate in 2020 has hit a 13-year high (Note 1). Under the Covid-19 pandemic, the demand for takeaways has increased sharply. Due to the lack of recycling options, most takeaway containers and packaging, such as plastic bags, styrofoam boxes and plastic tableware, are disposed of directly to landfills. Since it takes hundreds of years for plastic to decompose completely, this has seriously increased the burden on local landfills.

Since August 2021, Green Hope has undertaken the community recycling booth formerly run by the ex-district councillor of Lam Tin District, calling for community members to drop off plastic waste and second-hand items at our booth once or twice a month, reducing the disposal of reusable or recyclable items to



Inheritance

Green Hope has undertaken the recycling booth since the resignation of the local district councillor. In addition to continuing to support the recycling habits of local communities, we also hope to increase public awareness of environmental protection and encourage waste reduction.

landfills while increasing public awareness of recycling, thereby encourage our communities to adopt the habit of recycling.

In addition, Green Hope has collected a total of more than 100 "Poon Choi" containers during Chinese New Year in 2021 and 2022. The containers were then donated to local dog shelters and farms, etc., thus achieving waste reduction through resource reallocation.

Total recyclables collected from August 2021 to March 2022:

Plastic items	2,318.42kg		
Second-hand items	14 cages		
Poon Choi	2021 83 containers	2022 32 containers	Total 115 containers



Reuse

While these may just be "Poon Choi" (or "the New Year big bowl feast") pots that most will discard after the New Year, we can give them a second life, such as by reusing them as dog bowls.

Note 1: "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2020" report
<https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/sites/default/files/mw2020.pdf> (Ref date: Oct 6, 2022)



“Green School” education program

While education plays an extremely important role in building a sustainable lifestyle, our current education system does not really place an emphasis on reflection and practice; and hence, we have launched the "Green School" program. In collaboration with schools, we implement a series of extra-curricular activities that emphasise both theory and practice, to enable students to gain exposure to relevant environmental topics such as environmental protection and sustainable development as early as possible. We believe that learning should not be limited to the traditional classroom setting, but should also be done outside through direct observation and hands-on experience, which can encourage students to reinterpret and verify the concepts and knowledge they have learnt, draw conclusions based on their thought processes, and also apply their learnings and experiences to other real life contexts, thus fostering their individual sustainable mindset and understanding of the importance of “sustainability”.

American philosopher and educator John Dewey, who pioneered the “learning by doing” approach, once said, "Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results.”



In 2021, Green Hope collaborated with two schools in providing "experiential learning" activities. Through nature cleanups and gardening workshops, students were encouraged to put their learnings into practice, share their experiences, discuss environmental topics, and hence become independent thinkers.

At one of our school talks, a student raised the question, “So is human extinction the ultimate solution to environmental protection?” In fact, what the student has said somewhat makes sense—if it weren’t for humans and the waste we produce, there would not be pollution. The starting point of "environmental protection" is to reduce the pollution caused by human activities, thus enabling the Earth to become "sustainable" again for human development.

What we hope environmental protection education can achieve is not to simply produce students who can achieve top scores or impose a single stance or way of thinking on them, but to guide them in constructing one’s own way of thinking from real-life experience, learnings and reflections upon one’s relationship with the environment to cultivate one’s own sustainable mindset, thus ultimately taking action to make a positive impact on the environment.



Codex of Waste



During our nature clean-ups, we have discovered many fascinating waste items, such as, an astonishingly heavy safe, beer bottles from more than 40 years ago, and even unused petroleum gas tanks and other household items that have been left behind ages ago.

In light of these discoveries, we have decided to systematically record and collate the waste items that we have collected and curate a “Codex of Waste”, through which, from a fresh perspective, we seek to understand the public’s consumption habits, analyse various types of waste materials, and share relevant recycling tips on our social media platforms. In addition to educating the public on how to recycle properly, our ultimate goal is to encourage them to reflect on their current habits and take steps towards an eco-friendly and even zero-waste lifestyle.



Since our establishment and up till March 2022, Green Hope has recorded over 60 types of waste and published 9 “Codex of Waste” articles illustrating the impact of various types of waste on the environment. Through this project, we hope to showcase Hong Kong’s littering problems and educate the public on the importance of “Leaving No Trace” in nature.





Community newspapers

Green Hope is committed to promoting environmental protection at the community level. We believe that environmental protection is not just a pipe dream and is inextricably tied to the community, such as the excessive waste generated from surgical mask usage and increase in demand for takeaways during the pandemic. The ultimate goal of environmental protection is to improve our lifestyles to attain a sustainable future. Our editorial features in community newspapers discuss environmental protection issues and explore sustainable and feasible solutions at the community level.

Up till March 2022, we have written 6 articles detailing environmental issues in layman's terms, while sharing our experience in environmental protection.

Our articles have been published in the Yau Tong community newspaper "Zaap Yau". We have also been collaborating with the Tai Kok Tsui community newspaper "TKTawakening" on publishing regular editorial features. We have also published environmental articles on our social media platforms.



2021.3 Yau Tong community newspaper "Zaap Yau"



2022.2 Tai Kok Tsui community newspaper "TKTawakening"



Media & public relations



2021.2.27 Oriental Daily



2021.3 Yau Tong community newspaper "Zaap Yau"



2021.5.24 Yau Tong community newspaper "Zaap Yau"



2021.6.19 Tsuen Wan community newspaper "Tsuenstory"



2022.2 Tai Kok Tsui community newspaper "TKTawakening"



Collaborations

Eco-friendly Homemade Lunar New Year Rice Cake Charity Sale

Green Hope and Sisterpeer, a social enterprise supporting disadvantaged female groups, jointly launched an eco-friendly homemade Lunar New Year rice cake charity sale. The rice cakes were made by local women and sold in reusable food containers. After enjoying the rice cakes, customers can simply return the cleaned containers to the respective distribution points, thus reducing the consumption of single-use containers and their negative impact on the environment, while showing care for and providing job opportunities for women and promoting gender equality.

“Gift n Take” Community Fridge Project

The “Gift n Take” Community Fridge Project is an 18-district-wide community fridge project launched in August 2020, engaging shopping malls, hotels, mom and pop stores and schools on a voluntary basis. At present, there are about 30 service points (with 10 more that are about to go into service).

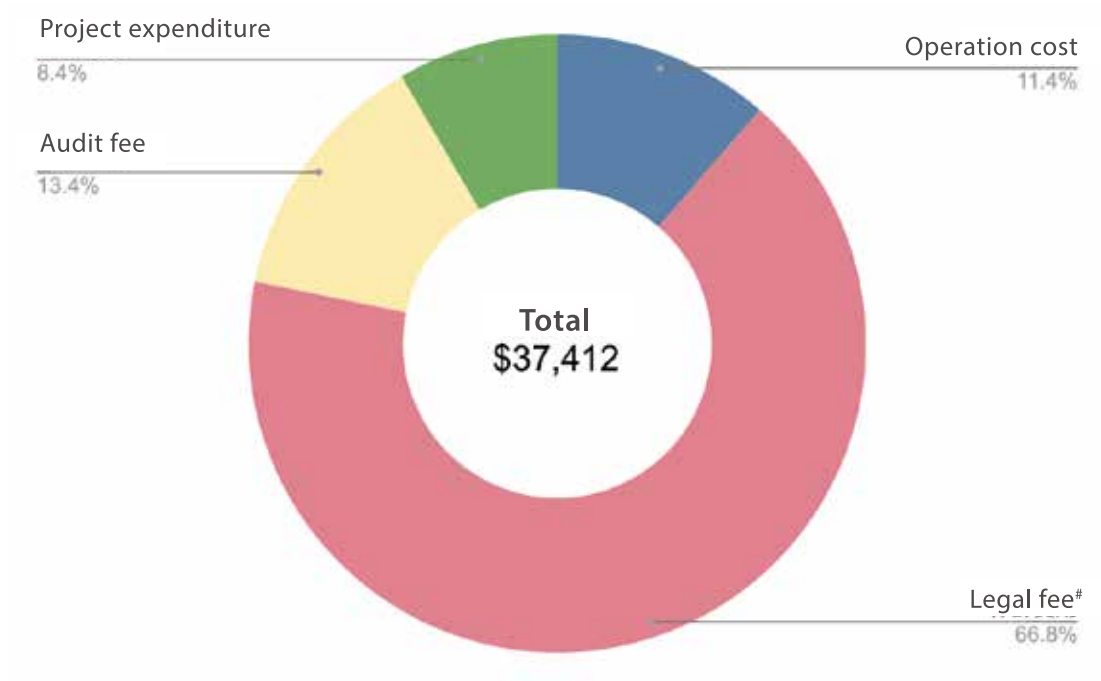
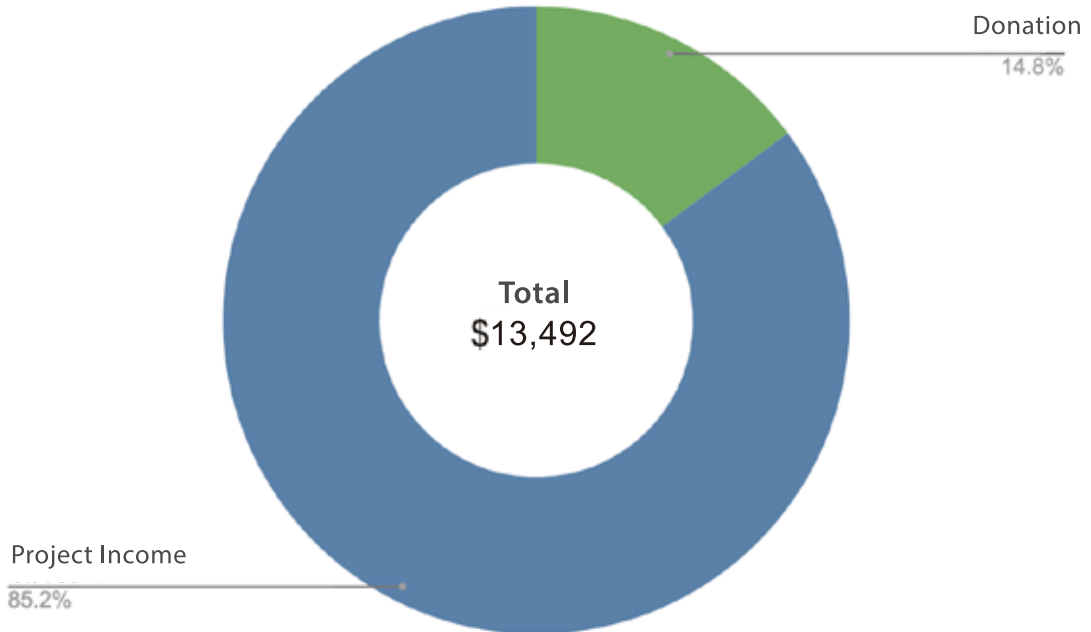


Under the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the city has been impacted by rising unemployment and waves of business closures. Green Hope has therefore been working with various social enterprises and non-profit organisations to provide 24-hour support to those in need in the community.

In the past year, we have invited students of different ages and artists to paint on the community fridges, bringing art and warmth into the community and people together while promoting food waste reduction. We have also undertaken various media interviews to raise public awareness of and rally support for the “Gift n Take” project.



Financial highlights

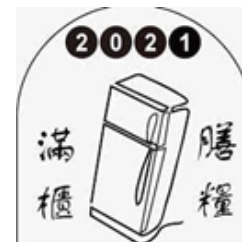


#The legal fee was a one-off expense incurred for the registration of Green Hope Hong Kong as a non-profit organisation.



Acknowledgements

Green Hope would like to express our sincere gratitude to our partner organisations





Support us

Make a donation



Website

<https://www.greenhopehk.org/support-us>

Bank Account

Bank code : 016 DBS Bank Limited

Acct No : 001-661-163

Paypal



Volunteer with us



<https://www.greenhopehk.org/support-us>

Follow us on social media:



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenHopeHongKong>



Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/greenhopehk/>



Website

<https://www.greenhopehk.org/>



GREEN HOPE
綠色希望

Thanks to the volunteer designers:
Ian Kwan & Lok Lo