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Green Power calls for a Low Carbon Mid-Autumn Festival as Autumn Temperature Rises

Green Power has found that we can help spare a substantial amount of carbon dioxide emission – a key greenhouse gas – if we celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival in a greener way. Besides, it is found that there has been no improvement in the wastage of mooncakes. Green Power urges the public to celebrate the Mid-Autumn in a low carbon manner that helps reduce waste and help ease the impact of global warming.

Green Power conducted a questionnaire survey before the Mid-Autumn Festival, to learn about ways the public celebrate the festival, and their awareness of the relationship between festival celebrations and global warming. “We discovered that we can help spare a huge amount of carbon dioxide emission if we change the ways we celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival” said **Dr Cheng Luk Ki, Division Head of Scientific Research and Conservation of Green Power.**

Over 90% of households surveyed indicated they would use disposable cutlery for barbecues, and would dispose considerable amount of leftover food. Burning charcoal for barbecues also contributes to carbon dioxide emissions. The estimated carbon dioxide emissions from barbecues during last year’s Mid-Autumn Festival exceeded 8702 tonnes, which can only be absorbed by 720,000 trees absorb in a year. “If we want to help ease the impact of global warming, it is important that we minimise waste, and celebrate festivals in greener ways,” said Dr Cheng.

Survey results also showed that the wastage of mooncakes remains high. “Carbon dioxide is released during the production, packaging and transportation of mooncakes too,” noted Dr Cheng. According to the survey, each Hong Kong family would dispose 1.25 mooncakes in average – totalling about 2.85 million across the territory. Carbon dioxide emissions resulted from this wastage totalled around 1955 tonnes, which takes 160,000 trees a year’s time to fully absorb the emission.

During the past ten years, the local average temperature in September and October indicate a rising trend, with September this year being the hottest. Dr Cheng said that there is an undoubted relationship between the gradually hotter Mid-Autumns and global warming.

The 17th Clean-up the World in Hong Kong, organised by **Green Power** with sponsorship from HK Electric was held this morning in Aberdeen Country Park. Officiating guests included: **Mr Benny Wong Yiu-kam, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection; Mrs Rita Fan, Standing**

Committee of the National People’s Congress of the PRC; Ms Audrey Eu, Chairman of Panel on Environmental Affairs of Legislative Council; Mr Yee Tak-chow, General Manager (Corporate Development) of HK Electric and Dr Man Chi Sum, Chief Executive Officer of Green Power. Mrs. Fan and Ms. Eu have been supporters of the event for many years. This year, together with other guests, they too helped clean up the rubbish and wax left over from the Mid-Autumn Festival at Aberdeen Country Park, and shared their tips on celebrating a “low-carbon festival”.

“HK Electric has supported Clean-up the World in Hong Kong for 14 years,” said **Mr Yee Tak-chow, General Manager (Corporate Development) of HK Electric.** “We hope the event can encourage people to pay attention to festival waste and its related problems and choose a ‘greener way to celebrate the festival’.” He urged the public to use less disposable cutlery during barbecue activities.

In Addition, Mrs Rita Fan also reminded the public to choose mookcakes with simple-package. For instance, those without individual package or plastic knives included are more recommended.. The metal case or paper box containers should also be recycled instead of simply dumping them away.

For barbecues , Ms Audrey Eu encouraged the public to prevent excess food and try more vegetables or fish instead of livestock, which can also help reduce carbon dioxide emission”

Before the Clean-up the World in Hong Kong ceremony, some forty volunteers from HK Electric went to Chung Hom Kok beach for a clean-up exercise and collected 3.2kg of metals, 3.6kg of plastic bottles and 16.3kg of rubbish. “We hope our actions will draw more public attention to the festival waste problem,” said one of the volunteers, Lau Chi-kwong.



Press Release

“**Clean Up the World in Hong Kong**” is an international activity organised by the United Nations. Green Power has been the official organiser in Hong Kong since 1993. This annual event is now held in more than 120 cities around the globe with more than 35 million people participating. Themed on “Reducing Festival Waste and Enjoying a Green Festival” this year, this annual campaign is aimed at encouraging the public to minimise waste and harm to the environment and the Earth, while celebrating a greener festival. A “Green Festival” website has been set up to provide information and tips on festival waste reduction. For details, please visit:

http://www.greenpower.org.hk/new/cuw/index_e.html

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