

liners. Plastic containers can be used as flower pots. Glass jars can be used to hold uncooked rice or leftovers. There are many possibilities; the point is to look at waste as being potentially useful.


Recycling means re-processing waste into new materials, so as to reduce the number of virgin trees, minerals and other raw materials that have to be extracted from the environment. Hong Kong currently recycles much of its paper and aluminium cans, which are often picked out by scavengers who sell their haul to recyclers. It is a dirty job, and not as simple as it seems. Recycling is only viable if the material is clean, dry and uncontaminated. Individuals can therefore help the process along – and give the scavengers a break – by separating their waste, particularly cans and paper. They can also help by buying recycled products wherever possible, thereby creating a demand for them.

Students and schools can do their bit by setting up a paper collection scheme in the school and placing separate bins for aluminium cans. Plastics and glass are harder to recycle in Hong Kong because there is no market for collecting them and shipping them to overseas recycling plants – all the more reason to reduce and re-use these materials.

***ECOFACT**: It takes 20 times more energy to make an aluminium can from its

raw material than to make one from a recycled can.

Children need to learn to value rubbish if we are to alleviate the pressures that our wastefulness is putting on the environment. This is not an easy task in a throw-away society such as Hong Kong, but it is an essential one, particularly as we have little space for building new landfills. This book will help teachers, and children, by demonstrating how household waste can be put to good use. Most importantly, we hope it will help to raise awareness that waste is a valuable resource.

***FINAL NOTE AND WARNING**: The crafts in this book are designed to be as environmentally-friendly as possible, so products such as styrofoam and aerosol cans are avoided. Teachers should also note that aerosol paints are made from solvents, which are harmful to health and may cause cancer, and may escape into the atmosphere and cause air pollution. Better to use water-based paints instead. 

3R 再用環保計劃



圾是最常見的環境污染之一。香港每天有超過二萬噸的都市廢物堆放於堆填區、街道和海洋。這些廢物往往佔據著有限的土地、損害