



CPD Report - Half Day Lesson on Turning Waste Glass into Bricks

Sr Joseph Chong, QSD CPD Sub-Committee Member

The HKIS QSD organized visits to two waste recycling centres for members to understand how disposed glass bottles are recycled into paver blocks on 24 November 2012. Twenty-seven of us gathered at the Luard Road Rubbish Collection Point, where we were briefed by an enthusiastic lady, April Lai, with a passion for saving the environment. Ms Lai is the coordinator of "Green Glass Green" (www.greenglass.org.hk), which is a project initiated by some dump truck drivers who collect used glass bottles for recycling. She told us that due to the lack of a government policy to recycle glass bottles, plenty of them still go to the landfill every day. She continues to lobby bar owners nearby to give their waste glass bottles to her for recycling.

Mr Chan also told us that the costs of these Eco-paver blocks were almost half of those for traditional paver blocks, but each block was priced differently due to the different color additives and coatings. The Eco-paver blocks were mainly used in highway maintenance and private development projects. As they could help developers achieve LEED/ BEAM credits, such as recycling materials and SRI, the blocks have seen more recent use in private developments.



Our second stop was to Tiostone Environmental, which had a small factory in Tuen Mun that made paver blocks from these used glass bottles. We were guided around the facility by Mr Dixon Chan, Director of Tiostone. He described the manufacturing process that produces the "Eco-paver" block. He said these paving blocks were comprised of mostly recycled materials such as glass sands, coal ash, and recycled aggregates to replace the natural sands, cement, and aggregates traditionally used in bottle manufacturing. Other than Green Glass Green, several large corporations and housing estates also contributed waste glass to the factory.



The day ended with an on-site, side-by-side comparison of clay and Eco-pavers laid along the pedestrian paths leading to the Gold Coast Beach Carpark. During this visit, our members learned to think twice before treating glass bottles as rubbish. More innovative uses for these bottles can reduce the burden on our landfills and environment in the future. 🇺🇸