

Too Much Stuff, Too Little Water: Many of us lead a throw-away, fast-moving lifestyle from fast food to fast fashion at cheap prices. Aside from making more waste, we are also using stuff faster than the rate it can be supplied, be it naturally grown, man-made or recycled, threatening the sustainability of not just our planet but businesses. This month we focus on fashion and food and reviewed 10 top fashion brands from fast fashion to luxury groups - how do they fare in sustainability? Who's not walking the talk? China is a big market for luxury brands but Renmin University researchers warn that the rise of a 'new Chinese consumer' may mean that corporates need to change their strategy. CDP also cites potentially inadequate water risk assessments by Chinese companies. Elsewhere in Hong Kong, despite mounting plastic waste & lack of landfill space, Civic Exchange finds convenience still drives our thirst for bottled water. Can we have less waste and more food? Find out how food waste from farm to fork in China can help meet future food demand. China issued multiple plans this month to save water - with the 'National Mid-to-Long Term Plan for Water Demand & Supply' passing internal review, businesses need to pay more attention to how much water they use as future allocation of water may differ. Can we still make/use so much stuff? Join us in Stockholm to discuss - "Rethinking Water for Growth: Balancing trade, resource allocation & economy".



AUGUST NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

Too Much Stuff, Too Little Water: Many of us lead a throw-away, fast-moving lifestyle from fast food to fast fashion at cheap prices. Convenience is prioritised: we can even now shop from our homes. Aside from making more waste, we are also using stuff faster than the rate it can be supplied, be it naturally grown, man-made or recycled, threatening the sustainability of not just our planet but businesses.

This month we reviewed 10 top fashion brands from fast fashion to luxury groups - how do they fare in sustainability? Two of them H&M & Kering have themselves identified upstream exposure to raw material risks but are yet to "walk the talk". Dawn McGregor mulls over how serious they are.

China is a big market for luxury brands but given the rise of the 'new Chinese consumer' for more green products, corporates may need to change their strategy say Hart, Zhong et al. from Renmin University in their new study.

Elsewhere in Hong Kong, despite mounting plastic waste and lack of landfill space, Civic Exchange's Mandy Lao expands on why convenience still drives Hong Kong's thirst for bottled water. Can we have less waste and more food? Feng Hu contemplates how food waste from farm to fork in China can help meet future food demand - there maybe opportunities in logistics and storage as China moves to save grains in order to save water & energy with its new plans.

Other plans to save water are afoot from agriculture to measures to address fake/tampered data; waste is also not to be tolerated with VAT on waste & wastewater. A glance at this month's tapping in column shows China in a water-savings mode. It may be prudent for companies making stuff to follow suit. They can start by disclosing on water, as CDP's Morgan Gillespy says their report found potentially inadequate water risk assessments by Chinese companies.

With the 'National Mid-to-Long Term Plan for Water Demand & Supply' passing internal review since our last newsletter, business need to pay more attention to how much water they use as future allocation of water may differ. Can we still make/use so much stuff? Join us in Stockholm to discuss - "Rethinking Water for Growth: Balancing trade, resource allocation & economy".



Brands: Time To Walk The Talk
H&M & Kering, are not walking the talk on raw material risks they've identified. With concrete action towards a circular transition missing, CWR's McGregor wonders how serious they are

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Where Are The Top Fashion Brands?
Given tighter regulations for textiles in China, we review the environmental initiatives of 10 top fashion brands from fast fashion to luxury. Are they looking beyond CSR to make their business model sustainable?

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Corporate Strategy & The New Chinese Consumer
Authors of new report say China's war on pollution has created a fundamentally 'new Chinese consumer'. Hart, Zhong, Ying & Zhu from Renmin University on why firms need to evolve their strategies

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Hong Kong's Thirst for Bottled Water
Hong Kong has a plastic waste issue & consuming less bottled water can help this. Why then is Hong Kong still thirsty for bottled water? Lao explores consumer attitudes towards these

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Less Food Waste From Farm to Fork
China's new plan on grain supply and storage says saving grain = saving water. CWR's Hu contemplates challenges & opportunities in reducing food waste to get ready for a hungry & thirsty future

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Corporate Water Reporting in China
CDP's report shows potentially inadequate water risk assessment by Chinese companies & those with HQ's in China. CDP's Gillespy on their latest report and why it's time to report on water risks

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TAPPING IN

Events

- 26 Aug 2015: CWR & HSBC event in Sweden "[Rethinking Water for Growth: Balancing trade, resource allocation & economy](#)"
- 27 Aug 2015: [GLASA Awards](#) - CWR is a finalist

Government

- State Council: [Key Project Packages for Development of Emerging Industries](#): 6 key areas for 2015-2017
- NEA: [Promoting Micro-grid Pilots for Renewable Energy](#): improve connectivity
- NEA: [Standardizing Demonstration Projects of Coal-based Fuels](#): water & coal benchmark
- NDRC, Ministry of Public Security, MEP, et al.: [Implementation of Joint Punishment on Illegal Production of Coal Mine fines, permits & financing](#)
- NDRC, MoA, MoF et al.: [Sustainable Dev of Agri & Livestock in NW Arid Regions](#): plans for limited water
- MEP: [Management Measures for Tampering With or Fabricating Environ Monitoring Data](#): gov, companies, monitor & equipment providers are all accountable
- MEP: [Provincial & 8 SOEs' Pollution Emissions Reductions in 2014](#): nationally COD met 12FYP targets; NH4 close
- MEP: [Strengthening Site Protection & Pre-Construction Preparations of Nuclear Power Plants](#): Approved EIA before construction
- MWR: [Assessment Criterion for Green Small Hydropower Stations](#): scoring system (environ, social & econ)
- State Admin of Taxation: [Collection of Coal Resource Tax](#): coal imports are exempt
- State Admin of Taxation: [Preferential Value-added Tax Policy for Products & Labor Services Using Resources](#): VAT for wastewater & waste from 1 July 2015

Reports

- CDP: [Enhancing water security in China](#)
- HSBC: [Green Bonds in China: Channelling funds to where they can help build a cleaner, modern economy](#)

Interest

- NDRC: ~RMB26.5 bn for key riversheds in 18 provinces in 2015
- MEP: 1H15 rejected 17 proposed construction projects worth RMB109 bn for environ protection reasons
- Lawsuit allowed by local NGO against CNOOC & Conoco Phillips over 2011 Bohai Bay oil spill
- Beijing: drinking water reservoir had lead levels 20x WHO standard for 2007-2010
- Goldwind Global (wind power firm) issued China's 1st green bond of USD300 mn

Hot on Weibo:

- High speed trains to offer water refilling facilities instead of free bottled water

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