

# Promoting Zero-waste Development through Sustainable Consumption

Lixia Zheng  
Project Coordinator for China  
SWITCH-Asia RPAC  
UNEP China Office



# Outline

- SWITCH-Asia and SWITCH-Asia RPAC
- Concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production and SDG12
- Links of Sustainable Consumption and Waste
- Sustainable Consumption in China and Examples of How SC Contribute to “zero waste”
- How SWITCH-Asia RPAC Is Supporting SC in China

# Switch Asia: A PROGRAMME OF THREE COMPONENTS

## MAIN OBJECTIVES



Promote sustainable development.



Contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia and Central Asia.



Contribute to a transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy.

## WHERE WE WORK



### Regional Policy

**Advocacy** implemented by UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office

### SWITCH-Asia (2007-2020)

- Largest SCP programme supported by the European Union in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China.
- **130 projects** funded in the region over a period of 14 years of which **23 new ones** active as of 2020. **40 ongoing** projects.

**SWITCH-Asia RPAC:** the objective is to strengthen the dialogue at regional, sub-regional and national **policies** on Sustainable Consumption and Production in selected countries from the Asia region, thereby contributing to green growth and reduction of poverty in Asian countries.”

### 2019 – 2020 Main Activities in China:

- Switch-Asia RPAC conducted 3 activities: regional (2019 Leadership Academy on CE), sub-regional (SPP training workshop), national (Policy dialogue and policy analysis on SC )
- Switch-Asia New Grant Project related to food waste in China (newly approved in 2020)
- Switch-Asia Facility (stakeholder workshop on SCP in 2019)

### Grant projects

managed by EU

**SWITCH  
Asia**

### SCP Facility

Implemented by GIZ, and Adelphi and IGES

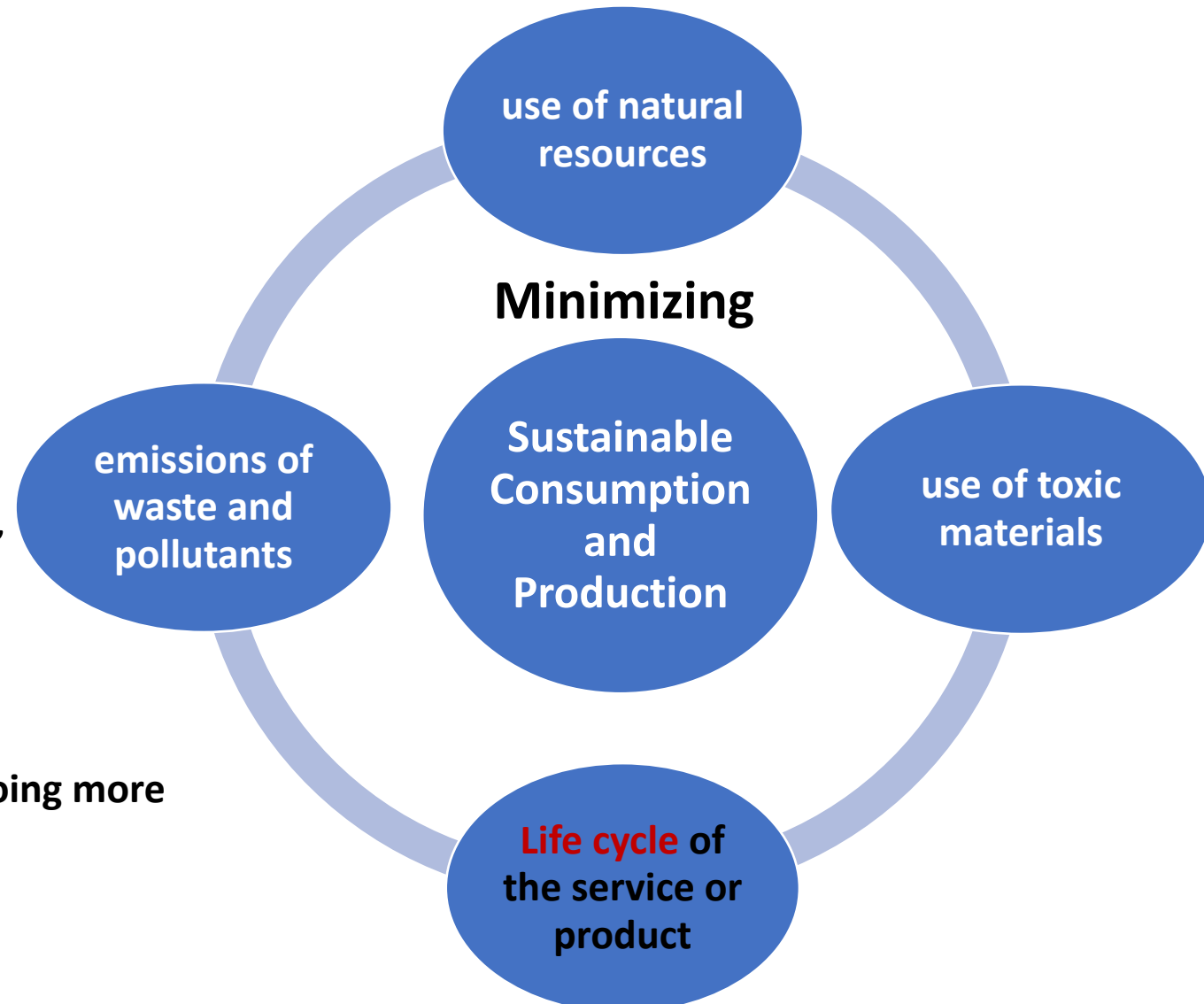
**Circular Economy** including reduction of waste has been one of SWITCH Asia's priority topics.

# Concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production and SDG12

## Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

is "the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations" (defined by the Oslo Symposium in 1994)

Sustainable Consumption and Production is about doing more and better with less.



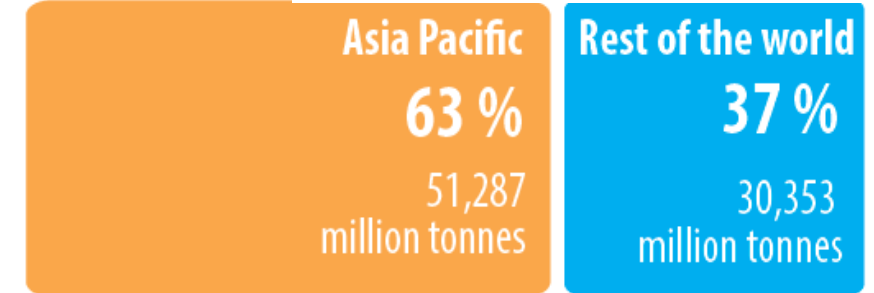
# SDG12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production

**If we don't act to change our consumption and production patterns, we will cause irreversible damage to our environment.**

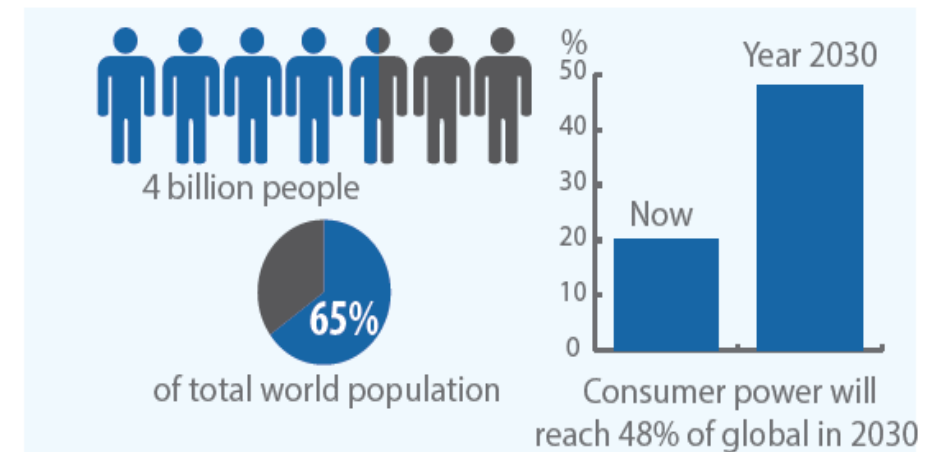
**Resources** Should the global population reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of almost three planets could be required to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.

**Food** About one third of the food produced for human consumption each year is lost or wasted-equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion, ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices.

**Waste** Municipal solid waste generation in Asia and the Pacific is expected to rise from 870 million tonnes in 2014 to 1.4 billion tonnes annually by 2030 in the region. New and complex waste streams like e-waste, food waste, construction/demolition waste, disaster waste and marine litter are emerging



In 2015 Asia and the Pacific used two thirds of the total amount of extracted resources in the world. This includes material outputs from agriculture, forestry, mining and fisheries



**The fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development**



## Links of SDG 12 and Waste Management

**Improving Waste management is critical for achievement of SDG12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

### SDG 12 targets directly related to waste

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

11.6.1 Municipal Solid Waste Management

14.1.1 Marine litter and coastal eutrophication

### Key Words

**Reduce waste and loss (eg. food waste)**

**Environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout **their life cycle** (eg. control of pollution)**

**Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse**



# Sustainable Consumption – Contributing to Waste Management

## Sectors

Agriculture and Food  
Building  
Transportation  
Textile  
Tourism  
Infrastructure  
.....

## Actors

Government  
Business  
Individuals  
Civil Society  
Other stakeholders

## Who consume?

Government  
Individual consumers  
Group consumers (eg.  
enterprises, organizations)

## Market

Sustainable product  
Sustainable building  
Sustainable transportation  
Recyclable energy

## What products and service we choose/use

**Sustainable Public Procurement**

**Sustainable Lifestyle**

Procurement

## Sustainable lifestyle

What products and service we choose

How we dispose waste (reduce, reuse, repair, recycle)

**Incentive  
Policies and  
guidance**

**Market and  
Information  
tools**

**Education**

**Behavior  
Change**

**Common Norm**

Contributing to

Reduction of Waste Generation

Reuse and Recycling of Waste





## Examples: Information tools

No.	Category	Pollution Indicator	Environmental Labelling	Energy-saving and Water-saving Product Certification
			Emission/Consumption Reduction in 2016	
1	Air Pollution	VOCs	890,100 tons	/
		CO <sub>2</sub>	5.8 million tons	6.5 million tons
		SO <sub>2</sub>	7,000 tons	14,000 tons
		NO <sub>x</sub>	26,000 tons	14,000 tons
		PM	/	11,000 tons
2	Water Pollution	COD	37,000 tons	/
		Total Phosphorus	77,660 tons	/
3	Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste	Plastic Waste	12,267 tons	/
4	Energy Conservation	Electricity	89.81 billion kWh	100 billion kWh
5	Resource Conservation	Water	44.31 million tons	46.222 billion tons
		Recycled Plastics	30,000 tons	/
		Industrial Residue	21.567 million tons	/
		Pulp	2.53 million tons	/
		Toner/Inkjet Cartridge	28.39 million units	/

Waste related indicators including reduction of plastic waste, reduced use of mercury, use of recycled plastic have been involved into the calculation of environmental performance of eco-labels products.

表 6. 2017-2018 年环境标志产品固体废物与化学品减排量及其来源

污染因子	2017年减排量	2018年减排量	来源
塑料废弃物消减	6411吨	7566吨	塑料包装制品
重金属汞减少使用	35.25吨	35.85吨	电池
工业固废利用	274.87万吨	190.61万吨	预拌混凝土、轻质墙体板材
塑料再利用	0.993万吨	1.136万吨	再生塑料制品、木塑制品
电子耗材再制造	2162万只	2500万只	再生鼓粉盒、喷墨盒

小结：固体废物与化学品减排方面，主要为塑料废弃物消减，减排量来自于塑料包装制品中提出的塑料降解要求。而重金属污染防治主要为重金属汞的减排，来自于

Calculation for more than 2000 eco-labeling products in 28 categories. The benefits of waste reduction are contributed by plastic packaging, battery, construction material and others.

Source: the report of environmental performance of eco-labeling and water-saving certification products in 2019, CEC.





# How Sustainable Consumption contribute to ‘zero waste’

Examples: sustainable public procurement contribute to waste recycling

- ❑ China’s Green Government Procurement start in 2006, based on environmental labelling certification and energy-saving (water and electricity) certification.
- ❑ In 2019, the officially released product categories with environmental –labels included 93 products categories.
  - Products with Energy-saving labels: Mandate for public procurement
  - Products with Environmental labels: Priority for public procurement
- ❑ **In 2018, the government procured products with environmental labels reached RMB 164.7 billion, accounting for 90.2% of its procurement of the categories. (Green Government Procurement: powerful)**
- ❑ Reduced use of plastic has been included into the standards of environmental labeling for some categories, eg. packaging sector.
- ❑ Future: plan to expand green government procurement scope with the consideration of recycling and others.

Information source: the presentations in Southeast and Northeast Asia Policy Dialogue and Training on “Harmonizing SPP practices and Measuring SPP benefits”, Suzhou, China, October



# How Sustainable Consumption contribute to 'zero waste'

## Examples on Sustainable Lifestyle: Zero-waste life

The zero-waste shop – The BULK HOUSE, opened in January 2018, Beijing, China.



# Sustainable Consumption in China

**Green consumption** refers to consumption behaviors characterized by resource conservation and environmental protection. It mainly manifests in advocating diligence and thrift, **reducing loss and waste, choosing efficient and environmentally friendly products and services**, and **reducing resource consumption and pollution emissions** during consumption.

## Consumption in China:

- Consumption is becoming the main driver of China's economic growth. For example, consumer spending contributed to 76.2 per cent of China's GDP growth in 2018 and it is estimated that consumption will increase more than sevenfold between 2005 and 2025.
- Consumption in China put a huge pressure on resources and the environment due to traditional and unsustainable habits that could be intensified due to the current pandemic. This has become a major obstacle and constraint to China's goal of achieving a comprehensive ecological transition.
- The current stage is the key period for transition to a more sustainable consumption model to achieve high-speed economic growth, circular economy and sustainable development.



## Challenges for promoting Sustainable Consumption in China

China has developed a great variety of policies and tools to promote sustainable consumption in various sectors and has achieved positive results (such as increasing green housing and green transportation, promoting green supply chains and putting in place sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling), however, the country still faces the following challenges in terms of its regulatory framework and its implementation:

- There is a big gap between China's strong political will and the country's insufficient systematic strategy.
- The lack of a ministry with primary responsibility for sustainable consumption or a inter-ministry coordinating mechanism hinders collective efforts to promote sustainable consumption.
- The links between eco-labelling and energy labelling schemes with the political priorities of environmental outreach, such as water, air and soil pollution control, have not been established.
- There is a lack of understanding of the role that sustainable consumption including sustainable public procurement can play in promoting the circular economy.



# How SWITCH-Asia RPAC is supporting SC in China

**Current Activities:** Status review on SCP and national policy dialogue on Sustainable Consumption for policy makers and stakeholders (on-going), April 2019 – present, in collaboration with China Environmental United Certification Center (CEC)

## Outputs:

### National High-level Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption for Policy Makers and Stakeholders in China on 25 April 2019

- contributed to strengthening the national policy and capacity.
- provided a platform among different policy makers to share information
- contributed to building bridges between policy makers and stakeholders for collective efforts on sustainable consumption

Analysis Report on Sustainable Consumption related Policies in China ([about to be published](#))

## Findings:

- China's policy framework on Sustainable Consumption overviewed
- Good practice/experience on SC in China identified
- Priority Area on sustainable consumption and production identified
- Policy recommendations on SC proposed

Event Report



**National High-Level Policy Dialogue  
on Sustainable Consumption for  
Policy Makers and Stakeholders**

Date: 25 April 2019  
Venue: Beijing, China

# Key issues on Sustainable Consumption in China

- **Buildings and food sectors**, were highlighted and needs to improve sustainable consumption.
- **The reduction of single-use plastics and the recycling of packaging waste** in the emerging sectors of logistics and take-away food platform have received much attention by the whole society and still face major challenges. Some of those challenges are the lack of available alternative packaging material and technology, high costs for producers, and difficult behavioral changes.
- **Data statistical capability** of SDG 12 needs to be enhanced in China in order to improve efficient monitoring and reporting of SCP.
- **Comprehensive education and communication** are needed for the behavioral change of the whole society towards more sustainable consumption and production models and lifestyles.

**The full event report is available at**

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/resource/national-high-level-policy-dialogue-on-sustainable-consumption-for-policy-makers-and-stakeholders/>



This report provides an overview of the sustainable consumption policy framework in China, and proposes policy recommendations that may be useful to both policymakers and practitioners in China or other Asian countries in similar circumstances.

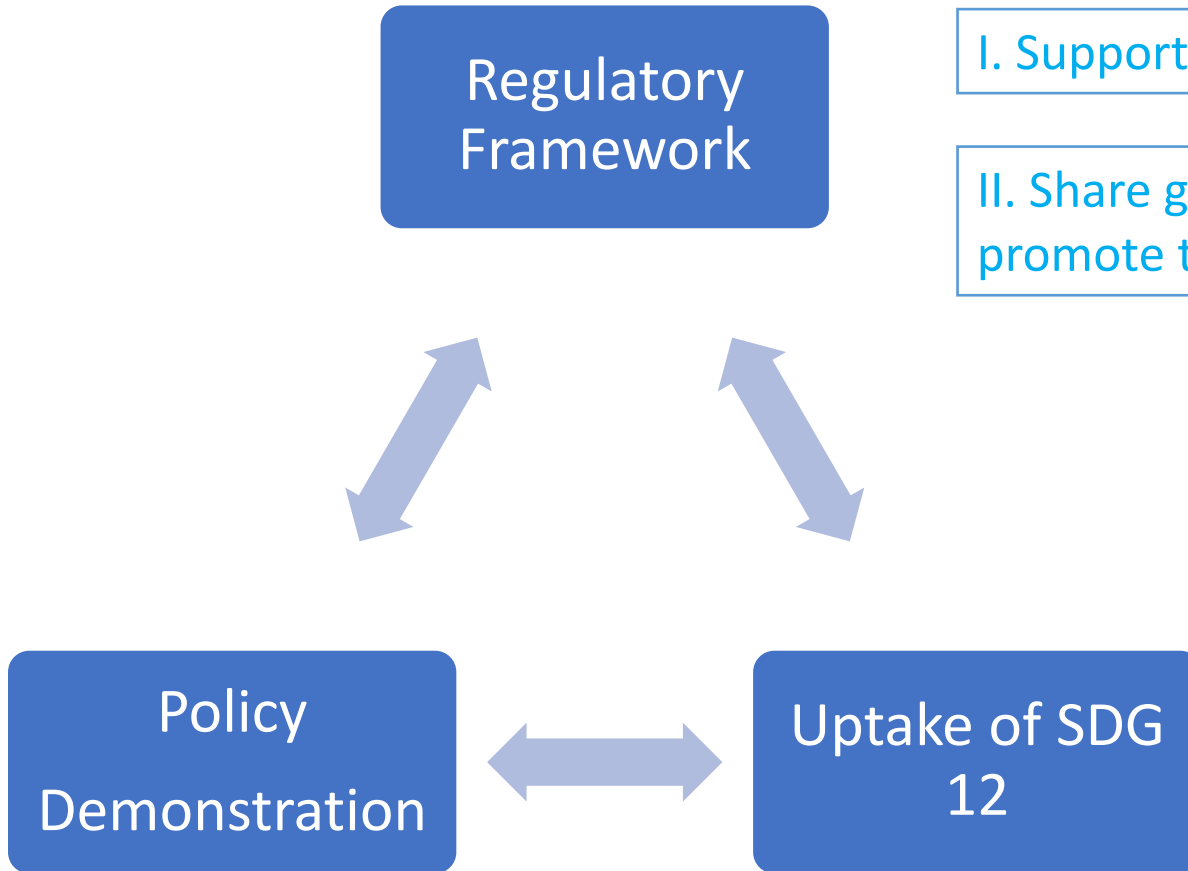
**The most important policy recommendations** are:

- To speed up the establishment of a sound policy framework on sustainable consumption.
- To clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of the relevant government agencies.
- To establish a market-based, consumer-based and government-led promotion mechanism.
- To improve market and economic motivation measures.
- To establish a mechanism for the dissemination of information to consumers.





# The Way Forward -- SWITCH-Asia RPAC in China



I. Support China for SCP mainstreaming

II. Share good practices of China to promote the transition of SCP in Asia

## The planned activities of SWITCH-Asia RPAC in 2020

- A national roundtable on SCP related to China's sustainable consumption
- A sub-regional SWITCH-Asia Leadership Academy on Circular Economy (possible online course)
- To identify and share good practices in China to promote SCP in the region, through other regional/sub-regional activities conducted by SWITCH-Asia RPAC.

More information about SWITCH-Asia:

<https://www.switch-asia.eu/>



**Thanks for your attention!** 

**For more information, please contact:**

Lixia Zheng, Project Coordinator for China, SWITCH-Asia  
RPAC, UNEP China Office

Email: [lixia.zheng@un.org](mailto:lixia.zheng@un.org)

Luz Fernandez, Programme Officer, SWITCH Asia RPAC,  
UNEP

Email: [luz.fernandezgarcia@un.org](mailto:luz.fernandezgarcia@un.org)

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