

Building Sustainability with Oysters: A Case of the Great Eagle Group



Source: Unsplash (2024)

Background

Hong Kong people consume three times more seafood than the global average, with more than 3,300 tonnes of oysters imported to the city in 2023 (SCMP, 2024). However, this puts heavy pressure on local landfills, as the bulky shells of oysters cannot be processed by food-waste recycling facilities. Organic waste, which includes discarded oyster shells, is the largest contributor to municipal solid waste and accounts for around 7% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions every year (SCMP, 2024).

The Great Eagle Group, parent company of Eaton HK and The Langham, is a well-established corporation that values sustainability as much as the development of the group (Great Eagle Holdings Limited, n.d.). In partnership with Green Island Cement, the group launched the world's first Oyster Shell Upcycling Programme in March 2023 (The Great Eagle Group, 2024). The programme aims to repurpose discarded oyster shells into an alternative and sustainable raw material for cement production (The Great Eagle Group, 2024).

Oyster shells contain 91% limestone—a key ingredient for cement that is traditionally sourced through a carbon-intensive mining process (SCMP, 2024). By using discarded shells collected from hotel restaurants, the cement manufacturer is able to produce cement in a more sustainable way. Since the launch of the programme, about nine tonnes of oyster shells upcycled from Eaton HK and The Langham have been successfully converted into sustainable building materials (The Great Eagle Group, 2024). The project has effectively reduced waste heading to landfills, while also alleviating the huge demand for cement (SCMP, 2024).

Challenges

However, given the cost and extra labour required to clean the oyster shells for recycling, the idea has pushed many businesses away, including the Great Eagle Group 20 years ago (SCMP, 2024). Moreover, securing sufficient storage space and arranging transport for the oyster shells

present logistical challenges for participating businesses. In addition, to maximize effectiveness, the project requires a certain level of awareness and active participation from employees. It is also believed that only if the public becomes aware of upcycling will the project grow and attract more businesses to participate.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do Hong Kong people consume more seafood than the global average?
2. What are the potential benefits for hotels to incorporate oyster shell upcycling like Eaton HK and The Langham?
3. How do discarded oyster shells contribute to greenhouse gas emissions?
4. What strategies could be implemented to make the cleaning and logistics of oyster shells upcycling more cost-effective and efficient?
5. In what ways can public awareness and employee participation be increased to support the success of the Oyster Shell Upcycling Programme?

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Keywords

- Food and Beverage
- Sustainability
- Food waste
- Upcycling
- Sustainability
- Public awareness

以牡蛎构建可持续性：太古集团案例



Source: Unsplash (2024)

背景

香港人的海鲜消耗量是全球平均水平的三倍，2023 年有超过 3,300 吨牡蛎进口到该市（SCMP，2024）。然而，这给当地的堆填区带来了巨大压力，因为体积庞大的牡蛎壳无法被厨余回收设施处理。有机废物（包括废弃的牡蛎壳）是城市固体废物的最大来源，每年约占该市温室气体排放量的 7%（SCMP，2024）。

太古集团是逸东酒店及朗廷酒店的母公司，是一家根基稳固的企业，其重视可持续发展的程度不亚于集团的发展（Great Eagle Holdings Limited, n.d.）。该集团与青洲英泥合作，于 2023 年 3 月推出了全球首个「牡蛎壳升级回收计划」（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。该计划旨在将废弃的牡蛎壳重新用作水泥生产的替代性可持续原材料（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。

牡蛎壳含有 91% 的石灰岩——这是水泥的关键成分，传统上通过高碳排放的开采过程获取（SCMP，2024）。通过使用从酒店餐厅收集的废弃贝壳，水泥制造商能够以更可持续的方式生产水泥。自该计划启动以来，从逸东酒店和朗廷酒店升级回收的约 9 吨牡蛎壳已成功转化为可持续建筑材料（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。该项目有效减少了运往堆填区的废物，同时也缓解了对水泥的巨大需求（SCMP，2024）。

挑战

然而，鉴于清洗牡蛎壳以进行回收所需的成本和额外劳动力，这个想法使许多企业望而却步，包括 20 年前的太古集团（SCMP，2024）。此外，为牡蛎壳获取足够

的存储空间并安排运输，对参与企业构成了物流挑战。另外，为最大化成效，该项目需要员工具备一定程度的认知并积极参与。人们也认为，只有当公众认识到升级回收的价值，该项目才能发展并吸引更多企业参与。

讨论问题

1. 为什么香港人的海鲜消耗量高于全球平均水平？
2. 像逸东酒店和朗廷酒店那样将牡蛎壳升级回收纳入运营，对酒店有哪些潜在益处？
3. 废弃的牡蛎壳如何导致温室气体排放？
4. 可以实施哪些策略，使牡蛎壳升级回收的清洗和物流过程更具成本效益和效率？
5. 可以通过哪些方式提高公众意识和员工参与度，以支持「牡蛎壳升级回收计划」的成功？

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关键词

- 餐饮
- 可持续性
- 食物浪费
- 升级回收
- 可持续发展
- 公众意识

以牡蠣構建可持續性：太古集團案例



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背景

香港人的海鮮消耗量是全球平均水平的三倍，2023 年有超過 3,300 噸牡蠣進口到該市（SCMP, 2024）。然而，這給當地的堆填區帶來了巨大壓力，因為體積龐大的牡蠣殼無法被廚餘回收設施處理。有機廢物（包括廢棄的牡蠣殼）是城市固體廢物的最大來源，每年約佔該市溫室氣體排放量的 7%（SCMP, 2024）。

太古集團是逸東酒店及朗廷酒店的母公司，是一家根基穩固的企業，其重視可持續發展的程度不亞於集團的發展（Great Eagle Holdings Limited, n.d.）。該集團與青洲英泥合作，於 2023 年 3 月推出了全球首個「牡蠣殼升級回收計劃」（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。該計劃旨在將廢棄的牡蠣殼重新用作水泥生產的替代性可持續原材料（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。

牡蠣殼含有 91% 的石灰岩——這是水泥的關鍵成分，傳統上透過高碳排放的開採過程獲取（SCMP, 2024）。透過使用從酒店餐廳收集的廢棄貝殼，水泥製造商能夠以更可持續的方式生產水泥。自該計劃啟動以來，從逸東酒店和朗廷酒店升級回收的約 9 噸牡蠣殼已成功轉化為可持續建築材料（The Great Eagle Group, 2024）。該計畫有效減少了運往堆填區的廢物，同時也緩解了對水泥的巨大需求（SCMP, 2024）。

挑戰

然而，鑒於清洗牡蠣殼以進行回收所需的成本和額外勞動力，這個想法使許多企業望而卻步，包括 20 年前的太古集團（SCMP, 2024）。此外，為牡蠣殼獲取足夠

的儲存空間並安排運輸，對參與企業構成了物流挑戰。另外，為最大化成效，該項目需要員工具備一定程度的認知並積極參與。人們也認為，只有當公眾認識到升級回收的價值，該項目才能發展並吸引更多企業參與。

討論問題

1. 為什麼香港人的海鮮消耗量高於全球平均水平？
2. 像逸東酒店和朗廷酒店那樣將牡蠣殼升級回收納入營運，對酒店有哪些潛在益處？
3. 廢棄的牡蠣殼如何導致溫室氣體排放？
4. 可以實施哪些策略，使牡蠣殼升級回收的清洗和物流過程更具成本效益和效率？
5. 可以透過哪些方式提高公眾意識和員工參與度，以支持「牡蠣殼升級回收計劃」的成功？

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關鍵詞

- 餐飲
- 可持續性
- 食物浪費
- 升級回收
- 可持續發展
- 公眾意識