

24 June 2022

100,000 fewer plastic bottles used thanks to an HSBC Malta backed project

A dozen potable water dispensers supported by HSBC Bank Malta have helped schoolchildren to save close to 100,000 plastic bottles. Thanks to filling up reusable bottles with a total of 32,770 litres of drinking water, students in twelve schools across Malta have benefited from HSBC Malta's efforts in reducing plastic waste.

In the past half a century, plastic production has surged resulting in the widespread use of inexpensive polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles that are often used for soft drinks and drinking water, leaving a detrimental effect on the environment. By installing advanced fresh water fountains, twelve schools have made significant progress in reducing the use of plastic. The fountains, which include an integrated water disinfection system that guarantees the safety and quality of the water without affecting the taste, were provided by Woosh Limited.

Michel Cordina, Executive Director and Head of Sustainability at HSBC Bank Malta, said: "More than a million plastic bottles are purchased every minute globally, and more than 80 per cent of those end up in our seas and oceans. HSBC Malta has long supported responsible water consumption and the reduction of plastic waste. By funding the installation of drinking water dispensers in schools we are making an immediate practical contribution while also helping to educate young children on the importance of sustainable consumption."

The project was undertaken with the collaboration of the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) within the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Enterprise. Manuel Sapiano, Chief Executive Officer of the Agency noted that, "This pilot project addresses the provision of clean and safe drinking water in schools, whilst avoiding the use of plastic bottles which contribute to the pollution of our environment. A true example of a win-win measure leading to a more sustainable future."



PHOTOCAPTION: Michel Cordina, Executive Director and Head of Sustainability at HSBC Malta (centre) viewing an advanced fresh water fountain installed at one of the twelve schools



PHOTOCAPTION: Close up of an advanced fresh water fountain at one of the twelve schools

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