



Reading 422

Task 1. For questions 1-10 put the following parts of the text in the correct order to recreate the text.

“Zero-Waste” grocery stores

By Ian Wright

The News

A The concept began in Europe more than a decade ago, and has since spread globally. There are now zero waste supermarkets from Brooklyn to Sicily to Malaysia to South Africa. Consumers are increasingly conscious of the toll of plastic on the environment, says Raphaël De Ry, the founder of Edgar, another zero-waste market in Hong Kong.

B Plastic fibers are now even contaminating our tap water. And it has become much more difficult to recycle packaging since 2018, when China, which once took in about half the world’s recyclable goods, stopped accepting many waste shipments. That’s why I was so interested to stumble upon a new supermarket in my neighborhood. It’s called Live Zero, and it looks more like a wholesaler than a traditional grocery store.

C **AT** my local supermarket here in Hong Kong, plastic is king. Avocados and oranges are individually swaddled in plastic wrap. Apples come in hard plastic clamshells.

D There’s not a shred of plastic wrap in sight. Live Zero is part of a growing movement of “zero-waste” supermarkets that aim to end packaging waste by doing away with packaging altogether.

E Bananas, despite having their own perfectly good natural packaging, are sometimes sold on foam trays. Packaging waste is a problem worldwide. In the United States, packaging, much of it from food products, makes up nearly a quarter of landfill waste. As we’re increasingly aware, tons of plastic winds up in our oceans each year, choking sea life and creating vast islands of trash in once-pristine places.

F It also has a whole wall of reusable food containers and utensils—metal drinking straws, shopping bags upcycled from old flour sacks, reusable beeswax-coated food wrap. There’s also an increasing call for legislative solutions to the packaging waste problem. The European Parliament has approved a ban on single-use plastics in the EU, which means no plastic cutlery, straws, stirrer sticks and the like. The ban should take effect in 2021.

G Still, De Ry thinks zero waste will continue to grow. He envisions cities like Hong Kong having small zero-wasteshops within housing complexes, perhaps run as co-ops by residents or building management. Worldwide, De Ry believes, the zero-waste and bulk movement has a great future ahead. Shops, concepts, associations are popping up everywhere, and awareness is growing.

H Zero-waste stores satisfy a growing desire to do something with this new awareness, De Ry says, showing me around one of Edgar’s two locations, in Hong Kong’s hip Star Street neighborhood. In addition to bulk bins of chocolate, oats and dried fruit, the store stocks package-free personal care items like solid shampoo bars.

I Goods are stored in clear self-service bins or dispensers, to be poured into containers you bring from home. You can buy all sorts of staples by weight, from raisins to flour to olive oil to shampoo, taking only as much as you need.

J California bans single-use plastic bags at large retail stores, and a number of American municipalities have plastic bag bans or fees. (Unfortunately, some states are going in the exact opposite direction, enacting “ban the ban” laws that forbid cities from passing anti-plastic bag laws). Many stores already take matters into their own hands, charging a fee for plastic bags, or offering a discount for bringing your own bag or coffee cup.

Task 2. Write a brief summary of the text in your own words (150 -180 words). Please, name the title, the author, the source, main events, some examples and express your opinion on the issue. Quoting of the text (4 or more words used together) is not allowed.

Key

1. C
2. E
3. B
4. I
5. D
6. A
7. H
8. F
9. J
10. G