

環保署檔案  
OUR REF :  
來函檔案  
YOUR REF :

電話  
TEL NO : (852) 3509 8643  
圖文傳真  
FAX NO : (852) 2136 3304  
電子郵件  
E-MAIL : jamescychan@epd.gov.hk  
網址  
HOMEPAGE : <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection Department**  
**Headquarters**  
15/F & 16/F, East Wing,  
Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue,  
Tamar, Hong Kong.



環境保護署總部  
香港添馬  
添美道二號  
政府總部東翼  
十五及十六樓

Ms Alice CHEUNG  
Establishment Subcommittee Secretariat  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong  
(Email: [shcheung@legco.gov.hk](mailto:shcheung@legco.gov.hk))

4 January 2018

Dear Ms CHEUNG,

**Establishment Subcommittee**  
**Follow-up Action to the Meeting on 20 December 2017**

Thank you for the Establishment Subcommittee's letter dated 20 December 2017 in relation to the above matter. The supplementary information is provided below:-

**(a) The list of work on promoting waste reduction and recycling in the past three years completed by the proposed post (i.e. the Assistant Director leading the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division in the Environmental Protection Department), and the indicators for evaluating the effectiveness in taking forward the relevant promotion work in the future, so as to quantify the achievements to be made by the proposed post on promoting waste reduction and recycling in Hong Kong.**

The major initiatives to promote waste reduction and recycling taken forward by the proposed post in the past three years are at the **Annex**.

As mentioned in the Establishment Subcommittee Paper EC(2017-18)11, the Government is determined to proactively engage the community in tackling the waste challenges in Hong Kong in accordance with the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022". With the support and collaboration of the community, our work on promoting waste reduction and recycling has made certain progress, and our future efforts to promote and enhance the relevant work are full of challenges and opportunities. For example, the Government plans to



introduce the Amendment Bill to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging into the Legislative Council as soon as possible. Subject to the passage of the legislation, it is expected that MSW charging would be implemented towards the end of 2019 at the earliest. Experiences of other cities have shown that the introduction of MSW charging would provide financial incentives to drive behavioural changes in the community to practise waste reduction at source and clean recycling. Furthermore, the Mainland authority will, starting from early this year, prohibit the import of solid wastes such as waste plastics from daily sources and unsorted scrap paper, posing certain challenges to the recycling of local waste plastics and waste papers. To rise to the new situation, the recycling industry and the community must enhance the overall recycling effectiveness in order to reduce the need for landfill disposal. The Chief Executive has put forward a host of initiatives in her Policy Address promulgated in October 2017 to enhance the waste management system in Hong Kong as well as to further promote waste reduction at source and clean recycling. A majority of the initiatives will be overseen by the proposed post. The relevant initiatives cover broad perspectives, including strengthening support for the recycling of waste plastic bottles, enhancing outreaching service to promote waste reduction and recycling through the outreaching teams of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), promoting the development of a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials thereby better absorbing and reusing locally recovered resources, etc. Taking forward the relevant initiatives will also involve various stakeholders, and their effectiveness will be subject to different factors, including the practice of waste reduction and recycling of the community (e.g. waste reduction at source and clean and sorted recycling), available recycling outlets, relevant regulations on and demand of various types of recyclables of local and foreign recycling markets, as well as the operation mode, cost and efficiency of the local recycling industry, etc. In light of these, we are unable to quantify the effectiveness of the work on promoting local waste reduction and recycling to be taken forward by the proposed post. We will report the relevant work progress to the Legislative Council at suitable juncture.

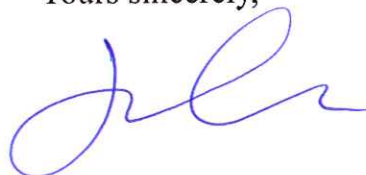
**(b) As regards the latest development of a batch of containers suspected of containing metal slag in 2016 transported from Romania to the container port in Hong Kong, the present whereabouts of those containers, the actions taken by the Government, and whether the relevant metal slag has entered the local recycling market.**

EPD received a complaint in September 2016 regarding a consignment of slag in Hong Kong, which was alleged to contain hazardous waste. The consignment originated from Romania and was transported to Hong Kong through the Mainland, awaiting to be re-exported to other places. Analytical results from the Government Laboratory showed that the main constituents of the mineral ores were iron, copper, zinc and lead etc, in conformity with the declared raw mineral ores of copper types. EPD has then completed investigation and confirmed that the materials in the relevant containers were raw mineral ores of

copper types, which were chemicals/resources and not hazardous waste. As the mineral ores have not been abandoned as waste, they are not subject to control under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

The containers are currently kept inside the restricted area of the Kwai Chung Container Terminals and have not entered Hong Kong's recycling market nor become abandoned. EPD has been in close liaison with the shipping company, Orient Overseas Container Line, and the overseas owner and has been urging them to complete their commercial transaction as soon as possible and to ship out the mineral ores from Hong Kong. EPD has also required the container terminal operator to keep the containers inside the terminal until they are shipped out of Hong Kong. EPD will continue to monitor the containers' movement until they have left Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,



(James CHAN)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)





**Major initiatives to promote waste reduction and recycling  
taken forward by the proposed post in the past three years**

***The Steering Committee to Promote Sustainable Development of Recycling Industry***

- Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Steering Committee to Promote Sustainable Development of Recycling Industry (the Steering Committee) was established in August 2013 and has convened 5 inter-departmental meetings. The main duties of the Steering Committee include reviewing the current development of the local recycling industry, relevant policies and supportive measures, as well as study various feasible initiatives to support the industry, including the establishment of the Recycling Fund, enhance land and infrastructural support, improve the Community Recycling Network, etc. Details of the initiatives are provided in the ensuing paragraphs. The Assistant Director responsible for leading the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division under EPD serves as the Secretary for the Steering Committee.

***Promotion of waste reduction and recycling in the community and the commercial and industrial sector*** :

Source separation and collection of waste

- Up to December 2017, over 2 000 housing estates/ residential buildings and over 1 000 commercial and industrial buildings have joined the Source Separation of Waste Programme (the SSW Programme), covering over 80% of Hong Kong population. To provide recycling support to residents in buildings which are in lack of recycling facilities, a Community Recycling Network (CRN), comprising 18 Community Recycling Centres funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund and about 60 collection points managed by Non-Government Organisation have also been set up. We will continue to review and optimize the SSW Programme and the CRN so as to cope with the ever more imminent demand of recycling support for the community after the implementation of the municipal solid waste charging.



## The Clean Recycling Campaign

- The Clean Recycling Campaign was launched in 2015 to drive home the significance of clean recycling and waste separation at source to members of the community. The primary objective of the Campaign is to promote behavioural change towards clean recycling, with a view to increasing the quality and quantity and in turn the value of the recyclables, thereby recovering more useful resources from waste. The new round of the publicity programme will focus on educating the public on how to recycle properly in order to meet the Mainland's tightened requirements for import of recyclables which will gradually take effect from early 2018 onwards, as well as to secure a possible outlet for the recyclables generated by domestic households.

## District Council

- Since 2012, we have been in cooperation with the 18 District Councils (DCs), Home Affairs Department, and Environmental Campaign Committee to implement the Community Participation Programme in Environmental Protection. Under the programme, we jointly promote the environmental protection across districts. We provide a funding of \$3.6 million every year to 18 DCs for organizing suitable promotional programmes and activities in environmental protection according to the promotional theme of that year and the needs of the districts. In 2016/17, "Community Waste Less Action – Waste Not, Re-Use More, Clean Recycling" was used as the promotional theme of the programme. The 18 DCs worked with over 50 organizations in the implementation of promotion activities with more than 90,000 participants. In 2017/18, we continued the programme and used "Reduce Your Waste and Clean Recycle in Your Community" as the promotional theme in organizing different environmental activities.

## Assisting event organisers to enhance environmental performance

- EPD and the Business Environment Council launched a "Guidance Booklet on Waste Reduction for Major Community Events" in December 2017 to assist event organisers and related stakeholders in formulating waste management strategies to achieve waste reduction and recycling, including minimising food waste generated, donating surplus food, separating recyclables at source, dismantling and recycling the stages, etc., with a view to enhancing the environmental performance of the events.





## *Enhancing the operational standard of the recycling industry*

### Recycling Fund

- The \$1 billion Recycling Fund was launched in October 2015 to support the recycling industry to enhance its operational capability and efficiency. The Enterprise Support Programme (ESP) provides matching funds for individual enterprises to upgrade and expand their waste recycling operations in Hong Kong. Standard Projects (SPs) has been created under the ESP to facilitate SMEs submit applications, report achievements and seek reimbursements in accordance with a set of streamlined rules and procedures. The Industry Support Programme (ISP) provides funding support for professional bodies, trade and industry organisations, research institutes and other industrial support organisations to undertake not-for-profit projects which can assist the local recycling industry to upgrade its operational standards and productivity.
- As at the mid December 2017, the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund has approved a total of 148 projects for the Recycling Fund. Except for approved projects which were subsequently withdrawn, 115 projects, comprising 23 projects under ESP, 84 SPs and 8 projects under ISP, are either completed, in progress or about to start, involving a total funding over \$90 million.
- To support the upgrading of the recycling industry and the development of a manufacturing sector using recycled materials, the Recycling Fund will continue expanding the prescribed list of equipment of “Standard Projects”, focusing on those equipment that cater to the Mainland’s import requirements or for use to produce recycled products.

## *Enhancing land and infrastructural support*

### EcoPark

- At present, the EcoPark provides the recycling industry with long-term affordable land to encourage investment in advanced and high value-added recycling processes. With EPD’s support, a total of 10 private recyclers have currently obtained relevant licenses and permits to carry out various recycling processes in the EcoPark. The quantity of recyclables processed at the EcoPark increased gradually, from about 140,000 tonnes in 2014 to over 180,000 tonnes in 2016. We put up available lots in the EcoPark for lease in a timely manner. In the past two years, 4 lots have been successfully leased out. We are examining how to leverage on the land and ancillary facilities at the EcoPark to support the development of a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials.



## Land support

- There are currently 32 STT sites dedicated to the recycling industry, occupying a total area of 4.8 hectares, among which 15 sites will highly likely be taken back to support other long term developments from 2017 onwards. We have been working with the Planning Department, Lands Department (Lands D), and relevant departments to step up land search to replenish the pool of STT sites for use by recyclers. In the past 3 years, several rounds of territory-wide site search have been conducted. Two new STT sites in Cheung Chau and Yuen Long have been leased in September 2015 and March 2017 respectively for recycling use. At the moment we have also identified a few potential STT sites for recycling use. We have been assessing the sites and following up with LandsD for the departmental circulation and local consultation process with a view to letting out these sites to recyclers through open bidding as soon as possible.

## Public Cargo Working Area

- The EPD and the Marine Department (MD) have designated 16 berths at Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) as waste paper berths for exclusive bidding by the recycling trade to ensure that paper recyclers would have stable export facilities to support their waste recycling activities. Two rounds of open tenders were called in April and June 2016. 13 berths were allocated to competent paper recyclers for a license period of 5 years. EPD would further explore with MD on the arrangement for the re-tender exercise of the 16 designated waste paper berths in PCWA after the expiration of the license agreement.

## *Policies and regulations*

### Regulation of recycling of waste cooking oils

- In order to promote recycling of local resources and enhance overall operational standard of local waste cooking oils (WCO) recycling industries, EPD has launched a “WCO Recycling Administrative Registration Scheme” in February 2016 to register eligible local WCO collectors, processors and exporters. As of the end December 2017, we have registered a total of 98 regular collectors, 13 processors and 8 exporters. These registrations cover most major players in the WCO industry. We will continue to receive and assess registration applications, as well as monitor the operation of all registered parties closely.





## Green procurement

- In 2015, the government's green procurement list was expanded from originally 103 items of products and services to 150 items, each with a set of updated green specifications. We have also updated the circular on green government procurement and organized a series of training to facilitate procurement staff of bureaux and departments to purchase green.
- In 2016, the government spent over \$1.1 billion on green procurement. Amongst others, the government used over 10 800 tonnes of B5 diesel (a blend of 5% biodiesel and 95% ordinary diesel) in replacement of conventional diesel in 2016, representing a drastic increase from 2013 for about 4 times, which helped driving the recycling of some 600 tonnes of waste cooking oils generated in Hong Kong.
- We have been promoting wider use of recycled materials and other green products in public works and housing projects. Up to 2016, public works and housing projects used some 23 000 tonnes of recycled glass for production of eco-pavers, which were used in public road pavement of over 1 150 000 square metres.
- To engender a behavioural change towards "bring your own bottle" with a view to avoiding consumption of plastic bottled water and hence reducing waste at source, we have issued guidelines in November 2017 to require bureaux and departments to stop selling plastic bottled water measuring 1 litre or less through automatic vending machines at government premises.

