

本局檔號 OUR REF.: (36) in EFB 9/55/10/418(00)Pt.2  
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

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24 September, 2001

Miss Becky Yu  
Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Hong Kong

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Dear Miss Yu,

**LegCo Panel on Manpower and  
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Joint Meeting on 27 September 2001**

Thank you for your letter of 17 September 2001 inviting us to the Joint Panel Meeting on 27 September 2001. Mr Donald Tong, Deputy Secretary for the Environment and Food, and the undersigned will attend the meeting.

As stated in the Panel Paper “Promoting Domestic Waste Prevention and Recovery” issued to Members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 11 September 2001, the primary objective of our new initiatives is to foster and facilitate domestic waste prevention and recovery. We estimate that about 100 jobs will be created directly to implement and monitor the various programmes such as promotion of awareness in waste prevention and collection of separated waste. However, we could not provide an estimate of the number of jobs that may be created indirectly because –

- (a) we understand the recycling industry currently has spare capacity and can absorb additional throughput of 20-30% without staff increase;
- (b) the manpower demand of the recycling industry, including those operating in the proposed Recovery Park, depends highly on the mode of operation adopted by individual operators, as automation reduces the need for additional staff;
- (c) as for the various community-based waste recycling projects which we proposed to be funded under the Environment and Conservation Fund (subject to approval by the Finance Committee), it is likely that some job opportunities would be created. However, we are not in a position to estimate the number of workers required as this depends highly on the nature of the proposal and the collection system adopted by the project proponents.

Nevertheless, we will keep in view the progress of the various measures, including the number of jobs created, and will report to this Panel accordingly. I should be most grateful if you would circulate this letter to Members of the two Panels before the 27 September meeting for their information.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Annie Choi)  
for Secretary for the Environment and Food