

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Progress Report on
Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme**

Supplementary Information

INTRODUCTION

At the Environmental Affairs Panel meeting held on 26 March 2007, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on –

- Number of applications from waste haulers for opening billing accounts in respect of construction work contracts with a value less than \$1 million
- Measures against illegal disposal of construction waste generated by minor renovation projects

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Number of Applications from Waste Haulers

2. Application Form 2 is specified for billing account for construction work contracts with a value less than \$1 million and general construction waste disposal arrangement. Waste haulers without construction work contract can apply for a billing account using Form 2.

3. As at end of March 2007, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has received and approved 2,280 Form 2 applications, out of which 1,645 were in the name of companies and 635 were in the name of individuals.

4. Based on the applicants' business registration certificates and the information provided in the application forms, about 230 and 95 applications

were from waste collection/transportation companies and waste haulers respectively.

Measures against Illegal Disposal of Construction Waste

5. In a meeting with Legislative Council members in November 2006, Kowloon City District Council members suggested the setting up of district collection stations for collective transportation of construction waste to landfills. The Home Affairs Department together with EPD have considered this proposal further. We consider that it would not be appropriate for the Government to set up such collection stations for the following reasons:

- (i) The Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme is founded on the polluter pays principle under which waste producers are not only responsible for paying the charges for the disposal of construction waste but also the arrangement for collection and transportation of the construction waste to designated government facilities under the scheme. These include public fill reception facilities, sorting facilities and landfills located at strategic locations. There are also commercial services available for the collection and transportation of construction waste of either large or small quantities. It is the responsibility of the waste producer to arrange with the waste collector to provide the appropriate collection service. The proposed district construction waste collection station would cause double-handling of the construction waste, reduce the efficiency of waste collection and increase the overall transportation cost to the waste producers.
- (ii) From the technical feasibility angle, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to identify suitable sites for the proposed waste collection stations at convenient district locations. Any such site would possibly be unwelcome by the local community in the vicinity and there would be high chance of proposed sites being opposed during the process of consultation. Even if suitable sites can be identified, the level of charges for using the collection stations should be considered, as the users need to pay for the full operating costs of the station as well as the transfer costs, etc. It is questionable whether people would have the incentive to use the suggested collection stations.

6. For measures against illegal disposal of construction waste

generated by minor renovation projects, EPD will continue its stepped up enforcement action against flytippers and be on the alert of any flytipping activities at black spots. Regular inspections and ambushes are conducted with a view to deterring and intercepting flytipping activities, including illegal disposal of renovation wastes. EPD found that in many of the complaint cases on flytipping activities, the renovation wastes were actually temporarily placed on the roadside by the renovation contractor, awaiting collection by waste collectors. In such cases, EPD would urge the contractor to have the wastes removed as soon as possible.

7. During daily field work, such as complaint investigations, inspections or patrols, EPD staff also pay attention to any renovation works being carried out in buildings, especially in the proximity of flytipping black spots. If they identify any renovation works, the renovation contractor, the property owner, Owners Committee, Incorporation of Owners or property management office of the building/estate will be reminded of the need for the proper disposal of construction waste arising from the renovation works.

8. For new buildings/estates, EPD will proactively approach the property management offices to brief them about the potential pollution problems arising from renovation works and possible solutions/prevention methods, particularly proper disposal of renovation wastes. EPD will also provide them with pollution control publicity materials including those related to the proper handling of construction wastes.

9. Other publicity efforts such as television announcements of public interest on proper disposal of construction waste will also continue.