

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Proactively promoting waste recovery and recycling”
moved by Hon Vincent FANG Kang
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 2 July 2008**

Motion as amended by Hon CHOY So-yuk and Hon Audrey Eu Yuet-mee

“That Hong Kong’s economy and population keep growing, coupled with the proliferation of consumerism, the amount of waste generated continues to increase, in which there are a lot of recyclable and useful materials, yet Hong Kong has no clear policy and effective measures to implement separate recovery and reuse of waste in a comprehensive manner, resulting in a large quantity of useful materials being dumped at landfills; together with the imminent passage of the Product Eco-responsibility Bill, which contains no proposal on complementary measures to recover and recycle plastic bags, this Council urges the Government to:

- (a) review the effectiveness of the relevant Ordinance one year after the imposition of levy on plastic bags, including the quantity of plastic bags reduced, recovered and recycled;
- (b) establish a dedicated department and allocate more resources to consolidate an administrative framework related to waste handling and recovery which will be responsible for running a follow-through work process from source separation, material recovery, waste collection to waste disposal, and at the same time enhancing the efficiency of waste handling and recovery;
- (c) expeditiously implement the legislative work for other products mentioned in the Product Eco-responsibility Bill so as to reduce waste generation and increase incentives to recover waste, and promote the industrial activities relating to the recovery and reuse of resources;
- (d) expeditiously implement the ‘variable rate charging scheme for refuse’ to fully achieve the polluter-pays principle, so that the public would undertake their own eco-responsibilities, and through economic incentives, encourage the public to proactively participate in waste separation and recovery, with a view to ultimately pursuing the objective of waste avoidance at source;
- (e) device an effective mechanism for bulk recovery of food waste, set up more facilities for recovery and reuse of food waste, review the present land use restrictions to encourage private organizations to engage in industries related to the recovery and reuse of food waste, and procure fertilizers converted from locally recovered food waste by the Government for use on plants grown in gardens and on roadsides;

- (f) provide incentives or appropriate assistance to waste collectors, and proactively examine the feasibility of implementing a licensing regime for waste collectors, so as to regulate the recovery trades, thereby minimizing the disturbance of the trades to the public and promoting the development of the recovery trades;
- (g) provide incentives in terms of taxation or land, etc., expand the scope of 'EcoPark' and improve the infrastructural facilities and leasing conditions to attract advanced local or international waste recycling trades to invest in the waste recycling industries in Hong Kong, so as to process the waste generated locally by recycling as far as practicable, thereby reducing the waste ultimately dumped at landfills, promoting the sustainable development of the Hong Kong economy, and creating job opportunities;
- (h) formulate a green procurement policy with the Government taking the lead in requiring all departments and contractors to comply with it, so as to provide steady outlets for green products; implement a green certification and labelling system, as well as establish a database to facilitate the Government, private organizations and the public to identify when procuring such products; and
- (i) adopt effective measures to appropriately address the problem of illegal dumping, so as to minimize improper disposal of recyclable materials; and
- (j) use the proceeds from the levy on plastic bags to set up a green fund to encourage waste reduction and recovery work."