

**For information
March 2008**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Management of Municipal Solid Waste

This paper briefs Members on the measures taken by the Administration for the management of municipal solid waste (MSW), in response to a submission of the Friends of the Earth (HK) to the Panel on Environmental Affairs (paper no. CB(1)1041/07-08(01)).

2. The Administration fully agrees that a comprehensive strategy encompassing waste avoidance at source, waste recovery and recycling and bulk reduction of waste is necessary to address our imminent waste problem. To this end, we published “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Policy Framework) in December 2005, which lays down clear waste management objectives and sets out a series of measures to achieve these targets in accordance with a holistic waste management strategy.

3. We have been making tremendous efforts in implementing the various measures set out in the Policy Framework, the latest progress of which has been reported in the paper “Update on the Progress of the Key Initiatives in the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” submitted to this Panel (paper no. CB(1)844/07-08(03)). While we have yet to achieve the targets in the Policy Framework in respect of waste avoidance and bulk reduction of waste, we already achieved a recovery rate of 45% back in 2006, three years ahead of the target laid down in the Policy Framework. In fact, our waste recovery rate is on a par with that of other advanced cities in the region (details at Annex 1).

4. Annex 1 also indicates clearly that the adoption of incineration technology to achieve bulk reduction of waste is an integral part of the waste management strategy of advanced cities, and is in line with the principle of sustainable development. It is therefore necessary for us to develop Integrated Waste Management Facilities as soon as possible in order to reduce our reliance on landfilling. This is also the prerequisite for achieving

the Policy Framework's target of reducing the total MSW disposed of at landfills to less than 25%.

5. Yet, as stated earlier, we have not lost sight of the importance of waste reduction at source and waste recovery. We have already introduced the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council to provide the legal basis for implementing producer responsibility schemes and to reduce the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle. In addition, we will conduct a comprehensive territory-wide baseline survey which will form the basis for developing an MSW charging scheme. We will also continue our effort in promoting source separation of domestic, commercial and industrial wastes and other related measures, in order to achieve the target of increasing the recovery rate of MSW to 50% by 2014 as laid down in the Policy Framework.

6. In conclusion, we will adhere to the principles laid down in the Policy Framework to manage our MSW in a sustainable manner.

Environmental Protection Department
March 2008

Annex 1

Recovery and Management of Waste in Major Cities in the Region

City	Recycling/ Composting (%)	Incineration (%)	Landfilling (%)
Singapore ¹	51	45	4
Hong Kong ²	45	0	55
Taipei ³	43	47.8	9.2
Tokyo ⁴	19.3	64.6	16.1

¹ http://app.mewr.gov.sg/data/images/M1_KES_2007.pdf (2006 data)

² <https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en/materials/info/msw2006.pdf> (2006 data)

³ http://edb.epa.gov.tw/Index_waste.htm (2007 data)

⁴ http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/waste_tech/ippan/index.html (2005 data)