

本署檔案
OUR REF : EP 126/L2/1 (III)
來函檔案
YOUR REF : CB(3)/PAC/R51
電話
TEL NO : 2594 6034
圖文傳真
FAX NO : 3121 5707
電子郵件
E-MAIL :
網址
HOMEPAGE : <http://www.epd.gov.hk/>

**Environmental Protection Department
Headquarters**

46/F Revenue Tower
5 Gloucester Road
Wanchai, Hong Kong



環境保護署總部

香港
灣仔告士打道五號
稅務大樓四十六樓

6 January 2009

Ms Miranda Hon
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Hon,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 51)**

Reduction and recovery of municipal solid waste (Chapter 11)

I refer to your letter dated 22 December 2008 on the above.

Please see below the additional information you have requested –

- (a) **the respective recovery rates of municipal solid waste, domestic waste and non-domestic waste of advanced cities in the world and how the rates compare to those of Hong Kong;**

Overseas data are only available for municipal solid waste (MSW). Based on the latest accessible and comparable data, Hong Kong's MSW recovery rate is 45% in 2007, as compared with some major cities such as Tokyo (18%), Sydney (26% in 2003), New York (30% in 2003), London (35% in 2006/07), Singapore (54%), Taipei (61%) and Seoul (64%).[#]

- (b) **in respect of the four lots in the EcoPark which have been tendered out, the actual/expected length of time involved in the various steps from tendering to the tenants' commencement of operations**

The actual/expected time required for completion of the various steps from award of tenancy to commencement of operations is tabulated below:

[#] The latest available recovery rates for the cities are 2007 data unless otherwise indicated.

X X X X X X X

(c) the reason why only 67% schools in Hong Kong were provided with waste-separation bins up to July 2008 (paragraph 5.14 of the Audit Report refers)

The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) launched two one-off campaigns of “Waste Separation and Recycling Scheme in Schools” (the Schemes) in 2000 and 2003 respectively. Under the Schemes, **all** primary and secondary schools were invited to participate on a voluntary basis. With the concerted efforts of ECC, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the then Education Department, 1,100 sets of waste separation bins were provided to all participating schools, covering about 70% of primary and secondary school premises. The Schemes have successfully raised the awareness of schools in waste separation and recycling. It is noted that some schools have elected not to join the Schemes but have procured waste separation bins at their own expenses.

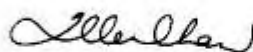
Since the introduction of the Schemes, the ECC has continued to proactively offer assistance and support to new schools or newly participating schools by providing new waste separation stickers to be adhered to the bins, as well as referring the participating and non-participating schools to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for recyclable collection service on a free-of-charge basis. In parallel, the ECC has also reviewed the design of waste separation bins in order to cater for the expanded scope of recyclables.

As many of the old sets of waste separation bins distributed under the Schemes are nearing the end of their natural lifespan, the ECC has obtained funding support of \$6 million from the Environment and Conservation Fund in early 2008 for procurement of newly designed waste separation bins for distribution to primary and secondary schools. In November 2008, the ECC invited all primary and secondary schools to apply for the new waste separation bins. As at end December 2008, over 220 applications have been received and among them about 140 have never received recycling bins under the Schemes. All these requests will be entertained within this school year, boosting the coverage rate of three-colour bins in school premises to around 83%.

While participation of schools in the Schemes remains voluntary, the ECC is prepared to entertain all applications and in this connection EPD will reach out to those schools yet to join the “Source Separation and Recycling Scheme in Schools” to proactively invite them again to join or to ascertain their reasons for not joining.

A soft copy of this reply in English and Chinese will be sent to you via email separately.

Yours faithfully



(Ellen Chan)

Assistant Director of Environmental Protection
(Environmental Infrastructure)

c.c. Secretary for the Environment (fax no. 2537 7278)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (fax no. 2147 5239)
Director of Audit

Internal
P(CR)

***Note by Clerk, PAC: Part of item (b) obliterated.**