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Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attention: Ms Becky Yu)

18 May 2010

Dear Ms Yu,

Update on the progress of the key initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”

Following the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs meeting held on 29 March 2010, we provide the updated figures on paper consumption by Government bureaux and departments, between financial years 2007 – 2010, as follows:

	Photocopying paper (tonnes)	Printing paper (tonnes)
FY 2007/08	4,011	5,894
FY 2008/09	4,480	5,641
FY 2009/10	4,435	6,188

Please let us know if we could be of further assistance.

(Vivien Li)

for the Director of Environmental Protection

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs The Green Lunch Charter

Purpose

This paper informs Members on the progress of the Green Lunch Charter, setting out the targeted reduction on the use of disposable lunch boxes and the timeframe for achieving the target.

Background

2. The Environmental Protection Department conducted a questionnaire survey covering all schools in Hong Kong in 2008. The findings showed that about 550,000 students lunched in schools each day. A breakdown of their lunch practices is tabulated below:

Lunch Practices	Proportion (by meal units)
Reusable containers (such as lunch provided by parents, students bringing their own lunch, “on-site meal portioning” and reusable lunch containers)	51%
Recyclable containers (namely polypropylene (PP) containers)	30%
Other disposable containers (such as paper, tin foil or polyfoam)	19%

3. To encourage schools to stop using disposable lunch boxes and adopt on-site meal portioning where possible, the Environment Bureau and the Education Bureau have jointly invited all schools to sign a Green Lunch Charter.

4. In tandem with the launch of the Green Lunch Charter, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee has allocated \$150 million to support existing schools in installing basic facilities for on-site meal portioning.

5. The standardised facilities of all newly built schools will meet the requirement of on-site meal portioning. Catering area, drainage, water supply, furniture, electricity and ventilation works and related equipment will be included as the standard provisions of future new schools.

Progress

6. The Green Lunch Charter was launched on 26 February 2010. As at end April, 292 schools have signed the Green Lunch Charter.

7. ECF application started on 7 December 2009. The ECF Secretariat has so far followed up on about 200 requests for site visit to assess the feasibility of implementing ‘on-site meal portioning’. As at end of April 2010, it has approved 36 ECF applications. The construction and installation works for the approved cases would commence during the summer holiday in 2010 for completion before the new school term.

8. In a related development, seven new schools to be completed between February 2011 and February 2012 would be the first batch of schools to equipped with on-site meal portioning facilities at the outset.

Targets

9. With the Green Lunch Charter and the associated ECF funding support, we envisage that the use of disposable lunch boxes by schools would be significantly reduced in two years’ time as follows:

School Term	Accumulated reduction in disposable lunch boxes (number/day)
2011/12	20,000
2012/13	60,000

10. We would conduct surveys to ascertain the latest situation and review the above targets accordingly. The next survey is scheduled for June 2010 by which time most schools would have firmed up their lunch arrangement for the next school term.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to note the progress of the Green Lunch Charter and the targets set out in the paper.

**Environmental Protection Department
June 2010**