

Information Note

**Finance Committee
Follow-up to Meeting on 14 June 2013**

Pursuant to the discussion at the Finance Committee meeting held on 14 June 2013 on paper FCR(2013-14)15 regarding the proposed injection of \$5,000 million to the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), Members asked the Administration to provide information on measures to be taken, under the ECF projects, to recover and process food waste from residential districts in Hong Kong. The required information is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

2. With ECF support, the Administration launched the Food Waste Recycling Scheme in Housing Estates in July 2011 and earmarked \$50 million to subsidise housing estates in organizing education programmes on food waste reduction and operating on-site treatment facilities for food waste recycling. As at to date, a total of 14 estates have been subsidized and it is expected that about 42 additional estates will also be covered under the scheme. Education programmes on food waste reduction and recovery organized by the 14 currently subsidised estates cover about 45,000 households, of which about 1,600 would participate in source separation and recycling of food waste. Upon full implementation of the scheme in these 14 estates, it is estimated that about 500 tonnes of food waste will be recycled into 100 tonnes of compost each year for landscaping use in the estates. Applications under this Scheme are being received and we would continue to encourage participation by promoting the awareness of the scheme and providing technical support to bearers of management of housing estates.

3. Community Waste Recovery Projects is another funding scheme under the ECF which aims to enhance awareness and ensure sustained participation of the public in waste prevention and recovery. Through these projects, the Administration has been supporting non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise food waste recovery activities in the community. Up to mid-2013, a total of 14 projects related to food waste recovery at rural villages, elderly centres and hostels have been approved with a total funding amount of about \$15 million. Upon full implementation of these projects,

it is estimated that about 400 tonnes of food waste will be recycled into 80 tonnes of compost each year for landscaping or agricultural use. Similarly there are ongoing expressions of interest to seek funding support for community waste recycling projects by non profit making organizations, and we would continue to organize experience-sharing sessions to encourage participation by eligible organizations.

4. On the way forward, the Administration has been adopting a multi-pronged approach to tackle food waste problems in Hong Kong. The strategy emphasizes on food waste avoidance and reduction. As for unavoidable food waste, the strategy seeks to recycle them to useful resources as far as possible. To take forward the "reduction first " approach and strengthen the promotion of food waste reduction, the Administration set up the Food Wise Hong Kong Steering Committee in December 2012 to implement the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, which aims to promote public awareness of food waste problems in Hong Kong and co-ordinate efforts within the Government and public institutions to lead by example in food waste reduction. The objectives of the Steering Committee also include instilling behavioural change at the individual and household levels to help reduce food waste generation, drawing up and promoting good practices of food waste reduction at commercial and industrial establishments, and facilitating food donation to charitable organisations from establishments with surplus food. The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign was launched in May this year. There will be a host of activities, which include public education programmes via media such as television and the radio, the publication of good practices, roving exhibitions and community activities, the setting up of a dedicated website, and workshops on food waste reduction for different sectors. To complement the Administration's efforts in tackling food waste problems, the ECF will accord priority to projects in support of the themes under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign.

5 The ECF is set up to provide funding support for educational, research and other projects and activities in relation to environmental and conservation matters. The ECF Committee will regularly review the priority for funding support in line with the environmental policy objectives of the Administration while maintaining a transparent, equitable and accountable mechanism to process applications from eligible organizations.