

**Legislative Council  
Finance Committee**

**Follow-up Action Arising from the Meeting on 31 October 2014 –  
Response from the Administration**

*The Administration to provide information on – the recovery rate of plastic wastes in Hong Kong.*

Since there were large fluctuations in the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) recovery rates in Hong Kong during 2010 to 2012, the Government had commissioned a consultancy study to review the methodology of compiling the recovery rates. The consultancy study revealed that when trading activities on the import and export of plastic wastes were active due to external economic factors, the domestic export figures, and hence the recovery figures, of plastic wastes could easily be affected and had large fluctuations. Since 2011, the trading activities on the import and export of plastic wastes had seen a substantial decrease and hence its effect on the recovery figures had been reduced accordingly. The study also pointed out that the quantity of plastic wastes recovered in 2012 had largely reflected the real situation of the industry.

In 2012, the share of plastic wastes in total MSW recyclables recovered was 15%. The MSW recovery rate was 39%, and the plastic wastes recovery rate was 32%. The relevant figures in recent years are given in **Annex 1** for reference.

It is important to point out that the fluctuations in the MSW recovery rate in the past few years have not led to a corresponding increase in waste disposal in landfills. The waste disposal rate on a per capita per day basis has remained steady at around 1.30 kg. This indicated that the decrease in MSW recovery rate did not have any significant impact on the burden of landfills and the actual effectiveness of waste recovery work has not been compromised. It remains our firm target to reduce the MSW disposal rate on a capita basis by 40% by 2022 as set out in the Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources.

**Annex 1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>MSW Recovery Rate</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Plastic Wastes Recovery Rate</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>Share of Plastic Wastes in Total MSW Recovered</b> <b>(%)</b>	<b>MSW Disposal Rate on Per Capita Basis</b> <b>(Kg/Day)</b>
2010	52	69	44	1.30
2011	48	58	28	1.27
2012	39	32	15	1.30