

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**  
**Subcommittee on Refuse Collection and Resource Recovery**

**The Government's Response to the Follow-up Actions Required**

Follow-up Action Required	The Government's Response
<i>Meeting of 13 December 2016</i>	
<p><u>Composition of municipal solid waste</u></p> <p>(a) composition of municipal solid waste disposed of at landfills from 2010 to 2015 based on the Government's annual waste statistics published in "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong", with breakdown of the major components (e.g. glass, metals, paper, plastics and putrescibles (including food waste and yard waste)) by quantities and percentages by weight;</p>	<p>Please refer to the letter dated 20 June 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(02)).</p>
<p><u>Waste plastics</u></p> <p>(b) types and quantities of waste plastics imported to or exported/re-exported from Hong Kong in 2010 to 2015, with breakdown by the outlets for the imported waste plastics (e.g. exported, recycled locally for re-export, disposed of illegally in Hong Kong);</p> <p>(c) types and quantities of locally generated waste plastics, with breakdown by their movements/outlets (e.g. disposed of at landfills, recovered/recycled for export or local consumption, recovered/recycled but disposed of at landfills ultimately);</p> <p>(d) market prices of different types of plastic recyclables, including polyethylene ("PE"), polypropylene ("PP"), phenol formaldehyde ("PF") and polyethylene terephthalate ("PET");</p>	<p>Please refer to the letter dated 20 June 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(02))for items (b) to (d).</p>

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<p><u>Recycling network</u></p> <p>(e) information on the Community Recycling Network, which included 18 Community Recycling Centres and 60 collection points at present, and whether and how it could facilitate the collection, on-site preliminary treatment and bulk transport of waste plastics and other recyclables; and</p>	<p>Please refer to the letter dated 20 June 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(02)).</p>
<p><u>Design and use of refuse collection facilities</u></p> <p>(f) measures or facilities being considered or to be put in place regarding the design and use of refuse collection facilities (in particular refuse collection points) managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to tie in with the future implementation of municipal solid waste charging.</p>	<p>Please refer to LC Paper No. CB(1)787/16-17(01) titled "Refuse Collection System in Hong Kong".</p>
<b><i>Meeting of 16 January 2017</i></b>	
<p><u>Food waste</u></p> <p>(a) concerns arising from media reports that some 80% of the food waste collected by an Ecopark tenant was disposed of at landfills, and how the Administration will follow up with the Ecopark tenant concerned to raise the rate of food waste recovery/recycling;</p> <p>(b) legal liabilities associated with food donation and whether compliance with the relevant guidelines issued by the Centre for Food Safety will suffice to dispense the food donors with such liabilities;</p>	<p>Please refer to the letter dated 20 June 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(02)) for item (a).</p> <p>Food on sale for public consumption shall comply with the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) to ensure food hygiene and safety. As the food being donated is not for selling purposes, it is not subject to control under the Ordinance.</p> <p>To lay down the food safety principles that should be observed in donating food to charities, regardless of the types and sources of food, the Centre for Food Safety under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department</p>

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	<p>issued the Food Safety Guidelines for Food Recovery (the Guidelines) in August 2013. The Guidelines have been made available on Government website<sup>1</sup> for sharing with the trades and NGOs. We understand that, in some food donation programmes, the Guidelines have already been taken into account during the discussions between food donors and recovery operators and in drawing up agreements between them to relieve concerns from the food donors about the potential legal liabilities in relation to food safety. As various food waste donation programmes have successfully recovered excess food for donation to the people in need, at present the Government has no plan to introduce legal provisions on food donors' liabilities.</p>
<p><u>Refuse collection and resource recovery</u></p> <p>(c) how the Administration enforces the 100 litre cap on disposal of trade waste at refuse collection points ("RCPs") under section 22 of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132BK) ("PCPNR"); and whether the manpower at each RCP will be increased to facilitate or strengthen enforcement of section 22 of PCPNR and municipal solid waste charging;</p> <p>(d) whether the Administration will consider:</p> <p>(i) converting existing RCPs into refuse collection cum resource recovery centres (such as by retrofitting the RCPs with relevant facilities or building more storeys above the RCPs) so as to provide</p>	<p>Please refer to LC Paper No. CB(1)787/16-17(01) titled "Refuse Collection System in Hong Kong" for item (c).</p> <p>Please refer to LC Paper No. CB(1)787/16-17(01) titled "Refuse Collection System in Hong Kong" for items (d)(i) to (d)(iii), and the letter dated 20 June 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(02)) for item (d)(iv).</p>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme\\_haccp/files/Food\\_Safety\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Food\\_Recovery\\_e.pdf](http://www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_haccp/files/Food_Safety_Guidelines_for_Food_Recovery_e.pdf)

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<p>space/facilities for in-situ preliminary recycling of waste and temporary storage of resources recovered; and selecting some RCPs for trial;</p> <p>(ii) amending section 11 of PCPNR which prohibits the raking and picking of refuse deposited at RCPs and other places, with a view to protecting recycling practitioners from potential legal liabilities, and encouraging public participation in resource recovery;</p> <p>(iii) reviewing the contractual arrangements with the contractors of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to incorporate relevant requirements or incentives to facilitate or encourage recovery of resources by RCP workers from refuse deposited at RCPs; and</p> <p>(iv) making reference to Taiwan to provide price subsidies to recyclables in Hong Kong;</p>	
<p>(e) existing measures for reduction and recycling of waste generated from Lunar New Year fairs, and whether and how the Administration will enhance the measures to facilitate recovery of more resources from such waste;</p> <p>(f) whether the Community Green Stations ("CGSs") or Community Recycling Centres can be open during the Lunar New Year public holidays to facilitate temporary storage of resources recovered from Lunar New Year fairs and pending transfer to people in need;</p> <p>(g) procedures and safety guidelines, if any, for RCP workers to recover and handle gas cylinders (such as those commonly used for cassette cookers) from refuse deposited at RCPs; and</p>	<p>Please refer to LC Paper No. CB(1)787/16-17(01) titled "Refuse Collection System in Hong Kong" for items (e) to (g).</p>

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<p><u>Community Green Stations</u></p> <p>(h) concerns about the limited effectiveness of CGSs to facilitate waste recovery and recycling given the large catchment area serviced by each CGS, and whether the Administration will review the role and functions of CGSs to address such concerns.</p>	<p>We will evaluate the effectiveness of individual CGSs based on their respective operational statistics. Up to the 4th quarter of 2016, both operators of Sha Tin CGS and Eastern CGS have established an extensive service network, with a coverage rate of up to 90% of the population in their districts, providing support to the collection of low-value recyclables in the community. Besides, we will, having regard to different views from various sectors, review from time to time the work of CGSs on environmental education and recycling support, and make adjustment as appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Meeting of 5 June 2017</i></p>	
<p><u>Management of yard waste</u></p> <p>(a) the quantities of yard waste (i) collected and (ii) disposed of at landfills by individual government departments in each of the past three years;</p> <p><u>Provision of price subsidies in respect of recyclables</u></p> <p>(b) the operating costs incurred by the Government for each tonne of waste collected and disposed of at landfills</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider making reference to Taiwan to provide price subsidies in respect of recyclables, with a view to minimizing the impact on the recycling trade arising from fluctuations in the market prices of recyclables and enhancing recovery of recyclables, and taking into account the public expenditures that will otherwise be incurred if the recyclables are not recovered/recycled but disposed of at landfills;</p>	<p>Please refer to the paper titled "Supplementary Information" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1260/16-17(03)) for items (a) to (f).</p>

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<p><u>Resource recovery and recycling</u></p> <p>(d) the roles to be played by the Community Green Stations ("CGSs"), Community Recycling Centres and community recycling projects operated by non-profit organizations/non-government organizations ("community recycling projects") in the long run under the Government's planning, including whether and how the said facilities/projects will complement each other, and whether a dedicated fund will be set up to enhance support to community recycling projects on a long-term basis;</p> <p>(e) whether the Administration would consider incorporating relevant requirements in the contracts of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's street cleansing services to undertake resource recovery; and</p> <p><u>Other issues</u></p> <p>(f) updates on the following subjects (which are currently on the Subcommittee's list of outstanding items for discussion), including the planned timing, if any, for briefing the Panel on Environmental Affairs on related matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) support for local community on recycling – Community Recycling Network and CGSs;</li> <li>(ii) progress and effectiveness of producer responsibility schemes; and</li> <li>(iii) management of construction waste</li> </ul>	