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6 April 2018

Dear Mr. LO,

**Supplementary Information to Discussion Paper  
for the Finance Committee FCR(2017-18)64**

I refer to the email and the Legislator's letter from the Legislative Council Secretariat dated 4 April 2018 in relation to the above matter. Our supplementary information is provided below.

On the recycling of non-bottle plastic wastes, such as plastic bags, plastic utensils, straws, food containers, sushi containers, yoghurt cups, plastic bottle caps, plastic buckets, CD laser discs, CD laser disc boxes, plastic packaging boxes of mobile phones, etc., we encourage the public to collect a certain amount, to keep the plastic wastes clean and then to send them to the Community Green Stations (CGSs). There are recycling bins with different plastic classification codes set up in the CGSs, where the public are educated to place their plastic wastes into the recycling bins with the appropriate classification code. Where practicable, the CGSs will deliver the certain amount of recyclables collected to competent and willing recyclers for processing. However, whether or not these recyclables will be properly recycled will depend on the prevailing recycling outlets and the change of market demands.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is continuing to take forward the CGSs projects to strengthen the support for waste reduction and recycling as well as environmental education at the district level, instilling a green living

culture in the community. Through recycling programmes and educational activities, the CGS operators have proactively connected with the housing estates and property management companies in their districts to establish an extensive service network and provide support to the collection of low-value recyclables in the community, including waste paper, waste plastic bottles, electrical appliances, glass containers, fluorescent lamps and tubes, as well as rechargeable batteries, etc. The recyclables collected will then be sent to competent recyclers for processing. As at the end of 2017, 5 CGSs have progressively been in operation, including the Sha Tin CGS and the Eastern CGS which commenced operation in 2015 and the Kwun Tong CGS, the Yuen Long CGS and the Sham Shui Po CGS which commenced operation in 2017. The implementation progress of the other CGS projects is provided at **Annex**.

On enhancing outreaching service, the first phase of the outreaching service will be rolled out on a pilot basis within 2018, and it is expected that the service will start to be gradually extended to the whole territory in later 2018-19. Since the first phase of the outreaching service is still under preparation, relevant details about the service scope and execution are not available. We will review continuously the implementation of the outreaching service and its effectiveness to optimize the relevant service, so as to cater for the actual needs of various stakeholders in the community.

To assist the large scale event organisers and the related stakeholders in formulating waste management strategies to achieve waste reduction and promote clean recycling, the EPD and the Business Environment Council launched a guidance booklet on waste reduction for major community events in December 2017, the effectiveness of which remains to be seen. We will closely monitor the implementation of the relevant initiatives, proactively review their effectiveness and optimize the relevant management strategies.

In regard to the total number of recyclers in Hong Kong currently are capable of meeting the requirement of importing recyclables into the Mainland, we do not have the relevant figures. However, since the launch of specific measures under the Recycling Fund in September 2017, funding has been earmarked to assist the recycling industry to procure facilities (such as moulding and blow moulding machines) to enhance the capability of processing local recyclables and to comply with the Mainland's relevant import requirements. So far, the Recycling Fund has received 17 applications, of which 7 applications have been approved, and the remaining 10 applications are still under processing. It is believed that there will be more local recyclers progressively reaching the standard of importing recyclables into the Mainland.

In the long run, we will seek more efficient and diversified outlets for local recyclables. We will study the feasibility of incubating local environmental recycling and manufacturing industry in the long term. As the waste paper takes up the largest proportion of local recyclables, the development of a recycling industry

capable of processing local waste paper is currently accorded priority. We have just invited the manufacturers interested in developing a waste paper recycling and manufacturing industry in the EcoPark by open tender. As for the review of promoting the development of an environmental recycling and manufacturing industry, relevant work is part of the regular duties of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division, manpower and expenditures are absorbed by existing establishments and resources. We do not have the relevant information on the manpower and expenditure involved in this regard.

On clean recycling, the Government has provided 16 000 sets of waste separation recycling bins, covering locations such as public places, schools, housing estates/ residential buildings, government quarters, government office buildings, hospitals and clinics, etc. These 16 000 sets of recycling bins already include those placed in the lobby or on individual floors of housing estates/ residential buildings participating in the Source Separation of Waste Programme (the SSW Programme). At present, over 2 000 housing estates/ residential buildings have joined the SSW Programme, covering about 80% of Hong Kong population.

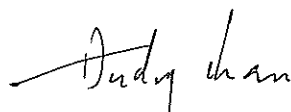
Moreover, the Government is committed to green procurement practice as far as practicable with a view to promoting the development of a local market for recycled products. With the concerted efforts of various Government departments, the Government's green procurement list has been expanded to 150 items of products and services with updated environmental specifications. To demonstrate our commitment to green procurement, the Government has procured over 3 800 tonnes of B5 diesel (involving recycling of over 200 tonnes of local waste cooking oil) in replacement of conventional diesel in 2015. The Development Bureau (DB) has also included, in public works contracts tendered in or after March 2016, a provision on mandatory use of B5 diesel in operating non-road mobile machinery in construction sites. Different works department have also been proactively promoting the use of recyclables in public work projects where practicable. The Highways Department has made it mandatory to use paving materials with 10% to 30% of reclaimed asphalts pavement by weight for pavement applications. The EPD has also been proactively promoting green procurement practice to the commercial and industrial sectors through organising experience sharing forums and disseminating green procurement pamphlets widely to trade associations, professional bodies and other organisations.

In dealing with the yard waste, the scope of work of the EPD is very broad. Due to the arrangement for division of work, managing the yard waste falls outside the duties of the proposed Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (ADEP). In February 2014, the Environment Bureau promulgated "A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022 (the Plan)", which sets out the Government's strategies to deal with organic waste, including promoting waste reduction at source as well as encouraging separation and collection. An inter-departmental working group led by the EPD has been set up to

co-ordinate the work of the Government departments in implementing the Plan, including enhancing data collection and promoting good practices. For example, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the DB promulgated the “Guidelines on Yard Waste Reduction and Treatment” in July 2014, which provides general reference for government departments relating to measures on yard waste reduction at various stages from landscape design to maintenance. Government departments will mainly treat yard waste according to its nature by appropriate means, including natural degradation, composting, mulching, fuel production and recycling for recreational facilities or decorations, etc.

As regards the indicators for other work, initiatives to be taken forward by the proposed ADEP post cover a wide range of perspectives and involve a large number of stakeholders, so the effectiveness of the initiatives will be affected by different factors, including the practice of waste reduction and recycling of the community (e.g. waste reduction at source, waste separation and clean recycling), available recycling outlets, relevant regulations for the local/ foreign recycling markets and demand for various types of recyclables, as well as the operation mode, cost and efficiency of the local recycling industry, etc. Therefore, we are unable to quantify the effectiveness of the proposed post in promoting waste reduction and recycling in Hong Kong. We will report the relevant work progress to the Legislative Council in due course.

Yours sincerely,



(Andy CHAN)

for Director of Environmental Protection

**c.c.** The Treasury Branch, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau  
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6 April 2018

### Implementation Progress of Community Green Stations (CGSs)

Project	Site	Latest Development and Schedule
Sha Tin CGS	10 On Ping Street, Shek Mun	The CGS commenced operation in May 2015. In 2017, the CGS collected about 415 tonnes of recyclables, with operating expenditure of about \$4.22 million.
Eastern CGS	30 Oi Shun Road, Shau Kei Wan	The CGS commenced operation in August 2015. In 2017, the CGS collected about 395 tonnes of recyclables, with operating expenditure of about \$3.61 million.
Kwun Tong CGS	27 Sheung Yee Road, Kowloon Bay	The CGS commenced operation in January 2017. As at the end of 2017, the CGS collected about 290 tonnes of recyclables, with operating expenditure of about \$4.69 million.
Yuen Long CGS	65 Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai	The CGS commenced operation in January 2017. As at the end of 2017, the CGS collected about 290 tonnes of recyclables, with operating expenditure of about \$3.98 million.
Sham Shui Po CGS	339 Tung Chau Street	The CGS commenced operation in October 2017. As at the end of 2017, the CGS collected about 17 tonnes of recyclables, with operating expenditure of about \$0.99 million.
Tuen Mun CGS	9 Tuen Yee Street	The tendering for the operation contract is underway. The CGSs are expected to commence operation in the second half of 2018.
Kwai Tsing CGS	12 Tam Kon Shan Road, Tsing Yi	
Tai Po CGS	Between Ting Kok Road and Dai Wah Street	Construction works are underway, which are expected to be completed in the second half of 2018.
Islands CGS	Junction of Yu Tung Road and Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	
Sai Kung CGS	Po Lam Lane, near Po Hong Road and Po Lam Road North, Tseung Kwan O	Design and construction works are in progress.
Wan Chai CGS	Junction of Wan Shing Street and Hung Hing Road	A design idea competition is underway. The design and construction works are expected to commence in the second half of 2018.
Tsuen Wan CGS	Hoi Shing Road, near Hoi Kok Street	Sites have been confirmed and planning of construction works is in progress.
Wong Tai Sin CGS	Junction of Yuk Wah Street and Po Leung Lane, Tsz Wan Shan	

Project	Site	Latest Development and Schedule
Kowloon City CGS, Southern CGS, Yau Tsim Mong CGS, Central and Western CGS and North CGS	Site to be confirmed	We have been following up the views from District Councils. Taking into account the actual operating experience in other projects, we are continuing with site search and other associated preparation work.