

本署檔案  
OUR REF :  
來函檔案  
YOUR REF :  
電話  
TEL NO : 3509 8643  
圖文傳真  
FAX NO : 2136 3304  
電子郵件  
E-MAIL : jamescychan@epd.gov.hk  
網址  
HOMEPAGE : <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection Department  
Headquarters**

15/F & 16/F, East Wing,  
Central Government Offices,  
2 Tim Mei Avenue,  
Tamar, Hong Kong.



環境保護署總部

香港添馬  
添美道二號  
政府總部東翼  
十五及十六樓

26 June 2018

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms. Ada LAU  
[ayylau@legco.gov.hk](mailto:ayylau@legco.gov.hk))

Dear Ms LAU,

**The Legislative Council Finance Committee  
Meeting on 6 April 2018  
Follow-up Item of FCR(2017-18)64**

In response to the request of the Legislative Council Finance Committee at the meeting on 6 April 2018, the following information is provided for Members' reference.

- (a) *Separately set out the measures, effectiveness and indicators of various government departments in handling yard waste (with figures provided)*

The Environment Bureau promulgated "A Food Waste and Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022" in February 2014, which sets out the Government's strategies to deal with organic waste, including collecting data, promoting waste reduction at source, encouraging separation and collection as well as exploring the most suitable means to treat the unavoidable waste.

In dealing with yard waste, government departments would adhere to the principles of reduction, reuse and recycling and implement various measures to reduce yard waste as much as practicable, including natural degradation, composting, mulching and reusing as recreational facilities or decoration. The current recovery rate of yard waste is relatively low due to a lack of venues for composting. The recovery rate for 2017 was about 3%.

Apart from continuing to install garden composters and other small-scale composting facilities at suitable venues to treat yard waste on site, relevant government departments will also actively identify suitable venues for constructing large-scale composting facilities in future to collect and recycle yard waste that cannot be treated on site. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will also consider introducing other means (e.g. production of wood pellets) to assist other government departments in treating yard waste and increasing the recovery rate.

The figures of yard waste produced or collected, recycled and disposed of at landfills by various government departments in 2017 are shown in the following table -

Department <sup>1</sup>	Weight of yard waste in 2017 (tonnes)		
	Produced/ collected (a)	Recycled (b)	Disposed of at landfills (c) = (a) – (b)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	25	25	0
Architectural Services Department	3 043	60	2 983
Civil Engineering and Development Department	3 250	50	3 200
Drainage Services Department	512	24	488
Highways Department	3 340	70	3 270
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	3 600	160	3 440
Water Supplies Department	510	49	461
Total	14 280	438	13 842

- (b)(i) ***The timetable for gradually increasing the ratio of recycled content in the raw materials of the products procured under the Government's green procurement policy (including general stores, project stores and energy products); in addition, will the Government request suppliers to apply the same standard to their other products supplied to the market; if yes, the timetable for implementing such policy***

At present, the Government's green procurement list, which is adopted as the guideline for various government departments, covers 150 items of green products and services, including various products that are recyclable and have recycled content, such as stationery (photocopying and printing papers, file jackets, pencils and tape dispensers), safety helmets, toilet paper and paper towels, eco-pavers, asphalt pavement materials, fertilisers and compost, rubber mats for playground, etc. that have recycled content. The EPD is conducting a consultancy study with a view to adding more recycled products and services using recyclables to the list, including studying the increase in ratio of recycled content in the raw materials of the procured products. The EPD expects that the study will be completed in the 4th quarter of 2019. The Government will then make reference to the recommendations made in the study report and consider drawing up a concrete implementation plan and timetable.

We will upload the latest Government's green procurement list and relevant green specifications, as well as the local and international best practices, onto the EPD's website for public reference, so as to encourage suppliers to provide such products and services as far as possible. On the other hand, Hong Kong has been practising market economy and encouraging fair and open competition, with emphasis on citizens' right to

<sup>1</sup> Government departments with records on the weight of yard waste are included. Although the Housing Department has not kept data of yard waste for an extended period of time and thus is not included in the table above, it recycled about 26 tonnes of yard waste in 2017.

choose and affordability. Hence, the Government does not have any plan to introduce mandatory requirements for suppliers to apply the same standard to their products supplied to the market. At the same time, we will continue to step up publicity efforts to promote green procurement to various sectors of the community through organising experience sharing sessions, talks and forums, as well as distributing electronic promotional materials, etc. We will also encourage the commercial and industrial sectors to purchase and use recycled products and recyclables in their daily operations as far as possible.

- (ii) ***Has the Administration set indicators for the recovery rate and disposal rate of glass bottles respectively after implementation of the producer responsibility scheme (PRS) on glass bottles? What are the two indicators?***

The EPD is now actively undertaking the preparatory work for the PRS on Glass Beverage Containers for its full implementation targeted in 2018-19. In this connection, the Government has appointed suitable contractors through open tender to provide waste glass container collection and treatment services for the Hong Kong Island (including Islands district), Kowloon and the New Territories regions respectively. The contracts for Hong Kong Island and the New Territories were awarded and took effect in November 2017, while the contract for Kowloon was also awarded by the Government in April 2018. According to the relevant contracts, the contractors for the three regions are required to achieve the target of recovering a total of 15 000 tonnes of glass containers across the territory in the first contract year, and gradually raise the target to a total of 50 000 tonnes in the third year.

- (c) ***What are the details of the lists of restaurants and organisations which the Administration has contacted and advised to reduce the use or distribution of disposable tableware and containers to customers?***

The EPD holds talks for schools and provides them with practical guidelines and circulars, and advises lunch suppliers to use washable and reusable food containers instead of disposable ones. Under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, the EPD has also issued the Food Waste Reduction Good Practice Guide for Educational Sector, encouraging schools to, inter alia, facilitate students to bring and use reusable tableware, containers and water bottles, thereby reducing the use of disposable plastic food containers and tableware. The EPD has implemented the On-site Meal Portioning Funding (OMPF) Scheme since 2009, under which the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has earmarked \$150 million to subsidise schools to conduct basic conversion works and install facilities necessary for implementing on-site meal portioning on campus, thereby promoting the “food wise” culture, as well as reducing food waste and the use of disposable plastic food containers and tableware. So far, over 120 schools have been subsidised to run OMPF projects.


On the other hand, the EPD is committed to facilitating the general public and different sectors of the community to reduce the use of disposable food containers and plastic tableware. For example, the EPD engages the catering sector and writes to major restaurant chains and food sellers from time to time to encourage them to phase in green measures, such as providing dine-in customers with only reusable food containers and tableware, avoiding the use of styrofoam food containers for take-away food and welcoming customers to bring their own food containers for take-away food. Under the Sustainable Development Fund, the Government has also earlier supported the food and

beverage sector to formulate guidelines on green procurement by the trade, with the aim of encouraging various types of restaurants and eateries to practise green procurement, including the use of recyclable or plant-fibre tableware instead of disposable plastic ones to help reduce plastic pollution. Furthermore, under the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence and the Hong Kong Green Organisation Certification, the EPD appeals to food and beverage caterers to take measures to encourage customers not to ask for disposable tableware and food containers. The ECF also subsidises local non-profit-making organisations to run various projects to promote less use of disposable tableware and food containers in the community, thereby inspiring citizens and students to use reusable tableware and food containers.

The EPD and the Hong Kong Productivity Council organised a green procurement forum in March this year with over 300 attendees, covering various sectors such as the property management sector, the educational sector, the non-governmental organisations as well as the commercial and industrial sectors including the food and beverage sector, with a view to promoting waste reduction at source, avoidance of the use of disposable items including disposable stationery and containers, and the practice of green procurement, separation of waste and clean recycling among the attendees.

In December 2017, the EPD launched a Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers (Guidebook), which provides clear information and practical examples to assist event organisers and participants in achieving waste reduction at source. The Guidebook recommends, among other things, that the event organisers set up on-site water refilling stations at the event venues and encourage participants to bring their own bottles. We also encourage different sectors of the community to make reference to the Guidebook and implement the recommended measures therein as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,



(James Chan)

for Director of Environmental Protection

cc

asit@legco.gov.hk

dywlo@legco.gov.hk

rhyszeto@legco.gov.hk

fwoo@legco.gov.hk