

Letterhead of Environment and Food Bureau Government Secretariat

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19 June 2000

Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

(Fax: 2877 8024)

Dear Mrs Tong,

**Response to Greenpeace's Submission on
Developing Recycling Industries to Improve Employment opportunities**

I refer to your letter dated 26 May 2000 to the Secretary for Education and Manpower.

We note with interest Greenpeace's survey results and its views on improving employment opportunities through developing recycling industries. In fact, the general direction proposed in the paper ties in with our waste management strategy, which involves waste reduction, reuse recovery, recycling, and final disposal. For instance, over the past two years, we have placed over 9,000 bins in public and private housing estates and in public areas. We are continuing this effort and are considering a pilot scheme to install separation bins on each floor of a number of selected public housing estates. We are also considering providing more such facilities in public places.

In addition, publicity and public education programmes are introduced on an on-going basis in housing estates, private housing developments, schools and other institutions to encourage public participation in waste source separation and recycling.

According to the Census and Statistics Department, some 7,400 persons were employed in areas related to the waste recycling industry in 1999. We believe our efforts to further waste recovery and recycling will create more job opportunities.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 2136 3315.

Yours sincerely,

(Daniel Sin)
for Secretary for the Environment and Food

c.c. SEM (Attn: Miss Katherine Jue)
DEP (Attn: Dr Ellen Chan)

DS/lw