

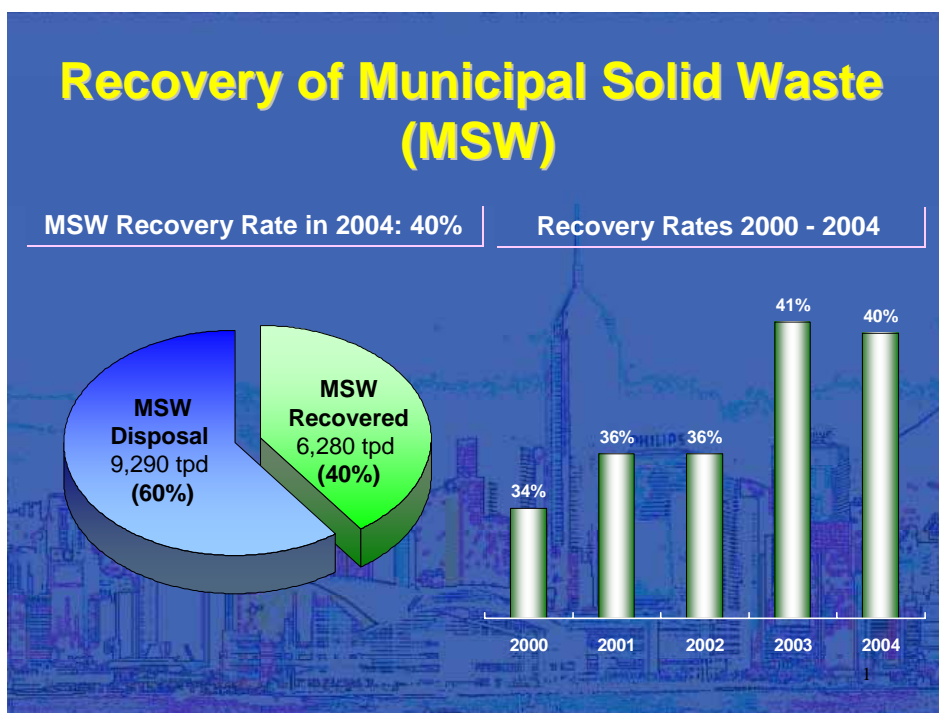
Recovery Rate of Municipal Solid Waste in 2004

The quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Hong Kong in 2004 totalled 5.7 million tonnes out of which 40% (i.e. 2.3 million tonnes) were recovered and recycled.

As show in Chart 1, the MSW recovery rate has been increasing in the past few years. The increase was particularly notable in 2003 with a 4% increase due to a significant rise in scrap metals recovery triggered by a very strong demand in Mainland China.

Although the surge in scrap metals recovery in 2003 subsided slightly in 2004, the demand for other recyclables especially paper and plastic increased in 2004 which helped to keep the overall recovery rate at about 40%.

Chart 1

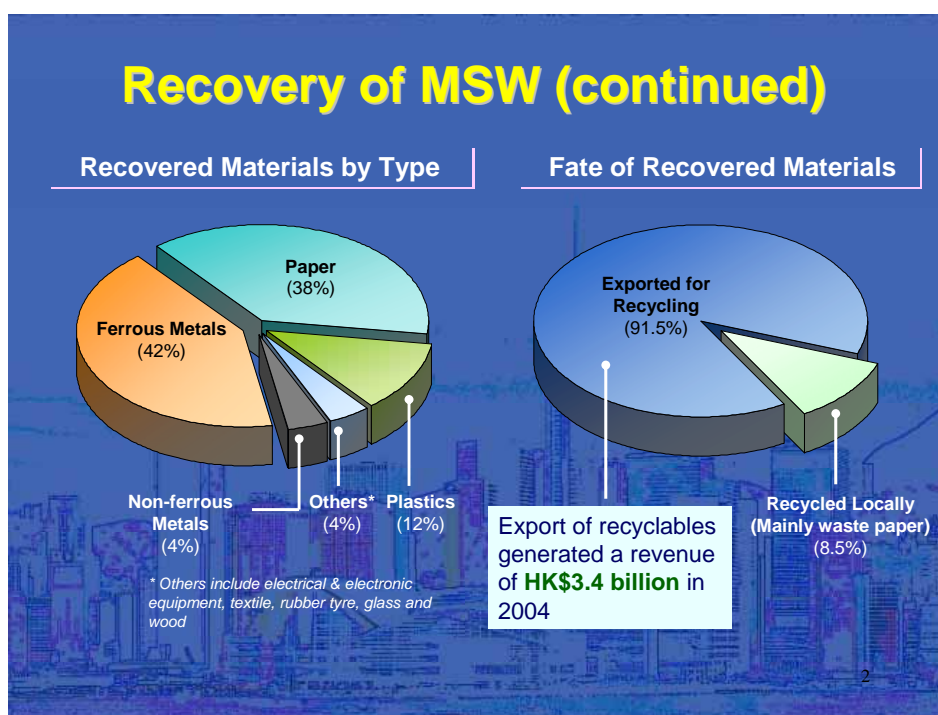


Out of the 2.3 million tonnes of recovered materials, ferrous metals and waste paper are the dominant types (42% and 38% respectively as shown in Chart 2). Together they make up 80% of the total recovered materials.

About 91% of the recovered materials were exported. The remaining 9% was mostly waste paper processed locally by two waste paper factories for making recycled paper products.

In 2004, the export value of recovered materials increased by 39% (from HK\$ 2.5 billion in 2003 to HK\$ 3.4 billion in 2004) because the values of ferrous metal and plastics increased markedly by 56% and 19% respectively.

Chart 2



The recovery rates of individual type of recyclable materials are shown in Table 1 and Table 2. The recovery rate for metals in general was the highest in both 2003 and 2004. This followed by electrical and electronic (E&E) goods (67%, due largely to the second hand market locally and overseas), rubber tyre (54%, because of a very high level of tyres retreading for heavy vehicles) and paper (52%). The most noticeable change in recovery rate was plastics which increased by 4% from 2003 to 2004.

Table I

Recovery Rate for Different Types of Recyclable Materials in 2003				
	Total Generation (Tonnes)	Disposal (Tonnes)	Recovery (Tonnes)	Recovery Rate
Paper	1,545,721	763,614	782,107	50.60%
Ferrous Metals	1,277,871	75,851	1,202,020	94.10%
Non-ferrous metals	96,851	17,312	79,539	82.10%
Plastics	778,104	571,513	206,591	26.60%
Textile/Clothes	106,861	80,639	26,222	24.50%
Glass	123,964	121,728	2,236	1.80%
Wood	159,549	134,638	24,911	15.60%
Rubber Tyre	35,197	14,965	20,232	57.50%
E&E	52,028	18,674	33,354	64.10%
Total	5,822,812	3,445,600*	2,377,212	41%

Table II

Recovery Rate for Different Types of Recyclable Materials in 2004^[1]				
	Total Generation (Tonnes)	Disposal (Tonnes)	Recovery (Tonnes)	Recovery Rate
Paper	1,700,787	817,341	883,446	51.94%
Ferrous Metals	1,010,072	54,211	955,861	94.63%
Non-ferrous metals	122,243	22,626	99,617	81.49%
Plastics	856,018	590,719	265,299	30.99%
Textile/Clothes	81,955	63,827	18,128	22.12%
Glass	125,100	123,300	1,800	1.44%
Wood	146,848	124,703	22,145	15.08%
Rubber Tyre	29,875	13,688	16,187	54.18%
E&E	55,777	18,433	37,344	66.95%
Total	5,699,928	3,400,100*	2,299,828	40%

[1]: Preliminary figures only

* The figure include all disposed waste