

本署檔號  
OUR REF.: EP124/R3/26  
來函檔號  
YOUR REF.:  
電話  
TEL NO.: 2872 1647  
圖文傳真  
FAX NO.: 2872 0389  
網址  
HOMEPAGE: <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

Environmental Protection Department  
Environmental Infrastructure Division

88 Victoria Road,  
Kennedy Town,  
Hong Kong.



CB(1) 659/09-10(01)

環境保護署  
環境基建科

香港西環  
堅尼地城  
域多利道88號

10 December 2009

LegCo Secretariat  
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs  
3/F, Citibank Tower  
Garden Road, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Becky YU)

Dear Ms YU,

**Update on the Progress of the Key Initiatives in the  
“Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”  
Follow-up Response to Panel Meeting on 27 April 2009**

At the Panel on Environmental Affairs meeting on 27 April 2009, the Administration was asked to provide more information on the recycling situation of recyclable materials recovered in Hong Kong.

2. We provide our response in the **Information Note A** attached.

Yours sincerely,

(W.Y. Wong)

for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

c.c. AD(WM), CEO(CBD)

**Supplementary Information on the Recycling Situation of Recyclable Materials  
Recovered in Hong Kong**

**Background**

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) presented an update on the progress of the key initiatives in the "Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" in LC Paper No. CB(1) 1357/08-09(03) for discussion at the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs (the Panel) at its meeting on 27 April 2009. During the discussion, the Administration undertook to provide more information on the recycling situation of recyclable materials recovered in Hong Kong.

**Quantities of Recovered Recyclable Materials**

2. According to export figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department and EPD's annual survey with local waste recyclers, the total amount of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) recovered in 2008 was about 3.14 million tonnes, representing an overall MSW recovery rate of 48%. Out of the 3.14 million tonnes, about 1% was recycled locally and 99% was exported, mostly to the Mainland, for recycling.

3. The recovered recyclable materials exported for recycling have generated an earning of around HK\$7.4 billion in 2008. Below is a summary table of the export quantities and the corresponding values of the major recyclable materials recovered for recycling:

**Export Quantities and Values of Recovered Recyclable Materials in 2008**

<b>Recyclable Material Type</b>	<b>Export Quantity (thousand tonnes)</b>	<b>Export Value (\$ million)</b>
Paper	1,091	1,550
Plastics	1,021	2,510
Ferrous Metals	793	2,341
Non-ferrous Metals	140	990
Others	73	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>7,435</b>

Remark: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding off.

## **Waste Recovery and Recycling Practices**

4. In Hong Kong, recyclable waste materials recovered through various means (e.g. Source Separation of Waste Programmes at domestic and commercial buildings, industrial practices, scavengers, etc.) are collected by recyclable collectors at prevailing market prices. The recovered recyclable waste materials go through a series of preliminary processes (e.g. sorting and baling) before being sold to local recyclers or recyclable materials exporters who deliver the recovered materials such as baled waste paper and plastics to suitable buyers, mostly on the Mainland, for recycling.

5. Since the recyclers have to put in a substantial amount of cost in the collection and export of recovered recyclables, they have no reason to dispose of the recyclable materials once collected or bought. According to the information provided by local recycling trade associations and exporters, the downstream operators, mostly in the Pearl River Delta, will eventually turn the collected recyclable materials into useful products such as recycled paper, plastic trays and metal reinforcement bars.

**Environmental Protection Department**

**December 2009**