

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Promoting the waste recycling industries”
moved by Hon Vincent FANG Kang
at the Legislative Council meeting commencing
on Wednesday, 24 November 2010**

**Motion as amended by Hon IP Wai-ming, Hon KAM Nai-wai,
Hon Tanya CHAN, Hon CHAN Hak-kan and Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung**

That, although the recovery rate of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong has risen to 49%, over 90% of the recyclable waste currently recovered is exported to other countries or places for recycling, and owing to developed countries' gradual tightening of their policies on waste import, the number of countries permitting waste import will decrease in the future; in order to resolve the problem of waste accumulation in Hong Kong in the long run, it is of utmost importance to extend the categories and proportion of recyclable waste recovery and expedite the development of Hong Kong's environmental and recycling industries; in this connection, this Council proposes that:

- (a) the various policies and measures put forward in 'A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)' should be expeditiously fulfilled and implemented, so as to achieve the various targets proposed in the Policy Framework by 2014;
- (b) the Government should conceive an overall waste policy on the 3R concept (i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle), so as to formulate a follow-through policy on reducing, recovering and recycling waste, implementing and promoting it in a well-planned manner, with a view to resolving the problem of waste accumulation in Hong Kong, encouraging the development of environment-related new industries, promoting a 'circular economy' capable of sustainable development and creating more employment opportunities;
- (c) since waste recycling industries require considerable investments but yield relatively low returns, the Government should therefore, by making reference to the policies of developed countries on promoting environmental and waste recycling industries, and having regard to the requirements and uniqueness of different recyclable products, formulate various preferential policies for developing local recycling industries, including providing land and tax concessions, technology and operational support, etc., so as to encourage the commercial sector to invest in waste recovery and recycling industries;

- (d) while broadening the scope of product eco-responsibility, present efforts in recovering recyclable waste should be extended, including implementing non-punitive measures to encourage members of the public to increase their awareness of waste recovery and expanding community waste recovery networks, and a more extensive use of various green products by society should be encouraged;
- (e) while developing recycling industries, the Government must also assist the industries concerned in integrating into the communities, and through various support measures ranging from community planning, improving recovery venue designs, improving transport networks to environmental hygiene, etc., enable recycling industries to have the acceptance and support of residents, thereby expanding community waste recovery networks; and
- (f) prohibition orders on landfill disposal should be made, and the separation and recovery of solid waste should be promoted, so as to reduce the disposal of recyclable materials at landfills, increase the volumes of waste recovery and prolong the lifespan of landfills; at the same time, for those landfills that are near the residential areas and close to saturation, timetables for their closure should be drawn up, so as to avoid the authorities lessening their efforts to develop recycling industries and related measures due to the reliance on landfills expansion to tackle the problem of solid waste;
- (g) producer responsibility should be promoted, and producer responsibility schemes for waste electrical and electronic products should be expeditiously implemented; and under the 'polluter pays' principle, the Government should actively study various financial means, such as the provision of financial incentives or the imposition of levies, etc., to encourage and motivate the public to more proactively practise waste reduction at source, waste separation and recycling in their daily life;
- (h) studies should be conducted on the establishment of a licensing system for waste recovery operators and the allocation of space in some existing refuse collection points for use by waste recovery operators, so as to reduce nuisance to local communities;
- (i) studies should be actively conducted on the designation of test points in various districts and the provision of land and financial incentives to people and organizations of local communities and social enterprises, so as to encourage residents in various districts to participate in the development of waste recovery and recycling industries;
- (j) the development of the EcoPark should be expedited to provide waste recovery and recycling operators with supporting infrastructure facilities, so as to attract more interested operators to participate; and

- (k) the relevant publicity and public education work should be strengthened to increase the public awareness and understanding of the advantages and importance of waste reduction at source and the recovery, separation and recycling of waste;
- (l) the Government should allocate the proceeds from implementing the producer responsibility system to establish a special fund to support the development of the recycling industry and other environmental industries on a 'dedicated-fund-for-dedicated-use' basis;
- (m) studies should be conducted on the establishment of a certification system for manufacturers of environmental products to ensure that the raw materials and manufacturing procedures of the products concerned meet certain environmental standards, with a view to enhancing the recognition of environmental products, and the Government should consider taking the lead to fully use environmental products that meet certain environmental standards; and
- (n) the Government should review its existing policy on the provision of recycling bins, including providing recycling bins in all government buildings, hospitals and schools, and it should also consider installing a greater number of rubbish bins equipped with recycling bins to replace the existing ones on the street, so as to enhance the efficiency of waste recovery and separation;
- (o) a system of green products certification and labelling should be formulated; and
- (p) since 40% of the municipal solid waste at present is perishable waste such as food waste, the Government should devise an effective mechanism for the massive recovery of food waste, construct additional food waste recycling facilities, and encourage private organizations to engage in the food waste recovery and recycling industry; and
- (q) the Government should assist small and medium enterprises in applying for various types of environmental certification, so as to facilitate the development of environmental industries.