

**Council meeting of 10 July 2013**  
**Motion on**  
**“Promoting the waste recycling industry**  
**to create employment opportunities”**

**Progress Report**

**Purpose**

At its meeting on 10 July 2013, the Legislative Council carried the motion on “Promoting the waste recycling industry to create employment opportunities” moved by Hon KWOK Wai-keung as amended by Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN, Hon Gary FAN and Hon WU Chi-wai (see **Annex**). This paper reports on the Government’s position and recent actions in relation to the motion.

**Steering Committee to Promote the Sustainable Development of the Recycling Industry**

2. Towards achieving further reductions in the local waste disposal rate as set out in the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022", the Government has established the Steering Committee to Promote the Sustainable Development of the Recycling Industry (the Steering Committee) in August 2013. Chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, the Steering Committee aims to step up concerted efforts in reducing waste at source and promoting the development of the recycling industry.

3. Since the operation of the recycling industry involves different areas of work, collaboration of relevant bureaux and departments is essential. Other than the Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department which is responsible for overseeing the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" and providing secretarial support to the work of the Steering Committee, members of the Steering Committee comprise representatives from seven other bureaux including the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Education Bureau, the Development Bureau, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Food and Health Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Transport and Housing Bureau, as well as the Home Affairs Department and the Information Services Department which are responsible for district collaboration and promotion and publicity respectively.

4. The Steering Committee's terms of reference include reviewing the current local situation of collection and disposal of recyclables and the related policies and support measures, as well as identifying proactive approaches to facilitate development of the recycling industry, including exploring the setting up of a "Recycling Fund" and its mode of operation, and improving the network of community collection points. In addition, the Steering Committee will explore means to foster community support in recycling through public education and community involvement projects, and promote technological research and training and development of the workforce.

5. The Steering Committee convened its first meeting in August 2013, at which the current situation of Hong Kong's recycling operation and support measures by the Government were reviewed. The Steering Committee also reviewed the difficulties faced by the recycling trade. Engagement with the trade and relevant stakeholders will be conducted in the coming months to gauge their views on how to promote and support the recycling industry in Hong Kong.

**Environment Bureau**  
**September 2013**

**Motion on  
“Promoting the waste recycling industry  
to create employment opportunities”  
moved by KWOK Wai-keung  
at the Council meeting of 10 July 2013**

**Motion as amended by Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN,  
Hon Gary FAN and Hon WU Chi-wai**

That the SAR Government already published the ‘Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)’ in 2005, formulating the strategies and measures for reducing waste production and promoting waste recovery, reuse and recycling; at present, the waste recovery rate in Hong Kong is about 48%, but when compared with the neighbouring regions such as South Korea, the recovery rate of which is 60%, the effectiveness of waste management in Hong Kong obviously lags behind other advanced countries; in May 2013, the Government published the ‘Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022’, setting clear targets and timetables for waste recovery and reduction, but the relevant measures are ‘old wine in a new bottle’, lacking concrete plans for promoting the development of the waste recycling industry in Hong Kong; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to expeditiously put in place effective policies on waste recovery and recycling to drive the development of Hong Kong’s waste recycling industry and create more employment opportunities; the relevant measures should include:

- (1) by making reference to the experiences of places such as Taiwan and South Korea, to formulate more effective waste management strategies and measures;
- (2) to expeditiously implement mandatory food waste recovery, provide land and related support, and train talents for processing recovered food waste, so that the food waste, which represents 40% of the wasteload in landfills, can be properly recovered and recycled;
- (3) to encourage the industrial and commercial sectors (e.g. supermarkets) to donate foods that are still eatable, so as to reduce food waste;
- (4) to gradually implement a mandatory garbage separation programme, make good use of community spaces to set up waste collection points, and perfect the community waste recovery networks, so as to facilitate the

conduct of the first-round waste recovery separation at the community level;

- (5) to provide waste recovery operators with land and berthing facilities with suitable lease periods, so as to promote the development of the waste recovery industry; to ensure the proper handling of recovered waste, the Government should proactively study the feasibility of establishing a licensing system for waste recovery operators in the long run;
- (6) in order to put in place the producer responsibility scheme, to offer financial incentives to support the industry's construction of modern recycling facilities for stepping up the recovery and recycling of waste requiring higher processing costs and technologies, such as glass bottles as well as waste electrical and electronic equipment;
- (7) to provide tax and land concessions, etc. to attract waste recycling enterprises to develop business in Hong Kong;
- (8) to allocate additional resources to support technological research projects on green products, so as to create diversified green products and develop a global market for green products;
- (9) to encourage various government departments to comprehensively implement a green procurement policy, and extend the relevant policy to the industrial and commercial sectors, so as to provide a stable demand for local green products;
- (10) to allocate funding to establish a 'waste resources recovery and recycling fund' for supporting the sustainable development of the waste recycling industry, and to transfer the levies related to environmental protection policies (e.g. levies from schemes on municipal solid waste charging and producer responsibility, etc.) to the fund for its sustainable operation;
- (11) to set up a 'centre for industrialization and development of environmental protection technologies' to support the development of environmental protection technologies, vet new technologies, and promote technology transfer and co-operation; and
- (12) to support the industry's non-local sale of local green products and technologies for promoting a 'regional circular economy', and enhance the co-operation with the Mainland in the areas of waste recovery, handling and recycling, etc.;

- (13) to organize community waste reduction and recovery programmes in the 18 districts, formulate waste reduction and recovery indicators for various districts, and set up a waste reduction promotion group to audit the volumes of community waste reduction and recovery, conduct planning for district waste recovery and reduction facilities, and plan and carry out waste reduction and recovery work in communities; and
- (14) to install more waste separation bins in various public premises and streets, and set an appropriate ratio of the number of waste separation bins to the number of rubbish bins;
- (15) to encourage the industry to increase the recycling and reuse of construction waste, so as to reduce the amount of construction waste at landfills; and
- (16) to research on regulating ‘excessive packaging’ of goods to encourage simple goods packaging;
- (17) to set up food waste recovery centres in the 18 districts of Hong Kong for handling food waste produced in the districts, so as to manifest the principle of all people bearing the responsibility for waste handling;
- (18) through establishing community canteens in the 18 districts of Hong Kong for receiving foods that are still eatable (including food materials), to provide needy people with inexpensive food, so as to reduce food waste and alleviate the pressure on landfills;
- (19) to establish a government-funded body corporate for operating the waste recycling industry on its own, so as to reduce the existing reliance on overseas markets for absorbing recovered waste, and ensure the long-term operation of the relevant business; and
- (20) by making reference to the practices under the New Producer Responsibility Scheme on Glass Beverage Bottles, to provide market values for recyclable waste with low market values (e.g. plastics), so as to promote source separation of waste and foster the development of the waste recycling industry.