

**For discussion on  
26 October 2015**

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PANAL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Community Green Stations:  
Progress of Implementation**

**PURPOSE**

The Government is progressively developing Community Green Stations (“CGSs”) and the first two projects have been commissioned in Sha Tin and Eastern District, known as Sha Tin CGS and Eastern CGS respectively. This paper seeks to introduce this initiative.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In 2013, the Environment Bureau revealed a plan to develop in Hong Kong, on a pilot basis, a total of five CGSs which would be operated by non-profit organisations (“NPOs”) with government funding to enhance environmental education and assist local communities in the collection of various recyclables, thereby enabling green living to take root at the community level. The Chief Executive further announced in the 2014 Policy Address that the initiative would be expanded to cover all 18 districts. Subsequently, based on the feedback from stakeholders, we have rebranded the initiative as “綠在區區” in Chinese (from “社區環保站”) to reflect the project objectives, i.e. apart from inculcating in the community a living habit that reduces waste, the facility would also be built as a green building with innovative design and appropriate greening.

Main Functions

3. At present, private recyclers mainly collect recyclables of higher commercial value. Separately, some NPOs are collecting from the community various low-value recyclables (such as electrical appliances, compact fluorescent lamps (“CFLs”), fluorescent tubes, glass bottles and rechargeable batteries). Some of these programmes are spearheaded by the relevant trades, while the rest are funded by the Government’s Environment and Conservation Fund (“ECF”) or other charitable organisations. Although these recycling services can largely meet the demand in the community, further development of such services will require enhanced publicity and public education, which is on the one hand is to boost the public’s participation in waste reduction and recycling so that the quantity of

recyclables recovered can be increased, and on the other hand to facilitate the “clean recycling” concept to take root among the people so that the quality of the recyclables and hence their value can be enhanced.

4. The main function of CGSs is to promote environmental education with various publicity and public education programmes that target at local residents of different status and background. Organised either on-site or outside the CGS facility, these programmes aim to instill a green living culture into the community from different perspectives, particularly waste reduction and recycling. Moreover, CGSs also provide support to waste reduction and recycling programmes at the community level, including collaboration with different stakeholders to collect recyclables and enhance the community collection network. Such collaboration may allow members of the public to get involved in waste reduction and recycling in person and help implement other source separation initiatives.

5. The Environmental Protection Department appoints NPOs to operate the CGS projects by way of open tender. Leveraging on the NPO operators’ experience in serving the local community, the CGSs will promote environmental education and co-ordinate recycling initiatives in collaboration with schools, property management companies and other relevant stakeholders or institutions within their respective catchment.

## **RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

6. On hardware, the Government will provide each CGS a purpose-built facility. In general, a suitable CGS site should have a site area of no less than 1 500 square metres and should as far as practicable be conveniently located so as to facilitate visits by local residents. It is our aim that every CGS should be built as a green building with innovative design and appropriate greening. With reference to the successful experience of the Energizing Kowloon East Office Temporary Office Project, we plan to build the CGSs in the form of temporary building structures with the extensive use of modules made from cargo containers. Simple design of an innovative and greening nature will be adopted. Depending on the actual site conditions, we will strive to incorporate green features into the CGS sites and plant trees there. Also, other green facilities will be adopted to create a comfortable activity space for the public to experience the aesthetics of green environment in the CGSs. To meet operational needs, each CGS will have space for temporary storage of recyclable materials and simple operations, but no dismantling or other nuisance-prone waste disposal processes will be undertaken on site. Taking into account actual needs and other site conditions, space will also be designated for the parking of collection vehicles for loading/unloading of recyclable materials. When carrying out detailed design, we will give due consideration to the pedestrian flow and traffic flow in the vicinity and make complementary arrangements in respect of its pedestrian and vehicular access, as well as the pavements in its neighbourhood. In addition to office space, the CGSs

will have multi-purpose rooms and other ancillary facilities for outdoor activities for the purpose of environmental education.

7. On software, we will engage NPOs via open tender to operate the projects, where the specific operating cost involved will be subject to the financial proposals submitted by individual operators in their tender submissions. Among other things, the CGS projects will focus on promoting the concept of “clean recycling”. Operators will educate the public through various activities (e.g. exhibitions, talks and workshops etc.) on what can be recycled and how to properly handle individual types of materials (e.g. simple cleansing and appropriate sorting). Over time this will help address the problem of contamination and enhance the quality of the recyclables recovered as well as their value. Looking ahead, the Government is actively preparing for quantity-based municipal solid waste (“MSW”) charging. Through the publicity and public education activities of the CGS projects, we hope members of the public may bring home the messages of “Use Less, Waste Less” and “Waste Less, Pay Less” so that we may maximize the impact of MSW charging in waste reduction.

## **PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

8. At present, Sha Tin CGS and Eastern CGS have been commissioned. In addition, we have also identified the sites for another 11 CGS projects, of which three are under construction and eight are at different planning stages. As for the remaining five CGS projects, we will continue with the site search and will further consult the relevant District Councils (“DCs”) as soon as we are in a position to do so. For the two CGSs now in operation, their progress of implementation is summarised as follows:

- (a) Both Sha Tin CGS and Eastern CGS are green buildings and their designs are highly acclaimed: the former was awarded the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Annual Awards President’s Prize 2014, whereas the latter was awarded the Merit Awards of Green Building Award 2014. Green features innovative design can help attracting people to visit the CGSs and participate in the activities organised herein.
- (b) Besides, the two CGSs continue to expand their network of partners among the housing estates and organisations within their districts. Quantity of the recyclables collected through various channels has been on the increase. Up to the third quarter this year, Sha Tin CGS has set up 126 collection points and a total of 36.6 tonnes of recyclables have been received (including those sent to the CGS direct by the public or collected through other outreach activities). As for Eastern CGS, it just commenced operation in the third quarter this year and various support services are being rolled out

progressively. For more details, please refer to Annex A.

- (c) On environmental education, Sha Tin CGS was officially opened on 12 May 2015 and 4 150 visitors were received in the third quarter this year. Eastern CGS was officially opened on 3 August 2015 and 6 189 visitors have been received so far. Initially, the environmental education activities organised by the two CGSs include guided tours, talks, interest classes and workshops on various environmental topics. Subject to the operational experience gained and views collected, the content and approaches of the activities will be reviewed and adjusted from time to time. For more details, please refer to Annex B.
- (d) In addition to regular services, ad hoc support services are also provided by Sha Tin CGS to meet demands in the community. An example is the support given to a student group of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in June this year for collecting useful articles discarded by students before they left their hostels for the summer vacation and arranging their proper recycling or donation. Moreover, Sha Tin CGS also took part in the short-term vocational exposure programmes run by the Sha Tin District Office during the summer. Under these programmes, Sha Tin CGS hosted local secondary students who were engaged in the daily operation of the CGS thus offering them first-hand experience in green efforts at the district level. These activities may be organised again or expanded in future. With the commissioning of Eastern CGS in September this year, similar support services will be provided where necessary.

9. On the whole, implementation of CGSs as a brand new initiative is considered fairly satisfactory. However, we note that in providing environmental education services, Sha Tin CGS is faced with challenges in boosting visitor attendance due to accessibility reasons. This is evident in the higher attendance at Eastern CGS. From a planning perspective, it is difficult to identify sites in densely populated areas that have high pedestrian flow but no other uses. Efforts have been made to identify a suitable site with high accessibility as far as possible to avoid setting up the CGS in remote area of the district, thereby facilitating visits by local residents. In addition, CGS operators have the necessary resources for hiring collection vehicles to pick up recyclables within their respective districts to enhance recycling at the community level. Nevertheless, as venue accessibility will have a direct impact on public participation in environmental education activities, we will work with the operators to step up publicity and promotion efforts. We will strive to organise activities that correspond to the community's demands thus achieving a place-making effect.

## Interface with Other Waste Reduction Policies

10. Based on the recommendations of the Council for Sustainable Development, the Government is actively preparing the legislations and supporting measures for quantity-based MSW charging in Hong Kong to promote waste reduction and recycling. The initiative will have direct impact on over 2.2 million domestic households, a wide range of different commercial and industrial establishments, and other institutions or community service units throughout the territory. Through their public education activities, the CGS will introduce the concept and implementation proposals for MSW charging and organise appropriate activities to educate and promote waste reduction in the community with a view to achieving “Waste Less, Pay Less”. All environmental education activities to be launched under each CGS project will be fine-tuned to tie in with the implementation of this initiative.

11. On the other hand, we are progressively rolling out the Producer Responsibility Scheme (“PRS”) as a complementary measure to enhance waste recycling. The CGSs will support the collection of recyclables of lower value including waste electrical and electronic equipment (“WEEE”) and glass beverage bottles. The progress of implementation of the mandatory PRS is as follows:

- (a) ***PRS for WEEE:*** Under the Bill submitted to the Legislative Council (“LegCo”), sellers of regulated electrical equipment shall arrange for consumers free removal services by which the old items will be delivered to appropriate recyclers. As we have explained to the Bills Committee, in cases where members of the public are not eligible for the said removal services, there will be other channels for them to arrange for proper recycling, including the collection services under the CGS initiative.
- (b) ***PRS for glass beverage bottles:*** We plan to hire up to three glass management contractors (“GMCs”) for the collection and processing of glass beverage bottles. A GMC will be required by contract to co-ordinate with the CGSs within its responsible catchment region to manage the glass container collection services provided to residential buildings/estates in the catchment region. Meanwhile, the CGSs will support our efforts by stepping up publicity and public education so as to better facilitate the public to put the “clean recycling” concept into practice.

## Need-based Support Services

12. Through the CGS project, we can supplement the deficiency in the current recyclable collection service and at the same time, we do not wish to create unhealthy competition. When there is a need to supplement existing services provided by private recyclers, the CGSs may launch relevant support services for

say “three-colour” recyclables, used books or textile in addition to WEEE, CFLs, fluorescent tubes, glass bottles and rechargeable batteries etc. We note that certain private recyclers have indicated that some of their existing services are not commercially viable as a result of recent price fluctuations for recyclables and such services may be scaled down. We will take necessary follow-up action and explore the feasibility of expanding the CGS services, where practicable, to support collection of other recyclables such as waste plastics.

## **WAY FORWARD**

13. Apart from Sha Tin and the Eastern District, we are also progressively developing CGSs in other districts. The relevant DCs have already been consulted on the sites identified for 11 CGS projects, namely those in Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tai Po, Sai Kung, Tuen Mun, Wan Chai, Islands and Wong Tai Sin. Among these, construction of the CGSs in Kwun Tong, Yuen Long and Sham Shui Po is underway, while the other projects are at different planning stages and are expected to be completed for commissioning in 2016 or within two to three years thereafter. Consultation and site selection for the remaining five CGS projects will continue. Please refer to [Annex C](#) for details.

**Environmental Protection Department**  
**October 2015**

**Annex A****Operational Data of Sha Tin CGS and Eastern CGS  
(Third Quarter of 2015)**

		<b>Sha Tin CGS</b>	<b>Eastern CGS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Setting up of Collection Points</b>		
1.1	Residential collection points	109	59
1.2	Coverage rate in residential area	86%	36%
1.3	Organisation collection points	17	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Services to be supported by the Collection Points</b>		
2.1	Collection of electrical appliances	79	44
2.2	Collection of computer products	79	1
2.3	Collection of glass bottles	71	28
2.4	Collection of CFLs/fluorescent tubes	34	31
2.5	Collection of rechargeable batteries	34	30
<b>3</b>	<b>Operation of Collection Trucks</b>		
3.1	Number of trips	48	15
3.2	Total number of operating hours	401 hours	84 hours
<b>4</b>	<b>Quantity Collected</b>		
4.1	Electrical appliances	6 462 kg	658 kg
4.2	Computer products	3 973 kg	713 kg
4.3	Glass bottles	24 892 kg	5 720 kg
4.4	CFLs/fluorescent tubes	347 kg	5 kg
4.5	Rechargeable batteries	66 kg	6 kg
4.6	Used books	179 kg	--
4.7	Used clothing	406 kg	--
4.8	Waste paper	111 kg	--
4.9	Waste plastics	119 kg	--
4.10	Waste metal	4 kg	--

**Views collected concerning the development of the  
Community Green Stations (CGSs)**

1. There are views that we should make good use of the CGS facilities and that appropriate activities should be arranged to allow the public to get involved in waste reduction and recycling processes in person, thereby raising their understanding in source separation and clean recycling. Therefore, suitable workshops have been developed progressively and held in the two CGSs. For example, Eastern CGS has run activities to teach the public how to make use of simple tools to convert daily-generated waste plastic bottles and glass bottles into useful articles such as vases and lamps. During these activities, instructors will brief participants on the issues of waste management, channels for waste separation and steps for clean recycling, etc. in relation to the materials concerned.
2. There are views that in line with the waste management hierarchy, we should step up publicity on the reuse and avoidance of waste. We are following up the suggestions and will hold an activity for the exchange of second-hand articles on 25 October 2015 at Sha Tin CGS. In collaboration with the CGS operator, we will review the effectiveness of the activity to explore how it can be held on a regular basis (such as on a weekend in each month). In this way, the public will be provided with a specific outlet for the reuse of surplus items, which will not be disposed of at will, and those who are willing to use second-hand articles can easily look for and buy the ones they need.
3. There are also views that we should suitably co-operate with various environment-related sectors to help boost their development by enhancing publicity through the CGSs. Sectors specifically proposed include: local farmers' markets for the promotion of low-carbon food and the "food-wise" culture; eco-friendly social enterprises for the promotion of green consumer products and sales of second-hand goods; and green product fairs for the promotion of green procurement. At this stage, we are exploring with individual non-profit-making social enterprises for possible co-operation, and will collaborate with the business sector at a later stage after gaining more experience.
4. Observations show that activities infused with parent-child and upcycling elements are well-received by the public. The CGS operators will accommodate the demand as appropriate when planning their activities. Meanwhile, we have attached great importance to supporting schools to enhance environmental education at school. We will join the CGS operators to brief the education sector on new services available at the CGSs. The operators will also formulate relevant educational programmes to cater for the sector's needs.



## Annex C

### **CGSs: Latest Progress and Implementation Timetable**

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Latest Progress and Implementation Timetable</b>
1.	Sha Tin CGS	Junction of On Ping Street and On Sum Street, Shek Mun	Construction works have been completed and the CGS was commissioned in May this year.
2.	Eastern CGS	Between Oi Shun Road and Hing Man Street, Shau Kei Wan, underneath the Island Eastern Corridor	Construction works have been completed and the CGS was commissioned in September this year.
3.	Kwun Tong CGS	Junction of Sheung Yee Road and Kai Fuk Road, Kowloon Bay	Construction works have been commenced and we are preparing the tendering exercise for appointment of an operator. It is initially estimated that service will progressively be rolled out starting from the first half of next year.
4.	Yuen Long CGS	Junction of Wetland Park Road and Tin Wah Road	
5.	Sham Shui Po CGS	Between Yen Chow Street and Tonkin Street, underneath the West Kowloon Corridor	
6.	Kwai Tsing CGS	Tam Kon Shan Road, near Tsing Yi Northeast Park	
7.	Tuen Mun CGS	Tuen Yee Street	Sites have been confirmed. Planning and design work are being conducted progressively.
8.	Sai Kung CGS	Po Lam Lane, near Po Hong Road and Po Lam Road North, Tseung Kwan O	
9.	Tai Po CGS	Between Ting Kok Road and Dai Wah Street	
10.	Tsuen Wan CGS	Hoi Shing Road, near Hoi Kok Street	
11.	Islands CGS	Between Yu Tung Road and Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung	
12.	Wong Tai Sin CGS	Between Yuk Wah Street and Po Leung Lane, Tsz Wan Shan	

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Latest Progress and Implementation Timetable</b>
13.	Wan Chai CGS	Junction of Wan Shing Street and Hung Hing Road	
14.	Kowloon City CGS, Southern CGS and Yau Tsim Mong CGS	Site to be confirmed	District Councils were consulted on the potential sites and their views are being followed up.
15.	Central and Western CGS and Northern CGS	Site to be confirmed	Site search is still in progress.