

本署檔案
OUR REF: EP60/L1/09 Annex 04
來函檔案
YOUR REF:
電話
TEL. NO.: 3509 8625
圖文傳真
FAX NO.: 2511 3658
電子郵件
E-MAIL:
網址
HOMEPAGE: <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

Environmental Protection Department
Headquarters
15/F, East Wing,
Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

CB(1)1172/15-16(02)



環境保護署總部
香港添馬
添美道二號
政府總部東翼
十五樓

19 August 2016

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms. Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. SHEK,

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Follow-up Action for Meeting on 27 June 2016

We refer to the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 27 June 2016.

In the meeting, the Government was requested to provide information on

- (a) the number of prosecutions instituted in the past five years against (i) illegally-imported electronic waste and (ii) environmental offences at recycling yards, together with the number of persons convicted and penalties imposed in such cases;
- (b) the latest recovery rate of waste plastics in Hong Kong; and
- (c) the latest situation of the movements of imported plastic recyclables in Hong Kong, to be illustrated with the volumes imported, exported/re-exported and disposed of at landfills

Please find enclosed our responses for members' information.

Yours faithfully,

(David WONG)

for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

c.c. (Internal)
CEO(CBD)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Responses on (a) prosecution figures; (b) latest recovery rate of waste plastics;
and (c) latest situation of movements of plastic recyclables in Hong Kong**

During the discussion on the “Import/Export controls on recyclables” at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 27 June 2016, Members requested the Government to provide the following information to the Panel:

- (a) the number of prosecutions instituted in the past five years against (i) illegally-imported electronic waste and (ii) environmental offences at recycling yards, together with the number of persons convicted and penalties imposed in such cases;
- (b) the latest recovery rate of waste plastics in Hong Kong; and
- (c) the latest situation of the movements of imported plastic recyclables in Hong Kong, to be illustrated with the volumes imported, exported/re-exported and disposed of at landfills.

2. The responses of the Government are provided below:

- (a) In the past five years, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) completed prosecutions of 99 cases of illegally-imported hazardous electronic waste, of which 70 offenders were convicted with a total fine of \$2 million. Regarding the environmental offences at recycling yards, EPD completed 16 prosecution cases, of which 7 offenders were convicted at a total fine of \$150,000.

- (b) Recovery Rates of Waste Plastics (Percent)

Year ¹	Recovery Rate (%)
2012	32.2
2013	26.3
2014	11.8

¹ Figure for 2015 not yet available.

A number of factors have contributed to the fluctuations in local recovery rate of waste plastics, including a persistently weak demand for raw plastic materials by the manufacturing sector in the Mainland, stricter control imposed by the Mainland authorities on import of plastic recyclables, and continuing decline in crude oil feedstock prices since 2014 which leads to a corresponding decline in the market value of plastic recyclables.

(c) Movement of Imported Plastic Recyclables²

Unit: Thousand tonnes

Year	Import of plastic recyclables	Domestic export of plastic recyclables	Re-export of plastic recyclables	Total export of plastic recyclables³
2012	3,200	308	2,929	3,237
2013	2,506	191	2,223	2,414
2014	3,078	83	2,965	3,048
2015	2,861	90	2,734	2,824

As seen above, the respective quantities of imports and re-exports were broadly balanced, indicating that most of the imported plastic recyclables had been re-exported in the past few years. As regards the small quantities of imported recyclables in excess of re-exports, the local recycling industry should be capable of consuming them for the production of raw materials with recycled plastics or recycled products for either local consumption or export (as domestic export).

Pursuant to the Waste Disposal Ordinance, disposal of imported recyclables at local landfills is strictly prohibited. The EPD has been vigilantly monitoring and inspecting waste delivered to landfills and refuse transfer stations for this purpose. In addition, the EPD and the Customs and Excise Department conduct random check on imported recyclables on a risk-based approach. This dual arrangement aims to monitor and prevent illegal disposal of imported recyclables at local landfills.

² The import and export figures are compiled based on external trade statistics released by the Census and Statistics Department. Such statistics are based on the customs declarations of the importers and exporters. The declaration information so collected was mainly used for statistical purposes, and given such returns by importers/exporters might involve changes in the shipment contents and/or changes in the cargo descriptions, the annual figures on the returns from imports and exports of recyclables could only provide the indicative trade volume levels.

³ Sum of domestic exports and re-exports.

Waste plastics disposed of at landfills

Separately, according to the annual Waste Composition Survey conducted by the EPD at waste management facilities, the quantities of waste plastics being disposed of at landfills in years 2012, 2013 and 2014 were 668,000 tonnes, 681,000 tonnes and 736,000 tonnes respectively. The increasing trend reflects the fluctuations in local recycling business of waste plastics having regard to the global and regional economic situation. More details are set out in part (b) above.

**Environmental Protection Department
August 2016**