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環境保護署總部

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4 July 2019

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attention: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. Shek,

Administration's Response to the Letter from Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT

I refer to your letter dated 11 June 2019 enclosing a letter from Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT dated 6 June 2019, with regard to support rendered to the recycling trade in Hong Kong. Our response is attached for your reference and action please.

Yours faithfully,

(Calvin LAU)

for Director of Environmental Protection

Enclosure – Administration's response

政府回覆

「要求儘快改善回收業界面對的困境」

香港回收物料的價格主要受國際市場的需求及鄰近地區進口回收物料的政策所影響。政府一直有留意回收物料市場的最新情況，並且與回收業界保持緊密聯繫。環境局/環境保護署（環保署）在最近一次（即 2019 年 6 月初）與本地廢紙回收業界代表會面時，曾向他們了解最新情況並聽取意見。近日，我們從本地廢紙回收業界代表得悉，他們已跟內地造紙企業落實 7 月份的廢紙出口訂單，廢紙最終的採購價格與上半年的平均價格比較有少許回落（至約每公噸\$700 至\$800 元），跟國際市價相若。

「回收基金」一直有推出不同的利便措施，協助回收業界提升生產力及競爭力。回收基金已預留 5 000 萬元，協助業界以簡化的程序購置設備，包括提升業界處理廢紙的能力和水平，每項申請資助上限最高可達 100 萬元。回收基金亦已另外預留 5 000 萬元，推出鼓勵回收商採用回收壓縮車的計劃，提升本港業界運輸廢紙的運作效率，減輕收集和運輸回收物料的成本。

另外，回收基金最近完成中期檢討，並率先於 2019 年 1 月推出首階段的優化措施，包括推出全新租金資助計劃、擴闊租金開支的資助範圍、增加首期撥款資助金額，同時簡化申請程序，以加強對回收業界的 support，協助其應對市場的轉變和挑戰，並已陸續收到廢紙回收商的申請。我們亦將盡快推出進一步的優化措施，包括延長項目年期和提高每家企業在「企業資助計劃」下可累積獲批項目的宗數及資助金額上限等。環保署和回收基金諮詢委員會繼續致力優化回收基金的運作，務求更能配合業界需要和支援業界發展。

環保署亦已物色了適當的政府用地（包括屯門環保園），在有需要時讓回收業界暫存廢紙之用，但在 6 月初的會議上，本地廢紙回收業界表示業界暫時無此需要。另外，環境局/環保署亦一直與國家生態環境部及相關部委保持溝通，了解及掌握內地進口回收物料方面的最新政策和措施，同時亦向國家反映本地回收市場情況和回收業界的各種意見，包括在《粵港澳大灣區發展規劃綱要》下探討為香港資源循環回收方面帶來新機遇等。

我們同時正致力培育本地環保再造工業，為本地產生的回收物料包括廢紙尋求更具效益及多元化的出路。我們已於 2018 年 12 月批出租約，於環保園發展一所廢紙回收及再造設施，預計最早可於 2022 年底投入運作，每年可處理

約 30 萬公噸本地廢紙，約為本港廢紙的回收總量的三分之一。

為增加市場對回收再造產品的需求和支持本地回收行業的可持續發展，政府一向以身作則，帶頭實施環保採購。為推動環保採購，環保署參考國際間做法及標準，就政府各政策局及部門經常使用的產品和服務，制訂環保規格，要求各政策局及部門在符合經濟效益的原則下盡可能採購環保產品。為促進香港工業更有效地吸納本地產生的回收物料，我們正研究在政府環保採購清單加入更多、含有高回收成份的環保產品，促進可持續發展的循環經濟。

政府會繼續與回收業界及各持份者保持緊密溝通，同時亦會繼續積極推行各項優化措施和計劃，針對回收過程中不同環節，包括宣傳源頭分類、協助收集運輸、培育環保再造、優先環保採購和穩定廢紙出口等，並適時對回收業界提供支援，協助業界應對挑戰。

環境局/環境保護署

2019 年 6 月

Administration's response
To improve the plight of the recycling trade

The price of the recyclables in Hong Kong is mainly affected by international market demands and the import policies of neighboring areas. The Government has been monitoring the latest market situation of recyclables and keeping close contact with the recycling trade. The Environment Bureau (ENB)/the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had a meeting with representatives of the local waste paper recycling trade in early June 2019 to grasp the latest situation and listen to their views. Recently, we learnt from representatives of the trade that they have confirmed with Mainland's paper manufacturing companies the orders of exporting waste paper for July. Compared with the average price in the first half of the year, the final purchase price of waste paper dropped slightly (to approximately \$700 to \$800 per tonne), and is on a par with the international market price.

The Recycling Fund (the Fund) has been launching various facilitation measures to support the recycling industry and upgrade their productivity and competitiveness. The Fund has earmarked \$50 million for recyclers to procure equipment for upgrading their capabilities and standards in processing waste paper with a funding ceiling up to \$1 million per application in accordance with a set of streamlined procedures. The Fund also earmarked another \$50 million for encouraging recyclers to use compactor trucks for more effective and efficient transportation of waste paper and hence reduce the collection and transportation costs of recyclables.

In addition, a mid-term review of the Fund has recently been completed, and the first batch of enhancement measures was introduced in January 2019 to strengthen the support to the trade to cope with the rapid market changes and challenges, including introduction of a new rental subsidy scheme; expansion of the subsidy scope of rental expenses, increase of the upfront payment and simplification of the application procedures; and we have been receiving applications from waste paper recyclers. We will roll out the further enhancement measures shortly that include extending the project duration and raising the cumulative maximum number of

approved projects as well as the funding cap for each enterprise under the “Enterprise Support Programme”. The EPD and the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund will continue to strive to enhance the operation of the Fund so that it can better address the needs of the industry and support its development.

The EPD has already identified suitable government lands, including the EcoPark at Tuen Mun, to serve as a buffer for temporary storage of recovered waste paper if needed. However, the waste paper recycling trade indicated at the meeting in early June that there is no such need at the moment. Separately, ENB/EPD has been maintaining communications with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and relevant state ministries to keep abreast of the Mainland’s new policies and initiatives on import of recycled materials, and reflect the market situation and views of the local recycling trade, as well as explore new opportunities under the “Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area” on resources recovery and recycling in Hong Kong.

We also strive to incubate a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials, thereby exploring more effective and diversified outlets for locally recycled materials, including waste paper. EPD awarded a lease in December 2018 to develop a local waste paper recycling and manufacturing plant in the EcoPark which is expected to commence its operation the earliest by end of 2022 capable of processing about 300 000 tonnes of local waste paper annually, which is about one third of the total amount of waste paper recovered in Hong Kong each year.

To enhance market demand for recycled products and support the sustainable development of the local recycling industry, the Government has been taking lead in adopting green procurement. To promote green procurement, the EPD has, with reference to international practices and standards, developed green specifications for products and services commonly used by bureaux and departments (B/Ds). B/Ds are required to purchase the green products as far as possible and where economical. To facilitate Hong Kong’s industries to take up locally-generated recyclables more effectively, we are conducting a study to add more green products with high recycled content into the Government’s green

procurement list, so as to nurture a sustainable circular economy.

The Government will continue to maintain close communications with the recycling trade and other stakeholders; roll out various enhancement measures and schemes targeting different components of the recycling processes, including promotion of source separation, support to collection and transport, incubation of a manufacturing industry using recycled materials, prioritizing green procurement, as well as stabilizing the export of waste paper, etc.; and provide timely support to the recycling industry to help them to meet the challenges ahead.