

**Second Meeting of Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for  
Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018  
on 7 January 2019**

**Consolidated responses to views raised by deputations  
from the Administration**

**(I) Implementation arrangements**

**1. *To introduce designated garbage bags of larger capacity, for example, bags of 120 litres or 150 litres***

- The proposed designated garbage bags will be of nine different sizes from 3-litre to 100-litre to cater for the needs of different users. Under the proposed framework of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, individual households should wrap their domestic waste properly in designated garbage bags before disposal. Our consultant considered that the designated garbage bags of size 3-litre to 20-litre are generally adequate for a household with 5 members or less after making reference to the waste disposal amount of different types of waste producers. It is also proposed that designated garbage bags of larger capacity should be made available for collection of trade waste. As regards 240-litre and 660-litre designated garbage bags, they will only be sold for use by buildings with chutes such that frontline cleansing workers would not have to put non-compliant waste (NCW) collected at the bottom of the chutes into designated garbage bags for further disposal.

**2. *To promote “dual-use bag”, allowing the use of plastic shopping bags as designated garbage bags***

- Making reference to the distribution networks adopted in other cities and to facilitate the procurement by the public, we propose to establish some 4 000 sales points at supermarkets and convenience stores, etc. After the implementation of MSW charging, we will encourage authorised sellers to sell designated garbage bags in lieu of plastic shopping bags as a means to further promote re-use and waste reduction, and achieve the effect of “one bag for dual purposes”.

**3. *To extend the phasing-in period after the implementation of MSW charging to one year***

- Experiences in Seoul and Taipei City show that public awareness and participation during the initial launch of MSW charging is

critical to its implementation. Intensive and strict enforcement actions across the community upfront might not be the best approach bearing in mind the public need time to adapt to MSW charging. Drawing on the successful experience in implementing the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, we intend to put in place a six months' phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging. During the phasing-in period, we will mainly issue warnings to non-compliant cases but enforcement actions would be taken in case the nature and magnitude of the offence calls for enforcement, e.g. if the offender repeatedly contravenes the law despite warnings given. The community should gradually get accustomed to the new regulatory requirements. After the phasing-in period, we will take strict enforcement actions against those who dispose of and receive NCW.

- Given the time required for the necessary behavioural change, we would review the 6-month phasing-in period having regard to progress of implementation and public reaction during the phasing-in period.

4. ***To provide the rationale and calculation method in formulating the charging levels, review the effectiveness of the proposed charging levels in achieving waste reduction and establish a committee to regularly review the MSW charging levels***

- MSW charging is introduced to create financial incentives to drive behavioural changes in reducing waste. Raising Government's revenue or recovering the costs for providing waste collection and disposal service is not the primary consideration.
- The Government invited the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) to conduct an extensive public engagement exercise on the key issues involved in the implementation of MSW charging. On the charging level, SDC recommended that it should be directly related to the quantity of waste disposed of by waste producers. It should be effective in achieving waste reduction but not too excessive. SDC further recommended that it would be generally acceptable to the public, for a three-member household to be charged at around \$30 to \$44 per month (at 2014-15 price level) as a start, and the gate-fee for disposal at refuse transfer stations (RTSs) and landfills should be pitched at the range of \$400 to \$499 per tonne.
- In setting the charging level for the designated garbage bags, the Government has paid due regard to the recommendations by SDC. Having considered various factors including public affordability and

acceptability, effectiveness in driving behavioural change and “polluter-pays” principle etc., the Government proposes to set the per-litre charge for designated garbage bags at \$0.11 in the first three years of implementation of MSW charging. The price level compares well with Seoul and Taipei City and is within the recommended acceptable level by public put forward by SDC.

- To ensure the effectiveness of MSW charges in achieving the objective of waste reduction, we will review the charging levels after the first three years of implementation. We will take into account views of various stakeholders and relevant factors such as public affordability and acceptability etc., in reviewing the charging levels.

5. ***To supply free designated garbage bags to the public for six months to one year after the implementation of MSW charging***

- Considering the considerable administrative and operational difficulties that may arise from territory-wide distribution of free designated garbage bags, such as hoarding of designated garbage bags, there is no plan to supply free designated garbage bags to all members of the public.
- In order to deepen the understanding of the community in MSW charging and provide stakeholders of different sectors with first-hand experience on how MSW charging can be practised in real settings, the Government has been funding non-profit-making organisations and bodies in carrying out Community Involvement Projects in different types of premises through the Environment and Conservation Fund since 2015, while also partnering with 19 organisations in launching Trial Projects in four sectors in 2018.
- As of now, over 800 premises participated in Community Involvement Projects and Trial Projects covering different sectors. Educational and publicity activities are organised at the participating premises to explain the implementation arrangements of MSW charging. Mock designated garbage bags are also provided to the participants for trying out the charging arrangements in real settings, so that they can experience “Dump Less, Save More”, and get prepared for MSW charging.
- Moreover, in preparing for the implementation of MSW charging at a later stage and after the implementation of MSW charging, the newly-established outreaching teams under the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will provide on-site direct assistance to residents, property management companies (PMCs) and frontline

cleansing workers to facilitate the public to implement MSW charging.

6. ***To explain the long-term effectiveness and expected effects of MSW charging***

- Experiences in other places show that quantity-based waste charging is an effective policy tool in driving behavioural change in reducing waste disposal. For instance, waste disposal dropped by some 30% in the initial period after waste charging was introduced in Seoul and Taipei City. As set out in the *Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013 – 2022* (the Blueprint) published in May 2013, the Government has been taking a multi-pronged approach in implementing various measures to reduce waste disposal in Hong Kong. The implementation of MSW charging is central to our overall strategy and we envisage that it might help us reduce waste disposal by some 20%.
- Despite the above references, the actual effectiveness of MSW charging in reducing waste disposal depends on various factors, not least the extent and pace of behavioural changes of the general public. We would monitor and review the overall effectiveness of MSW charging in reducing waste disposal after its implementation in conjunction with other waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

7. ***To provide subsidies or distribute designated garbage bags to people with financial difficulties and chronic diseases***

- In 2013, the Government invited the SDC to undertake an extensive public engagement exercise on the proposed charging framework. According to the implementation framework recommended by the SDC in 2014, the responsibility for reducing waste should be shared by the whole community on equity grounds and in line with the “polluter-pays” principle.
- While the responsibility to reduce waste should be shared by the whole community and exemption from MSW charging is generally not recommended, we consider that the need of people with financial hardship should be addressed. The Government plans to provide financial assistance regarding MSW charging for the recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, which provides a safety net for those who cannot support themselves financially. Making reference to the estimated average spending of a three-member household in waste disposal (i.e. around \$33 per month or around \$10 per person per month if a 10-litre designated garbage bag is used daily), we plan to increase the

CSSA standard rates by \$10 per person per month for all CSSA recipients upon the implementation of MSW charging. As the payment level of the Higher Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) is pegged to the standard rates for able-bodied CSSA elderly singleton recipients. The photocopy rate of Higher OALA will be increased by \$10 per person per month accordingly upon the implementation of MSW charging.

- Besides, EPD will work with Social Welfare Department to consider disseminating promotional information about MSW charging through non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) routine contact with these disadvantaged. In addition, the newly established outreaching teams under EPD will reach out to different districts to provide on-site assistance on waste reduction and recycling as well as complying with MSW charging requirements to various groups and members of public.

8. ***To set up a dedicated waste management authority or waste trading fund to manage all work related to waste management and recycling***

- To facilitate the preparation for and implementation of MSW charging as a major policy tool to achieve waste reduction target, we propose that a Municipal Solid Waste Reduction Office (WRO) be set up under EPD after the passage of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 (the Bill). The proposed WRO will subsume all relevant resources in EPD on MSW charging and will be responsible for taking forward the preparation, implementation, enforcement and review of MSW charging in conjunction with other departments.
- As for the suggestion on consolidating the work of EPD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in respect of waste management, we consider that the implementation of MSW charging itself will, on its own right, involve issues such as considerable manpower deployment, changes in workflow and increase in workload. In addition, since the enforcement staff of FEHD are generally empowered to enforce a number of legislations concurrently, it is necessary to analyse and consider the manpower deployment for proposed departmental reorganisation in detail. We will review relevant suggestions after the phasing-in period of the implementation of MSW charging.

9. ***To establish a cross-sectoral platform, which includes waste handlers, district residents' organisations, green groups, academics and the Government to jointly monitor the implementation of MSW charging***

- MSW charging sits at the centre of the Government’s overall waste reduction strategy, and publicity, public education and stakeholders’ participation hold the key to the successful implementation of MSW charging. Therefore, the Government has been proactively strengthening collaboration with stakeholders from different sectors. Through the exchange of views on relevant platforms, the Government works with different sectors and industries in launching Community Involvement Projects and Trial Projects so as to enhance public understanding of MSW charging. We will continue to maintain communication and contact with different stakeholders before and after the implementation of MSW charging so as to effectively implement MSW charging and encourage the community to practice waste reduction and recycling on an ongoing-basis.

**(II) Publicity, public education and enforcement arrangements**

10. *To allocate more resources for conducting publicity and public education, as well as manpower training, draw up guidelines to assist the public to comply with charging requirements, strengthen promotion at pressure points in particular (e.g. “three-nil” buildings, single block buildings and rural areas), housing estates and other sectors, cultivate the awareness of environmental protection and waste reduction from an early age; and provide support to individual sectors and groups, including owners’ corporations, PMCs, catering industry, small and medium enterprises, surplus food recycling organisations and frontline cleansing workers, etc.*

- As revealed in the experiences of other cities, publicity, public education and engagement hold the key to the implementation of MSW charging. They are not only instrumental to promoting public awareness and acceptance of MSW charging before its launch, but also crucial to reducing the enforcement burden. Our efforts on extensive publicity and public education starting from now will be guided by three principles, including:
  - (i) a sustainable and extensive public education campaign targeted at the general public and specific groups (such as students and youngsters) under the theme of “Dump Less, Save More”;
  - (ii) provision of first-hand experience of how MSW charging is implemented through the successive launches of setting-specific Community Involvement Projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign

Committee (ECC), District Councils (DCs) and village representatives, green groups and schools in launching activities related to implementing MSW charging; and

(iii) provision of direct, on-site and in-person assistance through EPD's newly established outreaching teams.

- We have launched a dedicated website on MSW charging ([www.mswcharging.gov.hk](http://www.mswcharging.gov.hk)) as well as education videos, and will promote arrangements of MSW charging through Announcements in the Public Interest (API) in order to heighten public support and participation. We will continue our work on promotion and education including roving exhibitions, thematic workshops, youth forums, etc. to introduce the content of the Bill to the public and different sectors, including youngsters, women, the elderly, etc.

11. ***Publicity work to include educating the public to practice source separation and clean recycling***

- The Government has been committed to mobilising the strengths of the community to enhance public support for and participation in waste reduction at source, recycling and waste recovery. The “Source Separation of Waste Programme” launched by EPD has covered more than around 80% of our population. Members of the public can separate waste at home or at workplace and take recyclables to recycling facilities conveniently. To encourage more members of the public to practise the lifestyle of “use less, waste less and recycle”, the Government has also established a Community Recycling Network, stepped up efforts in organising promotional activities for waste reduction and recycling in various districts, and set up more collection points.
- EPD has launched a free mobile application “Waste Less” to help members of the public find the locations of recyclable collection points. At present, “Waste Less” contains information on over 7 000 collection points dedicated for different types of recyclables. The database will be enhanced continuously. Besides updating the information of the existing collection points, it will also include more collection points for different recyclables. Latest news, useful knowledge and interactive games about waste handling, reduction and recycling will be uploaded to the application to encourage and facilitate community participation in waste reduction and recycling.
- As the cleanliness of recyclables will directly affect the cost effectiveness of the recycling process, EPD has launched a Clean

Recycling Campaign, with a view to promoting source separation of waste and clean recycling at the community level. We hope to drive behavioural changes and encourage members of the public to practise clean recycling through promotional and publicity work so as to increase the quantity, quality and value of the recyclables, thereby turning more waste into resources.

- The clean recycling publicity and public education campaign has its focus on encouraging the public to practise source separation and clean recycling of three types of waste paper (namely newspapers, office papers and paperboard) and priority recovery of waste plastic bottles (namely plastic beverage bottles and plastic bottles for personal care products). We will continue to collaborate with DCs, PMCs and social service groups to organise educational and publicity activities relating to “Clean Recycling”.

12. ***To expand the headcount and size of outreaching teams, set up outreaching teams for different industries and arrange outreaching teams to collaborate and draw up publicity strategies and activities with PMCs, estate management advisory committees for housing public rental housing and DC members***

- At the end of 2018, EPD has set up outreaching teams in three districts (i.e. Eastern, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin) as a pilot scheme to strengthen district-based on-site guidance and support and to gain practical experience for reference in gradual expansion of the outreaching services to the whole territory. The outreaching teams will strive to establish and maintain a direct and effective liaison network with different stakeholders through visits to residential buildings, rural villages, schools, C&I premises and shopping malls, etc. to support source separation of waste and clean recycling, and provide practical advice to enhance the relevant work and provide assistance in identifying proper outlets for recyclables. To provide appropriate support to residents in the districts, the outreaching teams will establish communication platforms in the pilot areas and invite different stakeholders in the districts, including local personalities/organisations, PMCs, owners’ corporations/owners’ management committees and service contractors to join and discuss about how to enhance the implementation arrangements of various waste reduction and recycling measures and programmes.
- We will review the experience gained through the pilot scheme and gradually expand the scope of outreaching services to the whole territory of Hong Kong. It is estimated that the number of staff providing outreaching services will eventually exceed 200.



13. ***To provide information on the number of enforcement staff of FEHD and EPD, their specific job duties and scope of work and ensure sufficient manpower to combat fly-tipping problems***

- Experiences in Seoul and Taipei City show that public awareness and participation during the initial launch of MSW charging is critical to its smooth implementation. Intensive and strict enforcement actions across the community might not be the best approach bearing in mind the public need time to adapt to MSW charging. Drawing on the successful experience of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, we intend to put in place a six months' phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging. During this period, the frontline staff of FEHD at relevant waste reception points will conduct visual screening to see if the waste handed over to them has been properly wrapped in designated garbage bags or affixed with designated labels (for the case of oversized waste), and will reject any waste that does not comply with the requirements. We will mainly issue warnings to non-compliant cases but enforcement actions would be taken in case the nature and magnitude of the offence calls for enforcement, e.g. if the offender repeatedly contravenes the law despite warnings given. This arrangement will allow the community to get accustomed to the requirements in the initial period and to cater for the possibility that some waste generators may need a bit more time to gradually change their behaviour.
- After the phasing-in period, strict enforcement actions will be taken on a risk-based approach, with particular attention given to black spots. Specifically, the frontline staff of FEHD will continue with the visual screening at the waste reception points and reject NCW as during the phasing-in period. In addition, EPD and FEHD will, based on complaints and reports on non-compliance from frontline cleansing workers, waste collection contractors, PMCs and the public, conduct surveillance and enforcement actions at the different premises, pick-up points and black spots. Fixed penalty tickets at \$1,500 each will be issued to offenders intercepted on the spots, and prosecution by way of summons will also be taken against serious and repeated offenders. A dedicated hotline would be set up by EPD to answer enquiries and to accept complaints and reports on non-compliance. Under a risk-based approach, the complaints and reports on non-compliance will be used for analysis of black spots for planning of most effective enforcement strategies and immediate actions might not be taken, such that resources can be utilised more efficiently. We will also actively consider apply innovation and technology (IT) initiatives to facilitate enforcement, such as

developing mobile applications for members of the public to report cases of non-compliance and expanding the installation of the internet-protocol (IP) cameras to deter fly-tipping at black spots in public places.

- As regards the use of pre-paid designated garbage bags/labels, which is required under MSW charging, having regard to some 22 000 waste reception points, over 45 000 buildings and considerable waste reception points across the territory, we plan to adopt a risk-based approach as mentioned above targeting at the list of black spots based on complaints and intelligence. EPD and FEHD may, according to preliminary estimation, require a few hundred enforcement staff.
- We will further review and ascertain the actual manpower requirements having regard to the public response to public education and publicity work; the effectiveness of various waste reduction and recycling initiatives (including the proposed establishment of new outreaching teams to provide on-site assistance and the pilot schemes for the provision of free collection service in respect of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial (non-C&I) sources as well as food waste mainly from C&I sources); and the effectiveness of FEHD's stepped-up efforts to deal with littering and fly-tipping problems (such as the effectiveness of applying IT initiatives to facilitate compliance).

14. ***To install global positioning system (GPS) on waste vehicles, install internet-protocol cameras at fly-tipping black spots, establish a mobile application reporting system; and consider the introduction of a reporting system against non-compliances***

- We are actively considering applying IT initiatives to assist enforcement. To better monitor compliance situation, we plan to develop mobile applications for members of the public to report cases of non-compliance. We will also consider the need and practicality of requiring the refuse collection vehicles of private waste collectors (PWCs) to install GPS and/or closed-circuit television and consult the PWC trade on this idea, to trace and deter the disposal of NCW.
- We will also review the technological development of the surveillance camera systems installed on Government lands and public places, their coverage and fly-tipping black spots from time to time. We will deploy them flexibly and enhance their functionalities in order to facilitate enforcement and deter fly-tipping. Besides, EPD and FEHD also plan to expand the

installation of IP cameras to deter fly-tipping at black spots in public places. IP cameras have been installed at around 150 locations by end of 2018. More IP cameras will be installed at additional 25 locations with a view to covering at least 170 locations in 2019.

### **(III) Recycling facilities and support**

#### **15. *To improve the facilities for handling various recyclables, particularly to enhance source separation of waste and expand the channels for recycling***

- The Government has been committed to enhancing local recycling support to facilitate the public to practise source separation of waste and expand the scope of recycling. The “Source Separation of Waste Programme” launched by EPD has covered more than around 80% of our population. Members of the public can separate waste at home or at workplace and take recyclables to recycling facilities conveniently.
- The Government promotes recycling and proper disposal of waste produced after individual products are discarded through the introduction of Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRs) in phases. The Government will now focus on taking forward two mandatory PRs on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)<sup>1</sup> and glass beverage containers.
- To encourage more members of the public to practise the lifestyle of “use less, waste less and recycle” on the front of community support, the Government has also launched the Community Recycling Network in 2011, stepped up efforts in organising promotional activities on waste reduction and recycling in districts, and set up more collection points. At present, the Community Recycling Network has about 70 collection points across the territory, comprising 17 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), 2 community recycling vehicles, as well as about 50 collection points managed by NGOs. We also continue to develop a network of Community Green Stations (CGSs) to strengthen waste reduction and recycling support as well as environmental education at the district level, and to instill a green living culture in the community.
- In addition, to further support various stakeholders and members of the public to practise waste reduction and recycling, MSW charging revenue will be used for enhancing waste reduction and recycling

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<sup>1</sup> Includes air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors, collectively referred to as “regulated electrical equipment”.

work. To this end, it has been announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will provide additional recurrent resources to strengthen work on these fronts, with an additional provision of around \$300-400 million for the financial year (FY) 2019-20 to start with, which would be further increased to no less than \$800-1,000 million from the FY when MSW charging is to be implemented. The amount of this annual provision would be commensurate with the estimated gross revenue to be generated from MSW charging in the initial period so as to achieve the effect of “dedicated-fund-for-dedicated-use”. For instance, building on the existing waste reduction and recycling network, outreaching teams newly established directly under EPD will collaborate closely with community partners to educate the public on the importance of waste reduction at source and assist them to practise proper source separation of waste and clean recycling, as well as assist them in identifying proper outlets for recyclables.

16. ***To speed up the provision of free collection service for food waste, set up food waste collection stations at regional level and to accord priority to enhancing food waste collection from domestic sector***

- The Chief Executive mentioned in the 2018 Policy Agenda that a pilot scheme would be introduced to examine the feasibility of implementing government-run free food waste collection services in the long run. Subject to the operational performance and actual treatment capability of the O-PARK1 and the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works (STW), we are planning to implement the pilot scheme in late 2019 to provide free collection services (covering both transportation and treatment) for certain C&I sectors.
- We will also make use of part of the treatment capacity of the above two facilities to provide free collection and treatment services for food waste from certain households. Priority will be given to housing estates with experience in food waste separation and collection. Meanwhile, the Government has commenced a study on territory-wide separation and collection of food waste from household and C&I sources. Based on actual local circumstances, the study will work out collection proposals and the ancillary facilities needed for large-scale collection of food waste from household and C&I sources as well as its delivery to the processing facilities in future. The study will be completed in 2019.
- We will use the Trial Scheme in Sha Tin STW to test the operational and facilitation requirements for the separation, collection and recycling of domestic food waste in housing estates in Sha Tin. After

the commissioning of Organic Resources Recovery Centre (ORRC) Phase 2, we will also allocate part of the treatment capacity for a pilot scheme to treat the domestic food waste collected from some nearby residential developments. We have also launched “Solicitation Theme” on projects related to food waste collection under the Recycling Fund and incorporated the food waste recycling facilities into the funding list.

17. ***To impose another quantity-based charging scheme for food waste by making reference to Seoul***

- At present, food waste makes up about one third of the total amount of MSW generated in Hong Kong. In order to alleviate the pressure on landfills, the Government has been carrying out a diversified waste reduction plan on food waste disposal, including waste reduction at source, encouraging food waste recycling and donation of leftovers, etc. We note that other countries and cities implementing mandatory food waste separation and charging (such as Seoul in South Korea) generally adopt a progressive approach in formulating food waste policies. First, while implementing MSW charging, the public is encouraged to separate food waste voluntarily so as to gain some experience in the process. It is not until later that measures on mandatory food waste separation and charging, etc. are implemented. Regarding the discussion on whether a quantity-based charging scheme for food waste should be developed separately, we consider that Seoul’s step-by-step approach adopted in policy formulation is of reference value.
- We propose setting up a preparatory period of 12 to 18 months before the actual implementation of MSW charging after the passage of the Bill. We estimate that MSW charging can be implemented at the end of 2020 at the earliest and expect that it will become one of the incentives for different sectors of the community to participate in food waste separation and recycling. As such, developing a separate quantity-based charging scheme for food waste in the near term may weaken the relevant financial incentives and have adverse effect on the promotion of food waste recycling.
- We also believe that there are many things and experience we can learn during the process of implementation of MSW charging. Therefore, after examining the effectiveness of MSW charging and ensuring adequate food waste treatment capability in Hong Kong, the Government will study the need and feasibility of developing a separate quantity-based charging scheme on food waste.

18. ***To speed up the implementation of waste plastics collection service to cover 18 districts in Hong Kong***

- Starting from 2019, EPD will gradually launch a two-year pilot scheme in three different districts (namely Eastern, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin) to provide free collection service for non-C&I waste plastics (including waste plastic beverage containers and other types of waste plastics) from public and private housing estates, schools, public organisations, and EPD's CRCs and CGSs, etc. Going forward, having regard to the outcome of the review on the said pilot scheme and the progress of the PRS on plastic beverage containers, we will consider extending the free collection service for non-C&I waste plastics to all districts in the territory.

19. ***To increase the varieties of recyclables accepted by reverse vending machines (RVMs) to include glass bottles and metal cans, etc.***

- The Government launched a feasibility study on how to implement a PRS on suitable plastic containers in October 2017. Taking into account the recommendations of the consultant of the feasibility study, we have decided to proceed first with the introduction of a PRS targeting at plastic beverage containers, which accounts for 60% of the overall waste plastic containers disposed of in Hong Kong. We plan to implement a pilot scheme on the application of RVMs later in 2019 to assess its effectiveness in recycling waste plastic beverage containers.
- We have to consider the unique situation in the recycling arrangement of each recyclable and it is not appropriate to draw a generalised conclusion. Insofar as plastic beverage containers are concerned, members of the public usually consume this type of beverages in various places and thus the locations where the waste containers are produced will be relatively scattered and in greater number. Based on the experience in other places, the implementation of "deposit-refund system" and the application of RVMs to complement recycling help encourage the public to return and recycle their used plastic beverage containers. As for waste glass beverage containers, they are mainly produced in premises engaging in the catering industry, such as bars and restaurants, etc. Therefore, we believe that by hiring Glass Management Contractors to set up a sufficient network of collection points and make arrangements for collection services, the waste glass containers can be collected effectively.
- As for metal cans, given metal recyclables can be reused many times and have a relatively higher recycling value in the market, the

recycling industry therefore has considerable financial incentives to recycle waste metals. The recovery rate of metal recyclables was on the high side at 90% in 2017. Therefore, we do not see the need to use RVMs to facilitate the recycling of glass and metal cans.

20. ***To provide the plan for setting up CGSs at all districts in Hong Kong and provide wood-shredders in the community for on-site treatment of yard waste***

- The Government continues to develop a network of CGSs across the territory to strengthen recycling support and environmental education at the district level, and to instill a green living culture in the community. By now, seven CGSs respectively in Sha Tin, Eastern District, Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Sham Shui Po, Tuen Mun and Kwai Tsing have commenced service. The tendering exercise for service contracts for the Tai Po CGS and the Islands CGS is in progress and these two CGSs are expected to commence service in 2019. The sites have been confirmed for three other CGSs (including Sai Kung, Wan Chai and Tsuen Wan) which are at different planning or development stages. We will continue with site selection for the remaining six CGSs (including Kowloon City, Southern District, North District, Central and Western District, Wong Tai Sin and Yau Tsim Mong) and will further consult the DCs concerned as appropriate.
- EPD has all along been encouraging other relevant government departments to install wood shredders for processing and recycling yard waste on site as far as possible. In addition, EPD has procured an industrial grade wood shredder. Trials are being started to turn the yard waste collected into wooden chips for various uses, such as solid fuel, bulking agent for composting, mulch for planting, soil cover at landfills, etc. EPD will continue to work with the Development Bureau and other relevant government departments to facilitate onward recycling of yard waste resources.

21. ***To improve the existing recycling network and service at districts by making reference to the operation mode of “Waste-no-mall”***

- At present, the CGS operators proactively connect with housing estates and PMCs in their districts to establish an extensive service network. They provide the local communities with collection services for different recyclables, such as waste paper, waste plastics, waste metals, electrical appliances, glass containers, compact fluorescent lamps and tubes, and rechargeable batteries, etc., for treatment by suitable downstream recyclers. In addition, the operators organise a wide range of environmental education activities, including swap events held generally on a monthly basis, which facilitate the exchange of reusable resources like used clothing, books and other items suitable for reuse, with a view to encouraging waste reduction at source and promoting the messages of “Use Less, Waste Less” and “Clean Recycling”.
- We will review and consolidate the existing Community Recycling Network by enhancing collaboration among CGSs, CRCs and other stakeholders to provide collection points that are convenient for the public, enhance recycling support at community level on various fronts and encourage members of public to practice recycling. With the newly introduced outreaching services, it is expected to enhance recycling support at community level and environmental protection education on various fronts.
- Moreover, when planning for new refuse collection points (RCPs), EPD works with FEHD to explore the provision of spaces or facilities to accommodate preliminary recycling activities or temporary storage of collected resources, on premise that the effectiveness and efficiency of refuse collection service at RCPs will not be affected. In connection with FEHD’s plan to construct a six-storey building at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road for re-provisioning of the existing RCP at Hung Tai Road, EPD proposed to set up a CRC on the second floor of the proposed building, with reference to the operation mode of the existing CRCs. The proposed CRC will provide service to residents within the community. FEHD and EPD consulted the Yuen Long District Council and will follow up the implementation of the proposal.

22. ***To provide incentives on waste reduction and recycling through barter programme, tax reduction, rate reduction and price reduction***

- While awarding waste producers is against the “polluters-pay” principle or the prevailing international practice, we agree that we should encourage active participation of the public in waste reduction at source and clean recycling. We have allocated more resources in this respect to enhance education and publicity and to



conduct pilot schemes on free collection service for waste plastics from non-C&I sources and food waste mainly from C&I sources. On one hand, this can give impetus to members of our society to further practise waste reduction and recycling. On the other hand, this can also give recognition of the efforts made by members of the public who have put waste reduction into action.

- Currently, CGSs and Community Recycling Network organise award schemes to encourage members of the public to practise clean recycling at community level. For instance, CGS operators organise swap events approximately on a monthly basis to facilitate the exchange of reusable resources such as used clothing, books and other reusable items, with a view to encouraging waste reduction at source. Collection points of the Community Recycling Network distribute usable gifts to members of the public in exchange of the recyclables brought by them. This can encourage members of the public to participate in waste reduction and recycling, and create a favourable environment for the public to cultivate sustainable green habits. We will further strengthen and expand our efforts in this respect by actively reviewing the incentives and encouragement that can motivate waste reduction and recycling.

23. ***To provide more support on technology, finance, scientific research and land for the recycling trade, including the use of the revenue collected from MSW charging to subsidise the cost of recycling***

- The Government has implemented a package of measures to support the recycling sector, which mainly include:
  1. Recycling Fund
    - (i) Increase the amount earmarked for helping the recycling sector acquire equipment from \$20 million to \$50 million to upgrade its capabilities in turning waste plastics into plastic products or raw materials, processing recyclables such as waste paper and waste metals, and producing recycled products with local recyclables;
    - (ii) Earmark \$50 million for launching a scheme to encourage recyclers to use compactor trucks for more effective and efficient transportation of waste plastics and waste paper, thereby reducing the collection and transportation costs incurred; and
    - (iii) Raise the funding amount for rental expenses related to new or expanding recycling business under the Enterprise Support Programme. The cap for funding support for rent is increased from HK\$10,000 per month (or 10% of the total funding amount) to HK\$40,000 per month (or 20% of the total funding amount, whichever is the less).

We are now conducting a mid-term review of the operation of the Recycling Fund, which covers a comprehensive review of the overall operation of the Recycling Fund as well as collection of views from the recycling industry and various stakeholders regarding the existing arrangements of the Fund. The Recycling Fund introduced the first stage of enhancement measures in mid-January 2019. We will continue with the mid-term review and introduce the next stage of enhancement measures as soon as possible so that the Fund can provide more appropriate support for the industry.

2. The EcoPark has been providing long-term land and related utilities at an affordable rent for the development of the recycling industry with a view to encouraging investment in advanced technology and value-added recycling processes. The amount of recyclables processed by EcoPark tenants has continued to increase in recent years, rising from about 60 000 tonnes in 2013 to about 180 000 tonnes in 2017.
3. EPD has all along been working with relevant Bureaux and Departments (B/Ds) to identify suitable sites under short-term tenancy (STT) for exclusive bidding and use by the recycling sector. As of January 2019, a total of 22 STT sites with a total area of 4.5 hectares have been leased for recycling operation, and most of them can be used for waste paper recycling.
4. To increase market demand for recycled products and support the sustainable development of the local recycling industry, Government B/Ds have been taking the lead in adopting a green procurement policy to select green products that are easy to separate and recycle and with recycled content as far as possible.
5. It has been announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will provide additional recurrent resources to strengthen waste reduction and recycling work, with an additional provision of around \$300 to \$400 million for the FY 2019-20 to start with, which will be further increased to no less than \$800 to \$1,000 million from the FY when MSW charging is to be implemented.

24. ***To improve the application restriction and requirements of the Recycling Fund***

- EPD and the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund (RFAC) have been striving to enhance the operation of the Recycling Fund so that it will better address the needs of the industry and support its

development. Without compromising the need in safeguarding the use of public money and maintaining effective control on the applicants, RFAC has introduced a series of facilitation measures, including streamlining the application procedures, increasing the amount set aside for helping the industry procure equipment, expanding the list of funded equipment, raising the funding amount for rental expenses related to new recycling business and introducing projects on specific themes to support the development of the industry, etc.

- EPD and the Recycling Fund have been actively listening to the experience and views from small and medium-sized recyclers in the industry, including street corner recycling shops, so as to enhance the operation of the Recycling Fund and provide appropriate support for the industry. We are now conducting a mid-term review of the operation of the Recycling Fund, which covers a comprehensive review of the overall operation of the Fund as well as collection of views from the recycling industry and various stakeholders regarding the existing arrangements of the Recycling Fund. The Recycling Fund introduced the first stage of enhancement measures in mid-January 2019. We will continue with the mid-term review and introduce the next stage of enhancement measures as soon as possible so that the Fund can provide more appropriate support for the industry.

25. ***To introduce legislations to ban the manufacturing of non-recyclables product, mandate waste separation at source, prohibit the disposal of recyclables at landfills, restrict the disposal of expired food at landfills, ban the use of non-recyclables PLA and review and update the “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022”***

- The Blueprint published in 2013 sets out a series of actions, namely policy development and legislation, social mobilisation and investing in infrastructure, to promote “Use Less, Waste Less” through a multi-pronged approach. On policies and legislation, the Blueprint proposes to drive behavioural changes as well as waste reduction and recycling through MSW charging and PRS. The important strategies and measures on waste reduction and recycling that we have been taking forward (including MSW charging, development of ORRCs, free collection of waste plastics from non-C&I sources and food waste mainly from C&I sources, etc.) are now at a crucial stage, and whether they can be smoothly and fully implemented has a significant impact on our work and planning in waste reduction and recycling. At present, the focus of our work is to continue to take forward the initiatives committed in the Blueprint. We will review the relevant situation and development in

a timely manner to achieve the target of “Dump Less, Save More”.

- The high-density urban environment in Hong Kong brings about additional challenge in introducing mandatory waste separation at source. Buildings in Hong Kong are mainly multi-storey and multi-unit. There is a certain degree of difficulty to check whether waste disposed of by individual household have been separated as required and inspecting waste disposed of by households would lead to issues related to intrusion of privacy.
- We agree that the quality and quantity of recyclable materials have a direct impact on their recycling value and outlets, and have close relationship with the long-term development of recycling industry. Therefore, we plan to implement relevant measures such as stepping up efforts in education and promotion of clean recycling, enhancing CRCs’ capacity to receive low-value recyclables, subsidising the procurement of facilities through Recycling Fund, providing free collection service for waste plastics from non-C&I sources to reduce operating cost and setting up outreaching teams to enhance recycling support, etc. to achieve the same target.
- The Government will review the implementation of various supporting measures and their effectiveness, and will closely monitor the need and feasibility to introduce other policy measures (including proposals to mandate waste separation at source and impose landfill ban etc.).

26. ***To include penalties for improper handling of recyclables in the outsourced service contracts of FEHD to ensure that recyclables are handled properly***

- FEHD has been supporting EPD in promoting waste reduction and recycling. Over 2 800 sets of Recycling Bins (RBs) are placed at various locations, including public places such as pavements, RCPs, public markets, bus terminals and other venues such as schools.
- FEHD is currently hiring contractors through outsourcing to provide collection service for recyclables including waste paper, metals and plastics. According to the contract terms, contractors are strictly prohibited from disposing of the recyclables collected from RBs at landfills or other waste treatment facilities. For better monitoring and regulation of the performance of the contractors, the contractors are required, in accordance with the terms of service contracts, to use transparent plastic bags printed with the words “used for collecting recyclables” for collection of recyclables; display notices showing “FEHD’s contractor providing collection service for

recyclables” on both sides of the body of their collection vehicles; and nominate recyclers who have independent capability and experience to properly process recyclables at designated recycling sites, etc. EPD will inspect these designated recycling sites to ascertain if the recyclers concerned comply with the contractual requirements.

- FEHD has put in place a robust contract management mechanism under which FEHD staff conduct regular and surprise checks to monitor the performance of the contractors who collect recyclables from RBs. If any breach of contract provisions is found, FEHD will take punitive actions accordingly, including issuing verbal warnings, written warnings and default notices to the contractors concerned. The monthly amount payable to the contractors who have received default notices will be deducted according to the number of default notices issued. For serious breaches, FEHD may consider terminating the contract. If there are difficulties in finding downstream outlets for the recyclables collected by the contractors of FEHD, EPD will provide appropriate assistance.

(IV) **Producer Responsibility Schemes**

27. *To increase the types of recyclables included in PRSs and provide a timetable; and set up a producer and seller responsibility fund*

- The Blueprint published in 2013 sets out a series of actions to promote the message of “Use Less, Waste Less” through a multi-pronged approach. On policies and legislation, the Blueprint proposes to drive behavioural change as well as waste reduction and recycling through MSW charging and producer responsibility schemes. The Government progressively implements various PRSs according to the Blueprint, including the plastic shopping bag charging scheme, and the PRSs on WEEE and glass beverage containers, to further facilitate resource recovery and promote the creation of circular economy. The Government has also reviewed the need for and feasibility and priority of introducing PRSs on other products. Having taken account of other relevant factors, plastic product containers are identified as the target of the next PRS to be taken forward.
- We will now focus on taking forward the above-mentioned schemes. As to whether PRS should be introduced on other products in future, we need to consider its need and feasibility, including (1) the environmental problems and landfill burden posed by the products concerned; (2) practicability to define clearly the scope of control and draw up specific product definition for regulation purposes; (3) availability of adequate treatment facilities; and (4) availability of local or overseas markets for the output of the recycling processes.

28. ***To conduct a review on Plastic Shopping Bag Charging which has been implemented for years***

- Given that the disposal of plastic shopping bags registered for a rise in two consecutive years and the charging scheme has been in operation for some time, the Government is conducting a review on the effectiveness of the charging scheme in reducing the use and disposal of plastic shopping bags.

29. ***To ban the use of disposable plastic products, non-decomposable plastic products or impose charging on these products. To set up PRSs on second or third packaging materials and impose import control on packaging materials that are difficult to recycle. To mandate the disclosure of compositions and recyclability of packaging materials on product labels and require packaging materials to have a certain ratio of recyclable materials***

- The Government has taken a multi-pronged approach to implement various measures to reduce waste disposal in Hong Kong. Amongst which, MSW charging can provide an economic incentive to encourage the public as well as the business sector to actively

reduce waste and the use of packaging materials.

- In view of the potential impact of disposable plastic tableware on Hong Kong and even the worldwide marine environment and ecology, we will study the feasibility, scope and mechanism of controlling or banning disposable plastic tableware. EPD will commence a consultancy study in first quarter of 2019 to consider the possible control of disposable plastic tableware in Hong Kong in the long run. This includes studying the scope and methods of controlling or banning, suitable alternatives and the appropriate legislative frameworks and regulatory mechanisms. The study is expected to be completed in 2020.
- As regards PRSs, we implement progressively various PRSs according to the Blueprint, including the plastic shopping bag charging scheme, and the PRSs on WEEE and glass beverage containers, to further facilitate resources recovery and promote the creation of circular economy in the market. As to whether PRS should be introduced on other products in future, we need to consider (1) the environmental problems and landfill burden posed by the products concerned; (2) practicability to define clearly the scope of control and draw up specific product definition for regulation purposes; (3) availability of adequate treatment facilities; and (4) availability of local or overseas markets for the output of the recycling processes.
- We have reviewed the need for and feasibility and priority of introducing PRSs on other products. Having regards to other relevant factors, plastic product containers are identified as the target of the next PRS to be taken forward. Taking into account the recommendations of the consultant of the feasibility study, we have decided to proceed first with the introduction of a PRS targeting at plastic beverage containers, which accounts for 60% of the overall waste plastic containers disposed of in Hong Kong. We will now focus on taking forward the above-mentioned schemes.
- Packaging materials may include different types of waste, such as plastics, paper, metals, glass and even wood, and it is difficult to define clearly the scope of regulation and set out a specific definitions for the products concerned for regulation purposes. Meanwhile, the majority of the goods sold in Hong Kong are imported and it poses difficulties in regulating the packaging materials used, though we will continue to promote simple packaging amongst various stakeholders through publicity, education and other channels.

- In addition, EPD launched “A Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers” in December 2017 to encourage the public to save resources and reduce waste while they enjoy the fun brought by the activities. Sale of plastic bottled water of one litre or less has been ceased progressively by Government departments in the automatic vending machines set up at premises under their management. The Government will collaborate with the community to achieve a good practice of waste reduction at source.

30. ***To introduce legislation to prohibit supermarkets from packaging fresh food and require supermarkets to reserve space for resources recycling of packaging materials of their goods***

- EPD liaises with supermarkets from time to time, advising the trade to adopt relevant waste reduction and recycling measures, for example, avoiding the use of unnecessary packaging materials as much as possible, etc. EPD also co-organises the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence and the Hong Kong Green Innovations Awards with the Environmental Campaign Committee and the main chambers of commerce in Hong Kong to encourage enterprises and organisations from different industries to implement environmental management, and to solve environmental problems by developing innovative and practicable green ideas which can be turned into tangible gadgets, equipment or systems, bringing about real benefits to the environment, organisations and the community.

**(V) RCPs /litter containers (LCs) and RBs**

31. ***To gradually reduce the number of roadside LBs, increase the number of RBs, and review the location and number of recycling facilities***

- The Environmental Bureau has set up the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places (Steering Group) to review the provision and design of RBs and LCs in public places so as to put forward relevant recommendations. The Steering Group has passed the adjustment plan proposed by Government departments to gradually reduce the number of LCs in public places by 40% to around 24 300 by the time when MSW charging is implemented. The overall ratio of RB to LC in public places will be roughly enhanced from 1:14 to 1:6 and the number of RBs in public places will be increased by 45% to about 4 000.
- Having regard to relevant factors such as the implementation progress of MSW charging, the situation on the ground and public reaction, we will from time to time review and adjust the



arrangements and complementary measures adopted for recycling and refuse collection facilities in public places.

32. *To include recycling facilities at landfills, RTSs and RCPs*

- To complement the implementation of MSW charging, the Government will take forward improvement measures in suitable RCPs to enhance recycling support, including the provision of more and larger RBs near RCPs as appropriate to enhance recycling, and the provision of notice boards to provide information on waste reduction and recycling (including information on nearby recycling facilities), etc.
- The Government has also given due consideration to the proposal of providing space/facilities in existing RCPs for in-situ preliminary recycling and temporary storage of resources recovered. As gathered from FEHD, in view of the time and space constraints in the operations of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and RCPs, it will be operationally challenging for waste sorting and recycling activities to be carried out throughout the short refuse collection operation. Also, having regard to the safety of the public, RCP workers and RCP attendants, it is necessary to provide enough room for RCVs to head in and out of RCPs safely. In addition, the majority of the existing RCPs are situated in one-storey buildings with limited space and they are generally heavily loaded due to the gradual increase in population and hence the amount of refuse to be collected every day. As most of the existing RCPs were built in early years, insufficient space was reserved for accommodating preliminary waste handling/recycling facilities. The scope for viable options for upgrading the facilities in existing RCPs to meet the requirements under the proposal will be limited. However, the Government remains open to the proposal on the premise that the current effective and efficient refuse collection service (particularly at the RCPs) is not affected. The proposal can be explored together when planning for new RCPs in the future. Please refer to response under item 21.
- As for the proposal to set up recycling facilities in RTSs and at landfills, the existing RTSs are extremely busy and there is not enough room to retrofit recycling facilities. The operating landfills will be exhausted soon, by the same token, there is insufficient space to construct additional recycling facilities. Nevertheless, EPD will consider the feasibility of incorporating waste recycling facilities when exploring the expansion, reprovisioning and addition of the waste facilities.

33. ***To enhance the education of citizens on the correct use of RBs***

- As the cleanliness of recyclables will directly affect the cost effectiveness of recycling process, EPD has launched a Clean Recycling Campaign since 2015, with a view to promoting source separation of waste and cleaning of recyclables at the community level. We hope to drive behavioural change and encourage members of the public to practise clean recycling through promotion and publicity work in order to increase the quality, quantity and value of the recyclables, thereby turning more waste into resources.
- The clean recycling publicity and public education campaign aims to encourage the public to practise source separation and clean recycling of three types of waste paper (namely newspaper, office paper and paperboard) and priority recovery of waste plastic bottles (namely plastic beverage bottles and plastic bottles for personal care products). We will continue to collaborate with DCs, PMCs and social service groups to organise educational and publicity activities relating to “Clean Recycling”.
- We will also disseminate the message of “Clean Recycling” through different channels, including government APIs, posters, leaflets, “Waste Less” free mobile application and new front pattern designs of public RBs, to enhance public understanding on the need to practise clean recycling and how to separate waste correctly.

34. ***To review the Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) (Amendment) Regulation to improve the recycling facilities in buildings***

- We are currently assessing the enforcement of the Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) Regulations upon the implementation of MSW charging. We will consider proposing amendments to the existing regulations or the relevant operational guidelines where necessary to enhance the support for waste reduction and recycling and facilitate the implementation of MSW charging.

**(VI) Other matters**

35. ***To provide the rationale for implementing MSW charging before the waste reduction and recycling facilities are fully in place***

- It is imperative to take a multi-pronged approach to achieve effective waste reduction. Experience in other cities showed that MSW charging often became the engine powering the development

of other waste reduction and recycling facilities, and both of them should be pursued in parallel, complementing each other. There are views in the society that MSW charging should only be introduced after the recycling facilities are in place in Hong Kong. We would like to point out that it takes time to develop the initiatives on waste reduction and recycling, as well as the relevant facilities, which can be gradually expanded in the light of actual experience. The Government is fully aware that facilities for waste reduction and recycling are indispensable. Therefore, it has been announced in the Policy Address that the Government will provide additional recurrent resources to support the work on these fronts. Please refer to the response under item 15 above.

36. ***To provide details of the spending of additional recurrent resources (around \$300-400 million per year)***

- To complement the implementation of MSW charging, it has been announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will provide additional recurrent resources to strengthen initiatives on waste reduction and recycling as well as education work. Please refer to the response under item 15 above.
- Relevant waste reduction and recycling work under planning include the setting up of outreaching teams to enhance on-site assistance on waste reduction and recycling to the community (expenditure estimate of around \$130 million for the FY 2019-20); the expansion of free territory-wide collection service in the longer run subject to the experience gained from the pilot schemes to collect waste plastics from non-C&I sources (expenditure estimate of around \$70 million for the FY 2019-20) and food waste mainly from C&I sources (expenditure estimate of around \$60 million for the FY 2019-20), as well as the progress of developing food waste recycling facilities in Hong Kong; and implementation of a pilot scheme to assess the effectiveness of applying RVMs in promoting the recycling of waste plastic beverage containers (expenditure estimate of around \$4 million for the FY 2019-20).

37. ***To explain the plans for incinerator construction, landfill extension and construction of other waste treatment infrastructure***

- We are building Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1 adopting advanced incineration as the core technology, which can reduce the volume of waste by 90% and turn waste into energy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The IWMF Phase 1 will be located on an artificial island near Shek Kwu Chau with its design and construction works commenced in December

2017, and it is expected to be commissioned in 2024. We will explore the development of IWMF Phase 2 at an appropriate time taking into account the construction progress of IWMF Phase 1 and the progress and effectiveness of the waste reduction and recycling measures.

- Waste problem in Hong Kong remains imminent such that we need to continue with our multi-pronged approach, including implementation of waste reduction initiatives and economic measures, development of waste treatment facilities and extension of landfills, to tackle the problem.
- Even upon the implementation of all initiatives to reduce waste at source and to increase waste reuse/recycling, as well as the development of a new generation of waste-to-energy facilities, including the ORRC Phase 1 already in operation, the IWMF Phase 1 under construction and other future waste management facilities under planning, as set out in the Blueprint and *A Food Waste and Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022*, we still need the landfills as end-of-pipe facilities for disposal of a considerable amount of residual solid waste, including non-recyclable waste and the residues from the waste treatment facilities.
- To meet the long-term waste disposal needs in Hong Kong and considering that the three existing landfills will be gradually filled up, we are implementing the landfill extension schemes. With the funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the three landfill extension projects respectively in December 2014<sup>2</sup>, we are actively taking forward/proceeding with the respective consultancy studies and preparation work for the landfill extension projects. The construction of the South East New Territories Landfill Extension commenced in late 2018 and it is expected that the extended portion could be available for receiving construction waste starting from mid-2021. The tenders for the North East New Territories Landfill Extension will be invited in 2019. We have substantially completed the design review and site investigation for the West New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme and will proceed with the planning procedure for the associated ancillary road works later.

38. ***To explain the responsibility of tourists under MSW charging***

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<sup>2</sup> The funding covers the consultants' fees and project cost for the South East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme, the project cost for the North East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme, and the consultants' fees for the design and site investigation study for the West New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme.

- The proposed MSW charging will be applicable to all fairly, which will cover all industries, members of the public and visitors who produce MSW in Hong Kong. Visitors will not be exempted to pay the relevant charges under the Bill.
- Generally speaking, waste produced by visitors during their stay in Hong Kong are usually disposed of at guesthouses, shopping malls, tourist attractions, restaurants, etc., which are within the purview of C&I sectors, or dumped into the LCs on the streets. After the implementation of MSW charging, C&I sectors will have to pay for the relevant charges according to the quantity of waste to be disposed of. We believe that there will be sufficient financial incentives for the trades to practise waste reduction at source and enhance recycling when they provide commodities and services to the consumers (including local residents and visitors) in order to reduce the relevant expenditure. Therefore, both Hong Kong residents and visitors will share the responsibility to reduce waste when they purchase commodities and services. The relevant arrangements are similar to those of other cities which have implemented quantity-based waste charging schemes (such as Seoul and Taipei City).

39. *Government departments to consider factors other than price in procuring recycling services*

- The Government has been taking the lead in adopting green procurement. This can also set an example to encourage different sectors of the community to follow suit. To promote green procurement, EPD, with reference to international practices and standards, has developed green specifications for products and services commonly used by B/Ds, and issued guidelines to B/Ds for purchasing green products and services according to the green specifications in their routine procurement.
- In 2015, EPD expanded the number of items on the Government's green procurement list from 103 to 150, and updated the relevant green specifications. It also developed concise and easy-to-use green purchase tips to facilitate small amount purchase by frontline Government staff in their daily operations and delivery of public service.
- To increase market demand for recycled products with a view to facilitating Hong Kong industries to take up some locally-generated recyclables more effectively, we are studying to further expand the Government's green procurement list to cover more green products with a high recycled content and green services using recyclables.

We will also step up publicity, including organising experience sharing forums, disseminating the Government's green procurement practice and other useful information through EPD website, and encouraging trade groups and organisations to formulate practical guidelines, so as to encourage different sectors of the community to practise green procurement.

40. *To consider relaxing the restriction of employing part-time staff by service contractors of the Housing Department*

- It is stipulated in the provisions of the cleansing service contracts/property management contracts of the Housing Authority (HA) that “the number of part-time workers shall not exceed three-eighths of the total number of workers”. It is hoped that more non-skilled employees, including cleansing staff, can be offered full-time jobs and enjoy more labour rights and benefits and employment protection so that staff employment is relatively stable with the turnover reduced, thus assuring good quality of cleansing service.
- Regarding the improvement measures on enhancement of employment benefits for Government outsourced non-skilled employee announced by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, HA is currently reviewing the relevant tendering mechanism and contract terms and will consider the above proposal in one go.

**Environment Bureau  
Environmental Protection Department  
March 2019**