

**Responses to Questions Raised at the Meeting of  
Bills Committee on Waste Disposal  
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018  
on 18 February 2019**

Further to the supplementary information note issued on 20 March 2019 in response to items (a), (b), (c) and (f) of the follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting of the Bills Committee held on 18 February 2019, this note sets out our response to items (d) and (e).

*(d) the respective numbers of people currently employed by the following parties for the collection of recyclables: (i) the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"); (ii) Community Green Stations; (iii) operators of collection outlets in the Community Recycling Network, including Community Recycling Centres, collection points run by non-governmental organizations, and Community Recycling Vehicles; and (iv) the Government's contractors for recyclables collection services; and*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been implementing various initiatives to promote waste reduction and recycling, which involve the provision of services for collection and/or treatment of recyclables by engaging contractors or non-government organisations (NGOs) through contractual arrangements or by appointing NGOs through funding projects. EPD and its staff, however, are not involved in the direct collection of recyclables at the frontline.

*Community Green Stations (CGSs)*

EPD has been taking forward the development of the network of CGSs to strengthen the support for waste reduction and recycling as well as environmental education at the district level with a view to instilling a green living culture in the community. Among other things, the CGS operators have been collecting recyclables from various housing estates and property management companies in their respective districts. There are currently 7 CGSs in operation (including Sha Tin, Eastern, Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Sham Shui Po, Tuen Mun and Kwai Tsing). EPD has appointed NGOs to operate CGSs through service contracts and the NGOs are required to provide the necessary number of staff to deliver the services according to the contract requirements. The number of staff for the CGSs is not specified in the contracts. At present, the operators of the 7 CGSs have a total of 120 staff.

### *Community Recycling Network (CRN)*

In addition, EPD has established a CRN through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), including setting up the Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) in various districts to provide services for local residents, so as to facilitate their separation of waste for recovery and promote waste reduction and recycling activities at the community level. There are currently 17 CRCs, two mobile community recycling projects and 50 collection points under the CRN. All these CRCs and mobile community recycling projects are operated by NGOs. These projects are generally funded to hire a project officer and a project assistant. Depending on the needs of individual projects, the funded organisations may hire part-time staff and/or project ambassadors.

As regards the other 50 collection points operated by NGOs, most are set up under their community centres and service centres, to promote environmental education, disseminate information on waste reduction and recycling, and collect low-value clean recyclables (including plastic bottles, glass bottles and small waste electrical and electronic equipment). There is no specification on the number of staff employed.

### *Government's contracts for recyclable collection services*

EPD has engaged contractors to provide services on collection and/or treatment of recyclable materials. EPD only sets out the types of services to be provided by the contractors and the standards of service to be attained. Apart from some contracts which specified the number of key staff (such as person-in-charge of the project/manager), the contracts generally do not specify the total number of staff required to be employed by the contractors. The contractors should flexibly allocate resources in response to the service needs according to the actual operations.

As with the other contracts such as that for street cleansing administered by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), its service contracts for collection of recyclables from recycling bins at public places have set out the minimum requirements on the number of staff to be employed in the contracts. FEHD's contracts require a total of 14 supervisor-cum-drivers and 14 cleansing workmen for delivering the service. On the other hand, the collection services of recyclables from recycling bins at public places,

Government premises, country parks and public rental housing estates managed by relevant departments and agencies, e.g. the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Hong Kong Housing Authority and Hong Kong Housing Society form part of their cleansing and/or property management contracts. There is no specific requirement in these contracts on the number of staff responsible for the collection service of recyclables.

- (e) whether the Environment Bureau/EPD has set up a dedicated team for carrying out duties relating to the operation and management of the recycling chain of each type of major recyclables (such as paper, plastics and metals); and if yes, the respective numbers of staff in such dedicated team.***

In order to take forward the “Food Waste and Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022”, including the plan to build a network of Organic Resources Recovery Centres and other food waste recycling facilities to handle and treat food waste generated from different sectors, dedicated teams have been set up under EPD to oversee the management of food waste, from steering the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign on promoting the reduction of food waste at source to planning/ construction of food waste recycling facilities in Hong Kong. These dedicated teams are headed by an Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, who will be underpinned by 73 directorate and non-directorate staff (including civil service and non-civil service contract staff) in financial year (FY) 2019-20, subject to approval for creation of the new directorate posts.

Apart from the above, EPD is taking forward a wide range of waste reduction, recycling and management initiatives/schemes which are related but not limited to the operation and management of the recycling chain, with many of them cutting across different types of recyclables. These include policy development and execution of various producer responsibility schemes; promotion of source separation of waste and clean recycling; establishment and operation of CGSs and CRN; provision of new outreaching services for on-site recycling support to the community; supporting the development of the recycling industry, as well as overseeing the operation of the Recycling Fund, etc. The existing manpower involved in taking forward these initiatives is 205 posts (including civil service and non-civil service contract staff) which will be increased to 450 posts (including civil service and non-civil service contract staff) in FY 2019-20, subject to

approval for creation of the new directorate posts. As these initiatives/schemes covering different types of recyclables, there is no breakdown of manpower by types of recyclables.