

**Bills Committee on Waste Disposal  
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion  
at the meeting on 7 May 2019**

This note sets out our response to the follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting of the Bills Committee held on 7 May 2019.

- (a) the specific measures to be implemented to strengthen support for Community Recycling Centres ("CRCs") currently operated by non-governmental organizations ("NGOs"), with a view to expanding the scale and upgrading the service quality of these CRCs;*
- (b) the detailed plan for the regularization of funding support for CRCs; and*
- (c) whether and how the Administration will ensure that the NGOs that have been operating CRCs would be given priority to maintain the CRCs' operations and would not be crowded out by more resource-rich private operators after the said regularization efforts.*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s consolidated response to the above three issues is set out below.

At present, there are 17 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and two Community Recycling Vehicles (CRVs) in Hong Kong. They have established networks for collection of recyclable materials at the neighbourhood level and play an active role in promoting waste reduction and recycling in the local community. The CRCs and the CRVs are currently operated by non-government organisations (NGOs) in the form of projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) on a time-limited basis.

To complement the future implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, it has been announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government would provide additional recurrent resources to strengthen the work on waste reduction and recycling, namely with an additional provision of around \$300 to \$400 million for the financial year (FY) 2019-20 which would be further increased to no less than \$800 to \$1,000 million in the FY when MSW charging is implemented. Among others, we plan to make use of part of the additional provision to regularise funding support for the ongoing and sustainable operation of the district-based CRCs and CRVs.

To further expand the community recycling networks, we will also set up new CRCs at those districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Islands, which do not have CRC yet with a view to expanding the CRC services to cover all the districts in Hong Kong.

After regularization of funding support for CRCs, we will allocate more resources to broaden the scope and enhance the service quality of the CRCs, such as increasing the types of recyclables to be collected (for examples, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent lamps and tubes and small electrical appliances, etc.), the number of days of services, and mobile collection points, as well as extending the CRCs' daily business hours so as to facilitate the public to participate in more diversified waste reduction and recycling activities.

Following the established practice of the Government, the EPD will engage non-profit making organisations to operate all CRCs through open tender. Tenderers with relevant operational experience and local networks will score additional marks in the tender assessment. We are now preparing the tender exercise and expect that tenders would be invited within this year the earliest with a view to awarding service contracts progressively in the second quarter of 2020.