

**For discussion on
25 January 2021**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Waste Management Strategies for Hong Kong

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the Government's strategies and work on, as well as the challenges encountered, in waste management. It also invites Members' views on the long-term strategies on waste management.

BACKGROUND

2. In May 2013, the Environment Bureau (ENB) unveiled "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" (2013 Blueprint), which tackles waste problems from a resources circulation perspective and takes a multi-pronged approach in implementing various measures. They include driving behavioural change through policies and legislation, mobilising the community through waste reduction and recycling campaigns, as well as allocating resources to enhance waste management infrastructure, so that the vision of "Use less, Waste less" can be achieved. ENB subsequently released "A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022" (the Food & Yard Waste Plan) in February 2014, with four main strategies as the backbone to handle food waste, namely reduction at source, reuse and donation, recyclable collection, and turning food waste into energy.

3. With a view to promoting waste reduction and recycling as a long-term policy objective more effectively, achieving transformation of waste into resources and supporting the building of circular economy, the Chief Executive announced in her 2020 Policy Address that ENB is going to launch a long-term strategy blueprint on waste management.

THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR STRATEGIES AND WORK ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

4. Since the promulgation of the 2013 Blueprint and the Food & Yard Waste Plan, proactive efforts have been made on waste reduction and recycling. The Government's major achievements on waste management are listed below, while the detailed progress of various waste management measures are elaborated in the ensuing paragraphs -

- (1) introducing Producer Responsibility Schemes to promote the principle of "eco-responsibility";
- (2) supporting the development of the recycling industry through EcoPark and Recycling Fund;
- (3) mobilising public participation in publicity and educational campaigns to promote the "Use less, Waste less" culture;
- (4) expanding the community recycling network and established the Green Outreach team to provide on-site support;
- (5) launching central collection services on various recyclables; and
- (6) embarking on the development of waste-to-resources/energy infrastructure.

Policies and Legislation

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging

5. Quantity-based waste charging aims to drive behavioural changes so as to reduce overall waste disposal and encourage recycling. It plays an important role in waste management. Premised on the "polluter pays" principle and the consensus reached through public consultation and engagement process conducted, we introduced the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 (the Bill) into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in November 2018.

6. We welcome the decision of the LegCo House Committee to form a Bills Committee again to study the Bill in this legislative year, and hope that the Bill can be passed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we have progressively launched complementary measures to promote waste reduction and recycling.

Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS)

7. PRS is a key policy tool in the waste management strategy in Hong Kong. Enshrining the principle of “polluter pays” and the element of “eco-responsibility”, PRS requires relevant stakeholders, for example, the business and industry sectors, consumers, recyclers, etc., to share the responsibility for the reduction, collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of end-of-life products with a view to reducing waste at source, and avoiding and minimising the environmental impacts caused by such products. The LegCo enacted the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) in July 2008 to provide for the legislative framework for implementing PRSs. We have subsequently developed PRSs for various types of products under the Ordinance.

8. The Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme is the first PRS introduced in Hong Kong. The first phase of the Charging Scheme was implemented in 2009 covering some 3 000 retail outlets. With public support, the Charging Scheme has been extended to cover the entire retail sector (over 100 000 outlets) since 2015 under which all retail outlets shall, save for exemptions, charge not less than 50 cents for each PSB distributed. The total PSB disposal dropped by 25% in 2015, the first implementation year of the Charging Scheme. We have largely completed a review of the Charging Scheme. In particular, we have explored how to further reduce the use of PSB, having regard to local situation, from the perspectives of scope of exemption, number of PSB that can be distributed for exempted uses, etc. We will consult the public on enhancing the scheme in due course to map out the way forward.

9. The PRS on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) was fully implemented in 2018 to control the collection, treatment and recycling of regulated electrical equipment (REE)¹ by requiring registered suppliers of REE to pay recycling levies according to the product types and the sellers to arrange free removal service for used REE. Disposal licensing control, import and export permit control and landfill disposal ban have also been imposed in respect of abandoned REE. Comparing with the situation prior to the implementation of PRS, the amount of WEEE recovered locally increased by about six times in 2018.

¹ REE includes air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors.

10. We are implementing the PRS on glass beverage containers (GPRS) progressively. Following the commencement of regional waste glass containers collection and treatment services provided by two contractors, over 13 000 tonnes of waste glass containers were collected in 2018, representing an increase of over 60% as compared with the amount collected through relevant voluntary recycling programmes in 2017. In 2019, the contractors have recovered a total of about 21 000 tonnes of waste glass containers, which is a further increase by nearly 60% as compared with 2018. We have completed the drafting of the relevant subsidiary legislation to provide for the operation details of the GPRS and will submit it to the LegCo for scrutiny in due course.

Support for the Recycling Trade

11. The local recycling industry is our important partner in waste management. The Government launched the \$1 billion Recycling Fund in 2015 to support the recycling industry to upgrade its operational capability and efficiency, so as to promote the sustainable development of the industry, facilitate waste recycling and transformation of waste into resources. Under the challenging condition in global recycling market that has persisted in recent years, performance of the local recycling industry has been affected. The Government's continuous financial support is crucial to sustain the operation and sustainable development of the recycling chain, as a large majority of local recyclers are small- to medium-sized enterprises. We will also assist the trade to upgrade their operation with technology, which complements the waste management policy objective, supports the realisation of re-industrialisation and facilitates development of a circular economy. By the end of December 2020, the Fund had already approved about \$570 million for over 1 000 recycling enterprises, covering projects from handling different types of recyclables including waste paper, waste plastics, waste metal, waste wood and food waste, etc. Subject to the operation of the Fund, the Government will consider allocating additional resources to extend the Fund's operation through established mechanism in seeking the LegCo's approval, with a view to providing continuous support to the recycling industry amid changes in local and external market.

12. As substantial space is required for recycling operations, we have also leased out land parcels in the EcoPark at affordable price, as well as other short-term tenancy sites designated exclusively for recycling use. Currently, multiple lots in EcoPark have been leased to support the recycling operation of waste plastics, waste metals, waste electrical and electronic appliances, waste cooking oil, etc.

13. The green procurement policy aims at encouraging Government departments as well as the public and private sector to purchase products and services that incur minimal adverse environmental impacts (including achieving decarbonisation, reduction in air pollutant emission and waste). While some of these products are made of recycled materials, promoting green procurement can boost the demand of recyclables and create business opportunities for the recycling industry, thereby facilitating the development of a circular economy. We have developed a set of green specifications for 150 products or services that are commonly used by Government bureaux and departments, and have been encouraging the Government to adopt so, such as the use of recycled construction materials in public works projects. Besides, we have been actively promoting green procurement to public and private institutions through information sharing on our website, organising forums, etc.

Social Mobilisation

Food Wise Campaign

14. Over one-third of MSW disposed of at landfills in Hong Kong is food waste. Among them, 70% is generated from households. To promote food waste reduction at source, we launched the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign in 2013, under which the Big Waster icon was created. The Campaign has launched various publicity and educational programmes such as the Food Wise Charter and Food Wise Eateries Scheme, and at the same time encouraged food donation to charitable organisations. Since the launch of the Campaign, the per capita disposal rate of domestic food waste has reduced by 17%.

Nurturing a “Plastic-free” Culture

15. Mindful of the potential impacts of plastics on the environment, single-use plastics in particular, we are dedicated to taking the lead and gauging concerted efforts in going “plastic free”. We have already ceased the provision of plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in most Government premises and canteens since 2019, while relevant requirement on the avoidance of such disposable tableware would also be imposed when awarding new contracts or renewing existing contracts. Actively inculcating the “bring your own bottle” culture, we plan to increase the number of water dispensers in government venues and country parks by 500 units to about 3 200 units by 2022, while progressively ceasing the sale of plastic bottled water of one litre or less in automatic vending machines at government premises.

16. To nurture a “plastic-free” culture in campus, the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Necessary Equipment for “Plastic-free” School Lunch has been open for applications from all primary and secondary schools since September last year. Under the Scheme, we will provide the “Four Treasures” (refrigerators, steam cabinets, dishwashers and disinfection machines) to about 50 schools, with a view to encouraging students to bring their own lunches using reusable food containers. We are also launching a pilot scheme to provide about 80 primary and secondary schools with smart water dispensers with the exterior outlook designed by students. This serves to support schools to carry out educational and experiential activities for encouraging students to nurture a living culture of “bring your own bottle”.

17. Other major community campaigns include the “Plastic-Free Takeaway, Use Reusable Tableware” and “Plastic Free Beach, Tableware First” carried out in 2018 and 2019. Over 700 eateries participated in the two campaigns, together saving the use of 2.4 million sets of disposable tableware. During the epidemic, more people may choose to order takeaways and deliveries of food. To advocate “Plastic-free Takeaway” while fighting against the epidemic, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) have carried out a series of publicity campaigns on different types of transport, locations and online platforms since March 2020. We have also provided the catering sector and food delivery platforms with guidelines to encourage restaurants to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware through various measures.

“Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign

18. Waste reduction and decarbonisation are global trends. We have been promoting waste reduction at source through different channels. In June last year, the Environmental Campaign Committee and EPD launched the “Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign. Apart from continuing to promote waste reduction at source, the Campaign encourages the public to “Use Less, Waste Less” and practise green living. A new character, Greeny, was introduced to partner with ENB’s ambassador, Big Waster, to promote the message “Save More, Recycle More”, and disseminate knowledge and the latest information about waste reduction and recycling. This includes increasing the collection of recyclables from the usual three types (namely paper, plastic and metal) to eight (adding glass bottles, REE, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps and tubes, and rechargeable batteries), and encouraging public participation in waste reduction and recycling campaigns.

Collaboration with the Community

19. We empower the community to take on diversified publicity and educational programmes through funding support of the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). For instance, the ECF supported private housing estates in recycling over 2 000 tonnes of food waste for producing about 300 tonnes of compost using on-site food waste composters. We also jointly organise “green events” with community partners to instill a “Use Less, Waste Less” culture in the community. To facilitate community efforts, we published a guidebook on green events in 2017 and launched the Green Event Pledge in 2018, which is now participated by 240 organisations.

Strengthening Our Recyclables Collection Network and Investing in Infrastructure

Community Recycling Network

20. Since October last year, EPD has regularised the funding support for community recycling centres previously funded by ECF, and engaged non-profit making organisations through service contracts in setting up brand-new Recycling Stores at more convenient locations. EPD has also put in more resources to extend the coverage of the services from 15 to all 18 districts across the territory, with the number of Recycling Stores increased

from 17 to 22. The services have also been upgraded, including increasing the collection of recyclables to the aforementioned eight types of recyclables, extending daily service hours, introducing night-time self-service recycling, etc. The 22 Recycling Stores with new image have been commencing operation progressively starting from October last year, and they will play a more proactive role in promoting waste reduction and recycling in the community. EPD has also been setting up over 100 Recycling Spots operating at fixed hours and locations to collect the eight types of recyclables on a weekly basis. The above-mentioned facilities, together with the nine Recycling Stations (formerly known as Community Green Stations) in operation, have greatly enhanced the existing community recycling network, facilitating members of the public to take part in clean recycling.

21. Since December 2018, we have started in phases to set up the Green Outreach, a community outreaching team on waste reduction and recycling. The Green Outreach first commenced its outreaching service in three pilot districts (namely the Eastern, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin) to build up closer collaboration with different community stakeholders in source separation of waste and clean recycling. There are now about 200 staff in the Green Outreach, and we are now providing them with training and on-site practice. We are extending progressively the outreaching service to other districts, with a view to strengthening on-site support.

Recyclables Collection Services

22. Waste paper, food waste and waste plastics account for over two-thirds of MSW disposal. Collection of these wastes involves high logistics costs in frontline collection services, while fluctuations in the external market can cause variations in the economic value of certain recyclables, both limiting the sustainable development in certain parts of the recycling industry. With a view to enhancing the cost effectiveness of handling recyclables and raising public confidence in the waste separation and recycling system, the Government is now taking a proactive role by progressively launching collection and recycling services for these waste streams.

23. EPD launched the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services for the first time last year. The services aim at enhancing the quality and quantity of local waste paper and promote the sustainable development of the local waste paper recycling industry. After an open tender, EPD has engaged 17 contractors under service contracts. The contractors have commenced services progressively from September last year to collect waste paper (including cardboards, newspapers and office papers) from street corner recycling shops, mobile recyclers and frontline collectors, etc. across the territory. The contractors would then carry out processing work including screening, sorting and baling, etc. locally, before selling the waste paper to markets around the world for recycling into paper products.

24. The first phase of the pilot scheme on food waste collection was launched in July 2018, with the participation of 70 public venues and some school lunch suppliers. In addition, 120 private establishments separate and collect food waste at source on a daily basis for delivering to O•PARK1 for recycling. In 2019, the average amount of food waste collected under the pilot scheme was about 100 tonnes per day. We plan to roll out the second phase of the pilot scheme on a larger scale this year, under which domestic food waste will be collected progressively. We expect the daily collection of food waste to reach 250 tonnes per day gradually by 2022.

25. Besides, to complement public education, drive behavioural changes and improve the recovery rate of waste plastics, EPD has commenced a pilot scheme on waste plastics recycling in Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin progressively since January last year, under which all types of waste plastics are collected from non-commercial and non-industrial sources on a larger scale for proper handling. A wide range of plastic recyclables covering plastic bags, plastic containers, plastic tableware, plastic straws, fruit sleeve nets, compact discs and other plastic packaging materials, etc. would be collected. The waste plastics collected would be processed into recycled raw materials or products to be supplied to the local market or exported for sale. About 300 tonnes of plastic recyclables have been collected in the three pilot districts so far.

Waste-to-resources Infrastructure

26. Over the years, we have embarked on the journey of building a number of state-of-the-art waste-to-resources infrastructure. They help relieve the waste disposal burden of our landfills, transform waste into energy effectively and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, bringing tremendous benefits to the community.

27. T•PARK marks the beginning of waste-to-energy transformation process in Hong Kong. Commencing operation in 2015, T•PARK adopts advanced incineration technology to treat up to 2 000 tonnes of sewage sludge each day. At the same time, it utilises the heat energy generated from the treatment process to produce electricity, which is sufficient to support the daily operation of the entire facility, while the surplus electricity will be exported to the power grid for the electricity use of about 4 000 households each year. In addition, T•PARK is an educational and leisure facility, with its green building design awarded the Platinum grade, the highest rating in BEAM Plus.

28. To implement the PRS on WEEE, WEEE•PARK (WEEE Treatment and Recycling Facility) commenced full operation in 2018, enabling adequate local capacity for processing local waste REE. It adopts advanced technologies to turn waste into valuable secondary raw materials through a series of detoxification, dismantling and recycling processes. Over 50 000 tonnes of regulated WEEE have been treated so far.

29. O•PARK1 commenced operation in 2018 with a treatment capacity of 200 tonnes of food waste per day. It adopts anaerobic digestion technology to convert food waste into biogas for electricity generation, which can satisfy the annual electricity consumption of some 3 000 households. The residue produced from the process is transformed into compost, which can be used for landscaping and agricultural applications. Since the commencement of operation, O•PARK1 has treated nearly 80 000 tonnes of food waste. O•PARK2 is under construction and is expected to be commissioned in 2022, with a treatment capacity of 300 tonnes of food waste per day. At the same time, with a view to optimising the use of existing sewage treatment facilities to achieve synergy, we kick started the food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion trial at Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works in 2019 to turn food waste into renewable energy. This pilot plant can handle 50 tonnes of food waste each day. To further enhance our food waste

treatment capacity, we will continue to develop new facilities including new co-digestion plants at other sewage treatment works.

30. The Integrated Waste Management Facilities (to be named as I•PARK) under construction is expected to commence operation in 2025. I•PARK has a design treatment capacity of 3 000 tonnes of MSW (about 30% of the total amount of MSW). With advanced incineration technology, it can efficiently reduce the bulk size of waste by 90%, and transform waste into local renewable energy for electricity generation from the heat energy recovered during the process. The surplus electricity which can be exported to the power grid is expected to satisfy the annual electricity consumption of some 100 000 households. Its advanced technology also enables stringent emission control on air pollutants. Educational and leisure facilities will also be integrated in the design of the facilities for bringing additional benefit to the entire community.

31. On yard waste, our plan is to commission the yard waste recycling centre, Y•PARK, in the second quarter this year. With Y•PARK, we can recover and transform yard waste into useful materials, such as compost and mulch for gardening and planting. Some of the materials produced can be reused as raw woods for renovation and decoration, or upcycling into other products. During its initial operation, Y•PARK is able to treat 30 tonnes of yard waste per day, and will gradually reach the capacity of 60 tonnes per day. In addition, EPD is developing a pilot plant for biochar in EcoPark. The pilot plant is expected to commence operation in 2022, with an estimated daily treatment capacity of 15 to 20 tonnes of yard waste for producing about 3 tonnes of biochar.

32. To diversify outlets for local waste paper, we will also tender for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun. Comparing with conventional paper production process, the latest waste paper pulping technology better fits our local situation and is able to transform waste into resources more effectively. For example, the facility is more land-efficient with energy and cost saving in operation. We will commence the tender invitation in the first half of 2021, and the pulping facility is expected to commence operation by 2024.

Waste Disposal Outlets

33. Although landfilling is not a sustainable option for MSW, we have no choice but to continue relying on landfills for the final disposal of most of the MSW while we are still short of sufficient waste-to-resources/energy facilities. We have three landfills which occupy a total of about 270 hectares of land. These three landfills have commenced operation since 1990s and their design capacities will soon be reached. We are thus pressing ahead the extension projects for the three landfills. We have earlier obtained the LegCo's approval to extend the South East New Territories Landfill and North East New Territories Landfill, and undertake a consultancy study on the extension of the West New Territories Landfill. We are now conducting the consultancy study to extend the West New Territories Landfill, and will seek the LegCo's funding approval to implement the extension in accordance with the established procedures.

Construction and Demolition Waste

34. The handling of construction waste is also one of the challenges in waste management. Although around 92% of the construction waste generated in 2019 was received at the public fill reception facilities or transferred to projects for direct reuse, a considerable amount of construction waste was disposed of at landfills every day. Sorting and screening of construction waste requires substantial area of land along the coast to facilitate sea transport of waste. We will continue to encourage the construction industry to practise source separation as far as possible in order to sort out inert materials for reuse in other works. We will also explore the development of sorting facilities such that useful materials mixed in wastes can be extracted for recycling/ reuse as far as possible.

CHALLENGES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

35. When pressing ahead with various waste reduction and recycling measures, we have also encountered a number of new challenges. In recent years, the downturn in external recycling market has resulted in substantial decline in the prices of many recyclables (e.g. waste plastics) and unstable market outlets for recyclables. Coupled with the relatively high logistics costs involved in local frontline collection services, there have been difficulties

in securing stable market outlets for the recyclables, thus affecting the local recycling performance. Being a service-oriented economy, Hong Kong lacks a robust manufacturing base for utilising local recyclables. In 2019, only about 30% of our MSW was recovered for recycling.

36. At the same time, waste disposal has also been on the rise due to economic development and changes in our lifestyles. Although our MSW generation reduced by 18% from 6.93 million tonnes in 2010 to 5.67 million tonnes in 2019, our per capita MSW disposal at landfills reached 1.47 kg per day in 2019.

37. Our land resources are scarce. Over-reliance on the use of landfills is not a sustainable option due to the requirement of substantial land and their limited service life. Due to uneven ground settlement and very limited loading capacity as a result of the biodegradation of the landfilled waste, the after-use of landfills is generally restricted to recreational uses and no multi-storey building can be built. However, with the current lack of sufficient waste-to-resources/energy infrastructure, we have no choice but to continue relying heavily on the landfills which will soon be filled up. To meet the various challenges, we need the active participation of the entire community in waste reduction and recycling initiatives and their support in our new policies to promote circular economy, including MSW charging and development of more waste-to-resources/energy infrastructure.

STAKEHOLDERS' SUGGESTIONS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR HONG KONG

38. In view of the latest social needs and market changes, we consider it necessary to take a further step on our waste management strategies. Therefore, ENB and EPD organised three online engagement sessions in September and October last year, which were attended by members of over 50 bodies and organisations (including academics, chambers of commerce, operators of the community recycling network, waste management organisations, property management sector, architectural/engineering sector, food and beverage sector, green groups, etc.) as well as relevant government advisory committees to share their views on waste management strategies. We also consulted the Waste Management Subcommittee under the Advisory Council on the Environment on the same topic.

39. Stakeholders in general supported the Government to expedite the legislative work on MSW charging and PRSs, and suggested the Government to enhance the complementary measures on waste recycling and offer more support to encourage community recycling. Some stakeholders were concerned about the policies and measures on waste plastics, including proposing extending the districts covered by the waste plastics collection scheme launched last year, regulating the use of disposable plastic tableware, addressing the problem of over-packaging, etc. Some stakeholders opined that the Government should formulate long-term waste management strategies, and supported the Government to develop more waste-to-energy facilities for handling waste which are difficult to be recycled in a more effective way.

THE NEW LONG-TERM STRATEGY BLUEPRINT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

40. ENB is going to launch a new long-term strategy blueprint on waste management. Building on the Blueprint released in 2013, and the momentum of previous effort in waste reduction and recycling, we will formulate a long-term waste management strategy which addresses the situation. Faced with challenges of current high level of waste disposal, downturn in external recycling market and scarcity of our land resources, we have to make greater effort in mobilising the entire community to practise waste reduction and implement measures for achieving waste reduction and recycling on a considerable larger scale, promoting transformation of waste into resources. This helps build a circular economy, create job opportunities, and achieve decarbonisation to combat climate change. In the long run, we also need to formulate strategies to gradually move away from over-reliance on landfills.

41. The Government will take on a more proactive role in putting forward relevant policies and legislation, with MSW charging in particular, as it is the driving engine behind effective waste reduction and recycling. Not only does MSW charging drive the practice of waste reduction and recycling by enterprises and members of public, but it also enhances the quality and quantity of recyclables collected, thereby facilitating the sustainable development of related industries and the creation of green job opportunities.

42. We will also take a further step on the complementary measures on waste reduction and recycling by continuing to expand the community recycling network in 18 districts and strengthen the central collection of recyclables. These can further facilitate and encourage waste reduction and recycling by the general public, nurturing a green lifestyle and instilling the culture of waste reduction at source and clean recycling in the society. In order to effectively transform waste into resources and establish a circular economy, we must be determined to expand our capacities in waste-to-resources/energy transformation, and set up the required infrastructures in a timely manner to complement the aforementioned recycling effort at community level.

43. The recycling industry plays an indispensable role in the entire process and serves as an important partner to the Government. We will provide further support to the recycling industry, encouraging the industry to adopt technology and transfer to higher value-added products. In order to expand the local market for green materials and facilitate the sustainable development of the industry, the Government will take lead to further expand green procurement, which hopefully will set as an example for the private sector to follow.

44. We will also continue to implement various PRSs, which includes taking forward the PRS on plastic beverage containers (PPRS) and the public consultation. To pave way for PPRS, EPD will roll out a one-year Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme to assess the application of RVMs in Hong Kong, with the provision of instant rebate via e-payment platform to encourage the public to return their used plastic beverage containers. To address the problem of disposable plastic tableware, we are conducting a study on the regulation of disposable plastic tableware. We will consult the public and relevant stakeholders this year on the recommendations to map out the way forward.

45. On the journey of waste transformation, we welcome and encourage innovation in waste management, collaboration in different forms and aspects and exchange of ideas, creating synergy and contributing to the building of a zero-waste city.

46. As mentioned above, over-reliance on landfills is not a sustainable option for waste disposal. With reference to other Asian cities with similar economic development to Hong Kong, many of them have already replaced reliance on landfills with highly efficient waste-to-resources/energy infrastructure which transform waste into various useful resources and optimise the use of valuable land, thereby achieving a “multi-win situation”. In the long run, to optimise the use of our land resources, achieve low carbon development and transformation of waste into resources, and to move away from the over-reliance on landfills, we must build consensus and look into measures with higher efficiency. Considerable effort and time are needed to achieve the above work. Therefore, we need the staunch support and cooperation of the entire community and different sectors.

ADVICE SOUGHT

47. Members are invited to note the Government’s strategies and work on waste management, and offer views on the long-term strategies. These include various policies and legislation, education and publicity campaigns, the community recycling network, support to the recycling industry such as enhancing the operation of the Recycling Fund, as well as the development and planning of waste-to-energy infrastructure. We will take into account Members’ views and other views collected in the formulation of the long-term strategy blueprint on waste management, with a view to transforming waste into resources and building up a circular economy.

**Environment Bureau
Environmental Protection Department
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