

**For discussion on
25 March 2024**

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Arrangements of the Demonstration Scheme and Progress of the Preparatory Work for the Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

PURPOSE

This paper reports the arrangements of the Demonstration Scheme and the latest progress of other preparatory work for the implementation of municipal solid waste (“MSW”) charging.

MSW CHARGING DEMONSTRATION SCHEME

2. The Secretary for Environment and Ecology announced in January 2024 that the statutory commencement date of MSW charging would be revised to 1 August 2024, and the Government would demonstrate the implementation of MSW charging in some government buildings and other premises. The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of MSW charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors, *etc.*, in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, as well as collecting their views and relevant data to be consolidated for analysis. The Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration will lead an Inter-departmental Steering Group to oversee the overall work of the Demonstration Scheme and review its outcome, allowing a comprehensive understanding on the overall situation of the preparatory work, for a pragmatic arrangement and handling.

Selected premises under the Demonstration Scheme

3. To acquire a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of the implementation of MSW charging on various sectors of the society and the problems in the implementation, it is necessary for the Demonstration Scheme to review in depth and in detail the problems that may arise during the implementation of MSW charging and various arrangements and requirements of the operation, and collect views from parties involved at different stages as well as relevant data. The first group of premises to be covered under the Demonstration Scheme will include major types of relevant premises, *i.e.* public and private residential buildings, “three-nil” buildings, shopping malls, restaurants and residential care homes. A detailed list of the selected premises under the Demonstration Scheme is at the **Annex**.

Preparatory work for the Demonstration Scheme

4. The Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) has already started the preparatory work for the Demonstration Scheme in January 2024, including liaising with relevant bureaux and departments to identify suitable premises; discussing with the management of the selected premises; coordinating and developing the framework for implementation, detailed workflow and the implementation timetable. We have also visited the relevant premises to conduct on-site assessments and arrange pre-implementation drills to refine the arrangements. We have largely completed the site visits and discussions with the responsible persons of the selected premises to allow the full implementation of the Demonstration Scheme on 1 April 2024.

Implementation of the Demonstration Scheme

5. The Demonstration Scheme will start on 1 April. During the period, we will provide designated bags (“DBs”) and designated labels (“DLs”) free of charge to all selected premises and collect operational data. We will also collect views from different stakeholders through opinion surveys to examine their preparedness for the implementation of MSW charging and the possible problems that they may face. We plan to brief this Panel on the outcome of the Demonstration Scheme in May / June.

6. We believe that the experience and outcome of the Demonstration Scheme will assist us in identifying areas of works and arrangements that would require further enhancement and improvement upon the implementation of MSW charging. The latest progress of our preparatory work is included below.

LATEST PROGRESS OF OTHER PREPARATORY WORK

Publicity and Public Engagement

7. To prepare the public for the implementation of MSW charging, we have rolled out a territory-wide publicity and public education campaign under the theme of “Recycle More, Dump Less, Save More” through the Environmental Campaign Committee (“ECC”). Starting from mid-August 2023, the campaign has been continuously carried out in three phases through multiple channels (TV, radio, public transport vehicles, social media platforms, mobile applications, *etc.*). In addition to publicity for the general public, we have also rolled out promotional activities for specific groups, including chambers of commerce, students, ethnic minorities, the elderly, foreign domestic helpers, residents of “three-nil” buildings, rural villages, *etc.* For instance, we have prepared promotional videos in different languages for

foreign domestic helpers and disseminated these publicity materials in the social media groups that they frequently use. An English briefing session was also organised for foreign domestic helpers in early March. Furthermore, we have distributed promotional leaflets and broadcast promotional videos to the elderly through elderly centres from March onwards. We will incorporate information on MSW charging in the radio programmes targeting the elderly in early April, and arrange seminars in the elderly centres later to enable the elderly to have a better understanding of the actual operation of MSW charging. As for students, we are liaising with the Education Bureau to disseminate electronic leaflets and posters to all the approximately 700 000 secondary and primary school students in Hong Kong starting from April. We will also distribute one 15-litre DB to each of the around 350 000 primary school students to encourage them to bring home information about MSW charging to share with their families.

8. As at early March 2024, EPD has broadcast Announcements in the Public Interest on TV and radio for over 4 000 times; broadcast promotional videos on over 9 000 monitors at public transport stations, on vehicles, at shopfronts of restaurants and at lift lobbies; displayed about 4 000 promotional banners and posters at roadside in each district, government facilities, Public Rental Housing (“PRH”) estates, public transport stations and vehicles including buses, public light buses, ferries, *etc*; and placed online advertisements on about 100 news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, *etc*. EPD also introduces new promotional initiatives, including collaboration with the media to address inquiries on MSW charging from various sectors through news features and street interviews; partnership with stakeholders of different sectors and celebrities to produce videos to educate the public about waste reduction and recycling as well as sharing with them the preparatory work being carried out for MSW charging, *etc*. We will review the effectiveness of the publicity campaign from time to time and make adjustments and enhancements when needed.

9. To complement the publicity campaign, since July 2023, EPD has upgraded its customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries on MSW charging, as well as facilitate the public to report non-compliance cases upon its implementation. As of today, the hotline and the MSW Charging Thematic Website have received 13 000 enquiries.

10. Moreover, support at the district level is crucial for the successful implementation of MSW charging, a policy that involves every sector in Hong Kong. We conducted policy briefings for all District Councils (“DC”) or their committees in January and February 2024, organised three briefing sessions for the District Services and Community Care Teams (“Care Teams”) on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon, and the New Territories, and conducted an additional English briefing session for foreign domestic helper groups, ethnic minorities and foreigners. Representatives from the Environment and Ecology Bureau and EPD also attended

over 40 briefing sessions arranged by Legislative Council members, DC members, District Offices and district personalities to explain to the public and individuals from different sectors the implementation details of MSW charging, with total attendance over 3200. Furthermore, EPD has been distributing promotional leaflets and DBs to all DC members and Care Teams through the District Offices since late-February, so that they can distribute the publicity materials to the public during their daily community work.

11. To raise public awareness on MSW charging, the Green Outreach of EPD has been conducting promotional activities and providing on-site demonstrations since mid-August 2023 to engage different sectors of the community, including homemakers, working people, the elderly, students, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, *etc.* The Green Outreach has also been educating the public, frontline property management and cleansing workers on how to comply with the legislative requirements of MSW charging. As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities at housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots in old urban areas, public markets, MTR stations, *etc.* to publicise MSW charging. Furthermore, since July 2023, EPD has visited around 190 PRH estates, organised over 340 publicity and educational activities, and provided banners, posters, promotional leaflets and videos to strengthen the residents’ understanding of MSW charging as well as waste reduction and recycling. As for rural areas, we have been meeting with stakeholders of rural villages and premises (including Heung Yee Kuk and Rural Committees) since May 2023 to further promote the Best Practice Guide (“BPG”) for Rural Villages/Rural Areas while collecting views. We have also arranged promotion vehicles to conduct publicity activities in different rural villages and set up an exhibition at the Heung Yee Kuk Building for a period of three months starting from October 2023.

12. To further strengthen the promotion and education of waste reduction and recycling, EPD invited all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in March to participate in the “We-recycle@School” activity to encourage students to share the latest information on source separation and recycling with their family members and practise recycling together by utilising the recycling facilities in their residential buildings, the nearby GREEN@COMMUNITY collection points and the waste separation bins at schools, with a view to cultivating the habit of waste reduction and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. To enrich the contents of the “We-recycle@School”, EPD will provide schools with the latest information on source separation and recycling, and support them in organising promotional and educational activities through the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stations and the GreenLink - Environmental Education Support Programme of the ECC. At present, around 170 primary and secondary schools have committed to participating in “We-recycle@School”.

Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement

13. To facilitate different stakeholders to better understand the arrangements of MSW charging, as at end of February 2024, EPD has conducted more than 270 physical or online meetings and briefings for the property management and environmental hygiene trades, waste collection trade, commercial and retail trades, chambers of commerce, catering trade associations, hotel trade, recycling trade, owners' organisations, rural stakeholders, fishermen organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, associations of the heads of primary and secondary schools, and theme parks, *etc*, reaching out to over 13 400 stakeholders from various sectors to introduce them to the latest developments of MSW charging and to understand their concerns.

14. We have also jointly prepared BPGs with working groups comprising stakeholders from trades such as property management, environmental hygiene, recycling and security, *etc*. A total of eight BPGs listed below have been uploaded to the MSW charging Thematic Website (<https://www.mswcharging.gov.hk>) for relevant stakeholders to make reference to in gearing up for the implementation of MSW charging. These BPGs involve various trades and sectors, including residential premises with property management organisations, private waste collectors, rural villages/rural areas, catering sector, hotel trade, general commercial and industrial ("C&I") Buildings¹, shopping malls/markets, and single-occupier premises².

15. Since mid-May 2023, we have been progressively arranging specialised trainings on the content of BPSs for frontline staff of the property management, environmental hygiene and other relevant trades, to assist them in better understanding the relevant legislative requirements and the BPGs, and provide recommendations to them on suitably adjusting their frontline operational arrangements. As at end February 2024, EPD has organised 58 training seminars for over 7 200 participants. We have also collaborated with the Property Management Services Authority and organised three sessions of continuing professional development seminars on MSW charging under its "Continuing Professional Development Scheme", targeting holders of the Property Management Practitioner Licence and representatives of licensed property management companies, to enhance their knowledge on MSW charging for handling property management duties. These seminars have attracted over 1 850 property management practitioners. We have also prepared management circulars to assist property management staff in introducing the MSW charging modes to the people on the premises in a simple and easily comprehensible manner.

¹ For example, office buildings and multi-storey factory buildings for sale/letting.

² For example, C&I buildings, educational institutions, private hospitals and social welfare organisations, *etc*, without any parts rented out to third parties.

16. Moreover, we have been organising training seminars for different premises of C&I sectors and public bodies (e.g. C&I buildings, restaurants, shopping malls, markets, hotels, hospitals, residential care homes, *etc*). As at end February 2024, EPD has organised more than 120 briefings for over 13 900 participants. Furthermore, we have produced training videos for different trades such as the catering and hotel trades (including large-, medium- and small-sized restaurants, food courts, food processing factories, hotels, *etc*), other C&I sectors (including C&I buildings, shopping malls, markets, hospitals, secondary and primary schools, universities, residential care homes for the elderly, private waste collectors, *etc*), foreign domestic helpers and on domestic oversized waste. The training videos have been promulgated on the MSW charging Thematic Website since February 2024. We are also preparing simple and easily comprehensible infographics for specific groups (such as foreign domestic helpers) and will disseminate them through various channels.

Strengthening Waste Reduction and Recycling Facilities

17. EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to progressively enhance the community recycling network with a view to facilitating facilitate the public in practising waste reduction at source. For example, waste separation bins have been set up in over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 C&I buildings under the Programme on Source Separation of Waste. The majority of housing estates and residential buildings with management are now equipped with waste separation bins. EPD has also set up about 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate rural residents in recycling plastics, waste paper and metals.

18. Besides, EPD is expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, which currently comprises over 180 public collection points to specifically support residents of buildings without sufficient space to set up recycling facilities (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) in participating in source separation of waste and clean recycling. EPD is also establishing 50 small-scale Recycling Stores in PRH estates and has set up a total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins at different application points for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems. The recycling network including the above schemes has already covered over 80 per cent of the population in various districts of Hong Kong.

19. The first Recycling Store in MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the 12th Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to begin its operation in the fourth quarter of 2024. On the setting up of small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates, the first eight Recycling Stores have commenced operation since June 2023 while the other Recycling Stores will commence operation progressively from the

second quarter of 2024 onwards. Before the relevant Recycling Stores come into service, EPD has arranged for their operators to provide temporary collection service in the respective PRH estates until the completion of the preparatory work of the Recycling Stores to achieve a seamless transition. At present, 37 temporary collection booths have been set up. We will also enhance our recycling services by increasing the number of Recycling Spots in areas concentrated with “three-nil” buildings and at public markets. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will be increased to about 500 in August 2024 for improvement of services of the community recycling network. The amount of recyclables collected at GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities in 2023 is expected to be increased by more than 20 per cent in comparison to 2022. The public can earn GREEN\$ when recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities or smart recycling bins through the GREEN\$ mobile app or GREEN\$ card to redeem gifts. Since the launch of the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme in October 2020, there has been more than 500 000 registered accounts by the end of February 2024.

20. EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including strengthening the support on the collection of food waste from C&I sectors and households, to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. EPD has launched the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, located at food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, and residential estates, *etc.* At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered and treated at the two phases of Organic Resources Recovery Centre (O · PARK1, 2).

21. For PRH estates, EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (“HD”) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (“HS”), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates (“the Trial Scheme”) in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (“FWSRBs”) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents’ participation. We completed the installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed six months ahead of the original target schedule. EPD, together with HD and HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH

estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the launch of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been collected, with a daily average of about 26 tonnes. In terms of residents' participation, the participation rate has exceeded 70 per cent in certain housing estates. Both the amount of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents are in line with our expectation.

22. For private residential buildings, EPD has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund ("ECF"). As at February 2024, these two funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and four rural villages. Besides, the ECC has been providing funding support through the ECF for EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of two years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and we have commenced the installation of FWSRBs. As at February 2024, EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. In order to facilitate housing estates in submitting applications, EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, *etc.* In view of the positive response, EPD is considering expanding the Pilot Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

23. For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, EPD set up FWSRBs at two Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. As at February 2024, these FWSRBs have been used for more than 41 300 times. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. EPD will continue to set up more public food waste

collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points (“RCPs”)). To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, EPD has set up “Recycling Spots” near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste produced from nearby domestic households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to other districts on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient outlets for food waste recycling for the public.

24. To promote food waste recycling in rural areas, in addition to providing the traditional covered recycling bins to rural villages through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection, the ECF also subsidises the installation of FWSRBs in rural villages. In November 2023, EPD presented the details of the relevant food waste collection services to the Heung Yee Kuk and called for active participation from the rural committees and village representatives. As at February 2024, three rural villages have been using traditional recycling bins or FWSRBs to collect food waste, with another six rural villages having FWSRBs installed from March 2024 onwards.

25. To facilitate the recycling of food waste produced by street-level restaurants, EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at RCPs under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”). As at February 2024, we have set up food waste recycling points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme, with a daily average of around two tonnes of food waste collected. In addition, EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po, and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these four districts. This initiative will be progressively expanded to other districts on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme, and the daily average amount of food waste collected is around 1.4 tonnes. Nearby restaurants can also deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

26. EPD and its appointed contractors will promote various food waste recycling schemes for C&I sectors and provide the trades with the details of each scheme, while extending invitations for their active participation. Prior to the commencement of food waste collection, EPD will also arrange for the contractors to provide guidance and training to the management and frontline staff of the participating organisations in need, *e.g.* on areas to take note of and procedures involved when participating in food waste recycling to enhance the quality and amount of food waste collected.

27. EPD has been paying attention to the development of food waste treatment technologies to enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of food waste collection. We have been collaborating with various government departments to install a locally developed food waste pre-treatment system “Food TranSmarter” at suitable premises to convert food waste into slurry, which is then stored in sealed odour-controlled tanks before being delivered to EPD’s food waste treatment facilities for conversion into energy. This system allows for a reduction in the frequency of door-to-door food waste collection to once or twice a week, leading to a significant reduction in transportation costs. We have also provided funding support through the ECF to subsidise the installation of food waste pre-treatment systems in C&I premises and private housing estates. Currently, there are 10 “Food TranSmarter” installed and put into use in premises such as wholesale food market, public market, correctional institution, shopping malls, private housing estate and university, with eight other private and government premises preparing for the installation. There are also 13 premises which have applied for funding from the ECF for the installation of the system. EPD will continue to identify more suitable public and private premises to install food waste pre-treatment systems to enhance food waste treatment efficiency. The Government will also consider introducing innovative and more cost-effective food waste treatment technologies when developing food waste recycling supporting facilities in the future.

Retail Network for DBs and DLs (including sales arrangements of DBs and DLs at PRH Estates)

28. As the purchase and use of DBs and DLs is the main tool for levying the MSW charge, EPD has established a territory-wide retail network for the sales of DBs and DLs, comprising around 3 000 outlets covering supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies, and online platforms. There are 16 retailers including PARKnSHOP, Wellcome, 7-Eleven, Circle K, Fortress, Watson’s the Chemist, AEON, Pricerite, China Resources Vanguard, Japan Home Centre, city’super, 759 Store, pandamart, HKTVmall, YATA and Wing On which have signed the Authorisation Agreement to become authorised retailers to gradually commence the sales of DBs and DLs at around 2 500 outlets and 13 online platforms. A majority of these outlets will provide the “one bag for dual use”³ service. Six of the authorised retailers have started selling various sizes of DBs and DLs at the outlets and online platforms, including Pricerite, Circle K, pandamart, city’super, selected stores of HKTVmall and selected stores and online platform of PARKnSHOP. Details of the outlets (including their addresses and participation in “one bag for dual

³ To promote waste reduction and reuse of resources, in addition to selling DBs in packs, we encourage retailers to sell single DBs at the checkout counter as an alternative to plastic shopping bags (“PSBs”) to enable “one bag for dual use”. Retailers providing such services will be shown on the MSW Thematic Website. The public may choose to bring their own shopping bags, purchase PSBs from the retailers at no less than \$1 per bag, or purchase DBs at the statutory prices for carrying goods.

use”) have already been publicised on the MSW Charging Thematic Website (www.mswcharging.gov.hk) and will be updated from time to time. To further expand the retail network, in addition to chain retailers, EPD has signed agreements with Kerry Pharma and Poon’s Pharm (U.S.A) Medicine Limited to provide support to more than 600 small stores (including small- and medium-sized pharmacies and houseware stores) in selling DBs and DLs. Furthermore, in order to encourage members of the public to participate in clean recycling, they will be able to redeem 3L to 15L DBs with GREEN\$ through the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme at GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities in the future.

29. Although there are convenience stores, supermarkets and pharmacies within or in the vicinity of most PRH estates, we expect that PRH residents (especially the elderly) may need further assistance to gradually adapt to MSW charging and develop new waste disposal habits. With this in mind, in addition to setting up the sales points as described above, we will also provide more facilitation to PRH residents.

30. Having discussed with HD and HS, we will set up dedicated sales points and other sales channels in PRH estates, inviting the property management companies or cleansing contractors employed by the PRH estates to purchase DBs from EPD and selling them at offices of the contractors in PRH or via vending machines to PRH residents. Furthermore, to facilitate the public in getting DBs/DLs, residents’ organisations, Owners’ Corporations (“OCs”), PMCs, cleansing companies and other C&I organisations may also purchase DBs and DLs in bulk from EPD.

Risk-based Enforcement Strategy

31. Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are critical to its smooth implementation. We will focus on publicity and education to raise public awareness during this period to increase the compliance rate as the public needs time to adapt to this new charging scheme.

32. In this connection, we will put in place a six-month phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on encouraging the public to adopt behavioural changes through publicity and education, and give advices and verbal warnings for non-compliant cases (*i.e.* disposal of waste at waste reception points without using DBs or DLs) as far as possible instead of taking enforcement actions. During this period, we will focus on (i) publicity and public education for promoting compliance; and (ii) gathering intelligence/statistics. Frontline staff will conduct inspections at relevant waste reception points, and will draw up a list of black spots for stepping up inspections based on enquiries/complaint referrals and intelligence received from the general public,

PMCs, waste handlers and other stakeholders. The phasing-in period serves only to facilitate the public in adapting to the practice of using DBs to dispose of waste, and the Government will continue to take enforcement actions against littering even during this period.

33. Considering that the waste disposal amount may increase prior to the implementation of MSW charging, EPD has already been working with FEHD to set up large litter bins in urban areas with more “three-nil” buildings and additional large-scale designated waste collection points in rural areas where necessary, as temporary measures to facilitate the public in disposing of domestic waste.

34. As mentioned above, experiences in other cities show that compliance rate will only gradually increase with time. It is expected that fly-tipping is likely to be more prominent in the early stage of implementation of MSW charging. Our above proposal to facilitate PRH residents in conveniently purchasing DBs or DLs should help alleviate the problem in PRH estates. We hope that with the extensive sales network of DBs and DLs, together with continuous publicity and education as well as enforcement actions where appropriate, the compliance rate will steadily increase over time as residents gradually adjust their waste disposal behaviour. After the phasing-in period, we will draw on relevant experiences to optimise the arrangements of MSW charging as well as waste reduction and recycling.

Distribution of free DBs and Additional Assistance for Persons in Need

35. To facilitate the public in adapting to MSW charging and changing their waste disposal habits, EPD will focus on distributing free DBs (each household will receive 20 DBs of 15-litre for each month) to three types of households that require more support in adapting to the charging requirements (*i.e.* households of **“three-nil” buildings, rural village houses** and **PRH** (including transitional housing)) during the initial stage of implementation of MSW charging for a period of **six months** and a total of 120 free DBs for each household. The distribution arrangements are as follows –

- **Households of “three-nil” buildings:** EPD will arrange for the logistics service contractor to provide door-to-door delivery of free DBs for every household of “three-nil buildings”. If no one answers the door at the time of delivery, the contractor will leave behind a notification card. The residents will then be required to register for the collection of free DBs from smart lockers or at self-collection points within a specified period. Late registrations will not be entertained in general and the relevant household will be deemed to have forfeited the collection of free DBs. Under special circumstances, individual households with notification cards may request for EPD to arrange for door-to-door delivery

again by calling the hotline⁴ for assistance.

- **Households of PRH (including transitional housing):** EPD will arrange for the delivery of free DBs to locations designated by HD, HS and non-governmental organisations that operate transitional housing so that they may directly distribute the free DBs to their tenants. Details of the distribution arrangements and timetable will be announced by the respective PMCs or management offices of the PRH estates.
- **Households of rural village houses:** EPD will arrange for the delivery of free DBs to Village Offices or offices of Rural Committees so that they may directly distribute the free DBs to the households in their rural villages. The distribution arrangements, such as the method, frequency, location, date, time, *etc* of collection, will be decided by the respective village representative or Rural Committee in accordance with the circumstances of each village.

36. Furthermore, considering that the social welfare sector including residential care homes for the elderly and persons with disabilities may have concerns and inquiries on MSW charging, EPD and the Social Welfare Department jointly met with the trade in mid-February to gain insights into the difficulties faced by social welfare organisations under MSW charging. EPD has invited representatives of the trade to provide more information relating to the actual situations of their operation, such as the major types and amount of waste produced on a daily basis, the current monthly expenditure for handling waste, *etc*. Through the Demonstration Scheme, EPD will study in depth the impacts of MSW charging on the trade to facilitate them in preparing for its implementation.

ADVICE SOUGHT

37. Members are invited to take note of and offer views on the arrangements of the Demonstration Scheme and the latest progress of other preparatory work for implementing MSW charging.

⁴ **Special circumstances** include, for example, where a resident is a person with a disability or an elderly person and is unable to gain access to smart lockers or self-collection points due to impaired mobility, or is unable to provide a Hong Kong telephone number capable of receiving messages, *etc*. The person will be required to provide his/her address, number of the notification card and the reason for requesting the special delivery service.

Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch)
Environmental Protection Department
March 2024

**Demonstration Scheme
List of Premises**

Premises	Remarks
<u>Government Buildings</u>	
1. West Kowloon Government Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offices of Government Departments • Two buildings, comprised of the South Tower and the North Tower, involving about 2 500 employees
<u>Public Housing</u>	
2. On Ning House, Moon Lok Dai Ha, Tsuen Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed by the Hong Kong Housing Society • There are 4 blocks in Moon Lok Dai Ha, of which On Ning House is included in the Demonstration Scheme, involving about 450 households
3. Lin Tsui Estate, Chai Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority • Single-block housing estate, involving about 300 households
<u>Private Residential Buildings</u>	
4. Genius Court, Kowloon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owners' corporation established • Single-block residential building, involving about 140 households
5. 15 & 17 Pei Ho Street, Shum Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven-storey "three-nil" building • Without cleansing staff
6. 58 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Shum Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five-storey "three-nil" building • With cleansing staff
<u>Shopping Malls</u>	
7. Uptown Plaza, Tai Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shopping mall connected to Tai Po Market MTR station, accommodating about 100 shops and restaurants
8. Chelsea Heights Plaza, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shopping mall close to Tuen Mun MTR station and Choi Ngai Bridge Light Rail station, accommodating

	about 55 shops and restaurants
<u>Residential Care Homes</u>	
9. New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Tuen Mun Long Stay Care Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidised residential care home for persons with disabilities • Providing 210 intensive care units, with approximately 90 staff members
10. Kato Home for the Elderly, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private residential care home for the elderly • Providing 180 care units for the elderly, with approximately 72 staff members
<u>Restaurants</u>	
11. SC Cuisine, Mong Kok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese restaurant • With approximately 90 seats
12. Hsin Kuang Banquet Hall, San Po Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese restaurant • With approximately 600 seats
13. Café de Coral (Admiralty Centre branch), Admiralty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast food restaurant • With approximately 200 seats
14. Hong Lin Restaurant, Tai Wai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong-style tea restaurant • With approximately 40 seats