

Annex 7 to Legislative Council Question No 22

Policies and measures promulgated by the Steering Committee to Promote the Sustainable Development of the Recycling Industry

- (i) A working group on a clean recycling campaign has been formed to promote source separation and cleaning of wastes at the community level. Meanwhile, property management companies, green groups, schools and other community organisations are encouraged to jointly organise promotional activities, with the focus on the promotion of clean recycling so as to increase the recovery quantities and the value of recyclables;
- (ii) A Recycling Fund of \$1 billion has been set up to promote the recovery and recycling of waste by facilitating the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry for sustainable development, so that waste can be converted into useful resources and products. The Recycling Fund was officially launched on 6 October 2015 and is open for application from the recycling industry and relevant organisations so as to assist them in upgrading and expanding local recycling operations in the form of a matching fund. We have also set up small scale projects with less amount of subsidy and relatively simpler application procedures to facilitate applications from small and medium enterprises;
- (iii) On land support, the EPD has commissioned a consultancy study on the land requirements of the recycling industry, which will facilitate the Government to formulate land support measures for waste recovery and recycling activities, as well as reviewing the tendering arrangement in letting out short-term tenancy sites; and
- (iv) Regarding manpower training and development of the industry, the EPD is stepping up the co-operation with the industry to increase the operational capability of local recyclers and uplift the image of the industry; raise the standard of the occupational safety and health; enhance the training for current practitioners and attract more newcomers to join the industry, thereby promoting the long-term development of the local recycling industry. In addition, the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) launched the “HKQAA Hong Kong Registration - Recycling Services” scheme in October 2015 to promote best practices among the recycling industry and encourage organisations to treat waste properly. A code of practice has been issued with a view to promoting environmental protection, occupational health and safety practices within the recycling industry.