

Government's Key Measures in Supporting the Local Recycling Industry's Development

(1) Enhancing the operation of the Recycling Fund

- We will continue to strengthen our support for recyclers to help them reduce their operating cost. By progressively enhancing the operation of the Recycling Fund (the Fund), we are assisting members of the trade, particularly the small and medium enterprises, in expanding and upgrading their businesses. Under the Fund, measures have been implemented to facilitate the application for and use of the Fund; a new category has been created for small and medium recyclers to help them procure equipment; and procedures have been streamlined for recyclers using the Fund.
- To assist the industry to rise to the new challenges, \$20 million has been earmarked under the Fund for launching a new standard project scheme, which aims at assisting the recycling industry to upgrade its capability to process local waste plastics and securing facilities to turn waste plastics into raw materials for plastic products, so as to fulfill Mainland's relevant import requirement. Funding ceiling under this scheme is up to \$1 million for each application. In addition, \$50 million has also been earmarked under the Fund for launching a scheme encouraging recyclers to use compactor trucks, which facilitates transportation of waste plastics and waste papers in a more effective manner, thereby reducing the costs for collection and transportation of recyclables. This scheme is now open for application. We will continue to work with the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund to liaise with the recycling industry and take forward more initiatives to support the recycling industry in its upgrading and transformation, nurture a local manufacturing industry using recycled materials and explore new markets.

(2) Strengthening land support and promoting long-term development

- At present, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Marine Department have made available a total of 16 berths in public cargo working areas for exclusive bidding by waste paper recyclers, where they can sort, process and prepare waste papers for shipment before export.

- The Government has developed the 20-hectare EcoPark to provide land for recyclers at affordable rent to promote the local recycling industry's development. A total of 11 sites at the EcoPark have been leased out for the recycling of various materials.
- To promote the development of a manufacturing industry using recycled materials in Hong Kong, we will examine how to meet the land requirement for such an industry with the land and ancillary facilities at the EcoPark.
- Through strengthened liaison with Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices as well as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the EPD will keep abreast of trade laws of various markets as well as market information of recyclables, in order to assist waste paper recyclers to tap into other export markets, and explore more diversified options for processing waste paper.

(3) Enhancing the operation and management of the recycling chain

- The scope of services of the 18 recycling centres, set up and funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund, in various districts will be expanded to receive, where necessary, waste plastics bottles (WPBs) collected and delivered from private housing estates and residential buildings.
- A scheme on central collection of WPBs by the Government will be introduced to centrally collect WPBs from various Community Recycling Centres or other sources for delivery to qualified recyclers for further treatment.
- We will explore the feasibility of implementing a Producer Responsibility Scheme for plastic containers carrying beverages or personal care products.

(4) Raising the quality and quantity of recyclables

- We will raise the quality and quantity of various recyclables at source so as to increase their values and the cost effectiveness of the follow-up work of recyclers. The EPD and the Environmental Campaign Committee will enhance the publicity and public education on clean recycling. The new round of publicity campaign will focus on educating the public on how to minimise contaminants and impurities of WPBs, as well as how to separate waste paper properly and keep them clean and dry, with a view to better complying with

the more stringent Mainland requirements on importing recyclables to be phased in from 2018 onwards.

- To tie in with the future implementation of the quantity-based municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, the EPD will set up outreach teams to render more appropriate on-site recycling support for various housing estates; disseminate at the frontline information on how to practise better source separation and clean recycling; and provide assistance in ensuring the proper treatment of recyclables while facilitating the implementation of relevant arrangements in housing estates.

(5) Launching policies to drive behavioural change

- It is expected that the future MSW charging, upon its implementation, will create financial incentives that can better motivate the public and the business sector to practise waste separation and recycling, thereby providing more recyclables for the recycling industry. Increase in the overall quantity of recyclables will then become a financial incentive for recyclers to expand their businesses.
- The Government will continue to promote green procurement to increase the market demand for recycled products.