

**Update on the Progress of the Key Initiatives in the
“Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste
(2005-2014)”**

Purpose

This paper presents the latest implementation progress of the various initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Policy Framework).

Latest Progress

2. Enshrining the “polluter-pays” principle, the Policy Framework proposes a series of policy initiatives to provide economic incentives for the community to recycle more and discard less. These include Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging and source separation of domestic waste programme to reduce waste at source; producer responsibility scheme (PRS) and development of an EcoPark to facilitate waste recovery and recycling. For unavoidable waste, we will develop state-of-the-art integrated waste management facilities (IWWMF) using thermal treatment technology, such as incineration, as the core technology to reduce the volume of waste before final disposal.

3. Since the implementation of the policy initiatives in the Policy Framework, we observe that the amount of MSW disposed of at the landfills has dropped by 1% in 2006, and the recovery rate of MSW has increased from 43% in 2005 to 45% in 2006. However, the amount of MSW generated remains on an increasing trend, despite good results are achieved for source separation and waste recovery. This demonstrates the policy initiatives in the Policy Framework should continue be implemented concertedly to achieve the intended results.

4. Members are invited to note the latest implementation progress of the various initiatives under the Policy Framework (**Annex**). Full support from the business sector to these initiatives is much appreciated.

**Environmental Protection Department
September 2007**

**Progress Report for implementing the various initiatives in the
Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste
(2005-2014)**

Initiative	Details	Implementation Progress
Community Education & Waste Reduction		
Public education and partnership	To induce behavioural change and gain public support in various waste management initiatives through community education.	The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee has agreed to allocate \$10 million for a public education programme that promotes the policy initiatives in the Policy Framework. Three funding applications have recently been approved.
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging	This is a major policy tool to provide the public with direct economic incentives to reduce and recover waste.	We completed a 3-month trial scheme in February 2007 to study the logistical arrangement for implementing a variable rate charging scheme. We are reviewing the findings from the trial scheme and plan to consult the public on practicable options by end 2007.
Waste Recovery & Promoting “Circular Economy”		
Territory-wide Source Separation of Domestic Waste Programme	The programme is designed to promote source separation of domestic waste through installation of floor-based or expanded mode source separation facilities at the housing estates.	The programme was rolled out in January 2005. As at August 2007, there were 679 housing estates participating in the programme, covering about 880 000 households and some 38% of the population. We will continue to press ahead the programme with a view to achieving the target of covering 80% of the population by 2010.
Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS)	Under a PRS, a host of stakeholders, who could be manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers or consumers, shall share the eco-responsibility of handling specific products from cradle to grave so as to promote resource recovery and avoid/minimize their environmental impact.	Among a series of priority products, we plan to introduce a PRS on plastic shopping bags first, which would involve an environmental levy. We completed a 2-month public consultation on our proposal and plan to introduce the relevant legislation, namely the “Product Eco-responsibility Bill”, into the Legislative Council the coming legislative session.

Initiative	Details	Implementation Progress
EcoPark, and short term tenancies (STT) for recycling	<p>The EcoPark, located in Tuen Mun, seeks to provide long-term land at affordable costs for the local recycling and environmental industries.</p> <p>Apart from EcoPark, we will also continue to provide short-term land to the local recycling industry</p>	<p>The tenancies for the first batch of lots in Phase I of the EcoPark were awarded in April 2007. The three tenants will engage in recovery and recycling of waste plastics, vehicle tyres and wood materials respectively. Tenders for the second batch of lots in Phase I will be invited in September 2007.</p> <p>As at August 2007, 36 STT sites with an aggregate area of 7.4 hectares are leased exclusively to the recycling trade.</p>
Green procurement	<p>This initiative aims to promote a circular economy by creating market demand for “green” products.</p>	<p>The Government has developed “green” specifications for 33 products. Over the past four years, the Government purchased more than \$180 million worth of “green” products, including recycled paper, office stationery, cleansing supplies, etc.</p>
Funding for technological development	<p>The Government supports and encourages research and development in new recycling technologies through the ECF, Innovation and Technology Fund, and funds for the small and medium enterprises.</p>	<p>In 2006, 45 relevant projects involving a total of some \$12 million were supported by these funds.</p>
Provision of Waste Management Facilities		
Landfill extension	<p>There is a need to extend our three existing landfills since they will be full within the next decade.</p>	<p>The feasibility and environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies for the North East New Territories (NENT), South East New Territories (SENT) and West New Territories (WENT) Landfill extensions are in progress. The EIA report of the NENT Landfill extension has been published for public exhibition and being considered by the Advisory Council for the Environment, and the same process for the SENT Landfill extension will be conducted later in 2007.</p>
Integrated Waste Management Facilities	<p>The IWMF is designed to treat unavoidable waste so as to reduce its volume before disposal at the</p>	<p>We have initiated an exercise to identify suitable sites for developing the IWMF, taking into account environmental, technical/engineering and economic</p>

Initiative	Details	Implementation Progress
(IWMF)	landfills. It will adopt a multi-technology approach such that the most suitable technology is applied to treat different components of the MSW.	considerations, as well as social impact and implications to the local neighborhood. This will be followed by detailed feasibility and EIA studies.
Landfill Disposal Ban	Landfill Disposal Ban will be introduced for specific types of waste and untreated MSW.	Landfill Disposal Ban will be implemented to tie in with the introduction of PRS and development of the IWMF.