

- 8.1** Hong Kong is facing an imminent waste management problem. The Government is committed to promoting waste avoidance and minimization as an integral part of our multi-pronged waste management strategy and has revised upward the MSW recovery target (from 52% now) to 55% by 2015. This will be achieved by stepping up publicity and promotional efforts on waste reduction and recycling. Yet, significantly, raising our waste recovery rate further will not be possible in the absence of major economic incentives such as MSW charging. At the same time, internationally there is no one-size-fits-all approach to implementing MSW charging; individual jurisdictions adopt their own preferred approach depending on what works best within their circumstances.
- 8.2** In the context of Hong Kong, our unique city fabric and the way our MSW is collected pose significant challenges in putting in place a practicable MSW charging scheme. Irrespective of which charging approach to adopt, some costs would inevitably be incurred. Our society should deliberate in the full context of the pros and cons of these options and collectively decide the proper way forward after balancing the relevant costs and benefits.
- 8.3** This Public Consultation will last for three months starting from **10 January 2012 (Tuesday)**. We wish to listen to views from stakeholders and members of the public on a number of specific issues as follows –
- (a) **Question 1:** Does Hong Kong need to introduce MSW charging?
  - (b) **Question 2:** Should Hong Kong go for a waste charging system for all sectors or a partial charging system?
  - (c) **Question 3:** Should Hong Kong go for a Quantity-based system, a Proxy system or a Fixed Charge system?
  - (d) **Question 4:** Are you prepared to change your behaviour in waste disposal if an MSW charging system is introduced?
  - (e) **Question 5:** Do you agree that the Government should introduce legislation to mandate the separation of waste at source and accordingly ban unauthorized disposal of MSW?

- 8.4** We aim to take into account the outcome of this Public Consultation and draw up the recommended way forward as soon as possible within 2012.

## When and How to Respond

- 8.5** MSW charging is a strategic issue that requires input from different stakeholders in the community. From now until **10 April 2012 (Tuesday)**, we will accept submissions from stakeholders and members of the public, which could be sent to us by post, email or facsimile. Details are as follows –

By Post:            Environmental Protection Department  
                         Waste Management Policy Division  
                         Room 4522, 45<sup>th</sup> Floor, Revenue Tower  
                         5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai  
                         Hong Kong

By Email:           mswcharging@epd.gov.hk

By Facsimile: 2318 1877

For the ease of responding to this Public Consultation and to facilitate subsequent analysis, a standard response form is provided at [Annex D](#).

- 8.6** The Government may wish, either in discussion with others or in any subsequent report, whether privately or publicly, to be able to refer to and attribute views submitted in your response. Any request to treat all or part of a response in confidence will be respected, but if no such request is made, it will be assumed that the response is not intended to be confidential.