

**Public Education Programme under the
“Policy Framework for the
Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”**

PURPOSE

This paper sets out a proposed public education programme under the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)”.

BACKGROUND

2. Subsequent to the Subcommittee meeting on 6 July 2006, the Environmental and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee endorsed the proposal to allocate \$10 million to support a public education programme under the “Policy Framework” at its meeting on 7 December 2006. Before considering individual funding applications, the ECF Committee would like the Administration, in consultation with the Subcommittee, to develop a more detailed public education programme with specific themes and activities for the endorsement of the ECF Committee.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME

3. To tie in with the timetable of the “Policy Framework”, the public education programme should focus on the following five themes:

- (a) Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and source separation of domestic waste;
- (b) Producer responsibility schemes (PRS's);
- (c) EcoPark;
- (d) Green procurement; and
- (e) Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF).

4. Based on the suggestions of Members and the views expressed at the Brainstorming Session with green groups and relevant institutions on 19 June 2006, we consider that the following activities could be pursued under the public education programme:

MSW Charging

- To ride on the trial scheme on MSW charging held between November 2006 and February 2007, activities could be organized to further promote “waste reduction” and the concept of “polluter pays” for municipal solid waste.
- Aside from housing estates, activities could be organized to develop practical modes of waste management for singleton buildings and village housing with active participation of residents.

Producer Responsibility Schemes

- The PRS’s on plastic shopping bags, vehicle tyres and electrical and electronic equipment are among the top priorities in the “Policy Framework”. Activities could be organized to pave the way for the introduction of these PRS’s.
- Activities such as plastic bag reduction targeting SME’s, and recycling of computer equipment and electronic appliances could be explored.

EcoPark

- The EcoPark will be in operation later this year. We could make use of the visitor and education centre and the green features therein to educate the public about our overall waste management strategy.
- In particular, we would expect an NGO to operate a public education programme with the EcoPark Operator and to arrange visits from district groups, schools, etc.

Green Procurement

- While the Administration has adopted a green procurement policy, the private sector should be encouraged to do the same.
- In this connection, activities could be organized to promote the practice of green procurement in the private sector. Relevant studies could be conducted to identify best practices, while seminars could be organized to facilitate information and experience sharing.

Integrated Waste Management Facilities

- To encourage public buy-in, activities could be organized to educate the public on state-of-the-art waste treatment technologies and their possible applications in Hong Kong. Such activities could include public seminars, roving exhibitions and study visits.

In addition to the specific activities above, other proposals that are in support of the targets and initiatives in the Policy Framework will also be considered.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to comment on and endorse the scope of the proposed public education programme as set out in paragraph 4 above.

**Waste Management Subcommittee Secretariat
January 2007**