

**Confirmed Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting  
of the Waste Management Subcommittee  
on Monday, 29 March 2021 at 2:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Ms Julia LAU (Chairperson)  
Ms Carmen CHAN, BBS, JP  
Ms Sylvia CHAN, MH  
Ms Ada FUNG, BBS  
Ir Samantha KONG  
Ms LAM Chung-yan  
Prof Alexis LAU, JP  
Mr Andrew LEE  
Ms Christina TANG  
Mr Simon WONG, JP  
Dr WONG Kwok-yan  
Dr Raymond YAU  
Ms Becky LAM (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies:**

Prof WONG Sze-chun, BBS, JP

**In Attendance:**

Mrs NG KIANG Mei-nei, Millie, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Mr LUK Kar-kin, Bruno	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Special Projects), EPD
Mr FONG Kin-wa, JP	Assistant Director (Waste Reduction and Recycling), EPD
Mr WONG Chuen-fai, JP	Assistant Director (Waste Recycling Innovation Planning), EPD
Ms YEUNG Pou-ian, Fanny	Senior Administrative Officer (Waste Infrastructure Planning), EPD
Ms CHEUNG Wai-ping, Shirley	Senior Statistician, EPD
Miss CHOW Pak-gi, Pansy	Executive Service Assistant (Waste Infrastructure Planning), EPD
Miss Sally SHEK	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EPD

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The Chairperson welcomed Members attending the meeting in person or by Zoom, and informed them that apologies of absence had been received from Professor Wong Sze-chun.

**Item 1 : Matters arising**

2. The Chairperson advised that the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 September 2020 were confirmed by circulation on 11 December 2020. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

**Item 2 : Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2019**  
*(ACE-WM Paper 1/2021)*

3. The Chairperson informed Members that the paper presented the statistics on disposal and recovery/recycling of solid waste generated in Hong Kong in 2019.

4. There was no declaration of interests by Members.

5. Ms Shirley Cheung, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefed Members on the classification of solid waste in Hong Kong and statistics on the disposal and recovery of solid waste in 2019.

6. In reply to a Member's enquiry about the anticipated reduction in municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed in landfill in 2020, Mr Bruno Luk advised that there had been a marked increase of recyclables collected through the Recycling Stores upon their operation in the past few months.

7. Noting that there was a reduction in recyclables exported in 2019, a Member enquired about the major challenges in exporting them to other economies for recycling and the facilitation measures to support the recycling trade. Mrs Millie Ng responded that given the downturn in the external recycling market, the Government took the lead in providing collection services for key recyclables as well as financial incentives for recyclers to explore more export outlets. She considered that the recycling industry would find more opportunities for development upon the implementation of MSW charging.

8. In response to a Member's enquiry, Mrs Millie Ng anticipated that the per capita MSW disposal rate would continue to be associated with the economic activity and GDP in 2020. She explained that MSW charging would be one of the most effective ways to delink the close relationship between the amount of waste disposal and economic growth, driving towards a significant reduction in waste disposal.

*Conclusion*

9. The Chairperson thanked the subject team for their detailed presentation. She welcomed the subject team to update Members on the annual waste statistics in future meetings.

**Item 3 : Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035**  
***(ACE-WM Paper 2/2021)***

10. The Chairperson said that ACE-WM Paper 2/2021 briefed Members on the recent promulgation of a long-term strategy blueprint on waste management, namely "Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035" (the new Blueprint).

11. There was no declaration of interests by Members.

12. Mrs Millie Ng, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefed Members on the new Blueprint, which outlined the strategies, goals and measures to tackle the challenge of waste management up to 2035. Mr Bruno Luk supplemented that ACE Members were briefed on the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 on 8 March 2021. He thanked the ACE for their submission of a resolution to the relevant Bills Committee in LegCo expressing support for the early passage of the Bill and the implementation of MSW charging.

*Community Recycling Network*

13. In response to a Member's enquiry on the location of the Recycling Stores, Mr Bruno Luk advised that most of the Recycling Stores or Spots were operated in the vicinity of single-block buildings and "3-nil buildings", i.e. residential buildings without owners' incorporation, any form of residents' association, or engagement of a property management company, to provide recycling services to the residents.

14. Three Members were supportive of the community recycling network and were of the view that the Recycling Stores could better encourage the public to recycle than the conventional recycling bins given the convenient locations of these stores. While agreeing that the Recycling Stores were effective in encouraging community recycling, the Chairperson, echoed by two Members, was concerned about the use of public money in paying rent for supporting the operation of Recycling Stores, and she suggested EPD explore additional recycling channels in the long term. The Chairperson enquired and hoped that subsidizing rent for the recycling bins would be an interim measure only.

15. Mr Bruno Luk explained that the newly branded Recycling Stores were currently operated with recurrent funding of the Government through engagement of non-profit making organisations. He considered the current operation mode of the Recycling Stores effective in motivating community recycling as positive progress had been witnessed. He also shared that the recyclables collected from Recycling Stores were generally in better hygiene condition than those collected from conventional recycling bins. Mr Wong Chuen-fai supplemented that, apart from the Recycling Stores, the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste was in place to promote the use of recycling bins in housing estates, which offered a convenient and cost-effective channel for waste separation and recycling at source. Mr Luk added that EPD was proactively exploring different channels to further facilitate recycling, such as the setting up of over 100 Recycling Spots across the territory to provide kerbside recycling service.

16. A Member suggested the Government integrate other leisure functions such as lending/returning of books or distributing compost for planting in the Recycling Stores to increase the attractiveness of these Stores. Mr Bruno Luk shared that bartering was available in some of the larger Recycling Stations (formerly called Community Green Stations), but Recycling Stores would have difficulties in providing more public services due to space limitation.

17. The Chairperson considered that the Government should review the effectiveness of the Recycling Stores annually instead of every five years. Mr Bruno Luk clarified that the Recycling Stores were operated under two-year contracts and the Government would keep in view their operation situations; the regular review every five years referred to the MSW disposal and recovery targets under the new Blueprint.

*Recycling Bins*

18. A Member suggested the Government explore ways to encourage the proper use of recycling bins by improving their design. Mr Bruno Luk shared that, since taking over the management of recycling bins in public places from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) in 2020, EPD had made some improvements to the recycling bins, including changing the original litter compartments to collecting recyclables to reduce the chance of misplacing litter into recycling bins by the public. EPD had also been working on a new design for the recycling bins, which was targeted to be rolled out progressively in 2022.

19. The Chairperson suggested the Government take a proactive role in offering different types of recycling bins at Government-owned buildings and premises. Inspired by the Recycling Stores, she suggested using the same design for the recycling bins to build a unified image for publicity purpose.

20. The Chairperson went on to suggest drawing reference from the Mainland in the automated collection of recyclables, such as the use of smart recycling bins that would automatically weigh the recyclables collected. Mr Bruno Luk shared that smart recycling bins were currently in trial use in a few Recycling Stations and Stores, and anticipated that more smart recycling bins would be put into application after the trial.

21. A Member enquired whether the Government would review and update prevailing regulations such as the Buildings Ordinance with a view to increasing the space allocated for waste separation or recycling in development projects. The Chairperson suggested housing estates such as those by Hong Kong Housing Authority and Hong Kong Housing Society could take lead to introduce the recycling bin provisions to create more exposure to promote this sustainability act. Mr Fong Kin-wa advised that EPD had been collaborating with the Buildings Department to explore the provision of larger space for housing waste separation bins in suitable buildings or development projects.

*Food Waste Recycling*

22. On a Member's enquiry on the Government's plan to increase food waste recycling capacity, Mrs Millie Ng shared that apart from O•PARK1 and O•PARK2

which could handle a total of about 500 tonnes of food waste daily, the Government would continue to expand food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion at suitable sewage treatment works, and explore other innovative means to turn food waste into useful resources.

23. To provide better support on food waste recycling, a Member suggested the Government regularise the funding for the collection services for food waste. Mrs Millie Ng shared that the Government would continue to expand the pilot scheme on food waste collection with due consideration of the availability of financial resources. Upon the implementation of MSW charging, the Government would progressively arrange free collection of food waste that had been properly separated from catering trade and deliver it to food waste recycling facilities. The food waste separated by and collected from the catering trade would not be subject to MSW charges.

24. A Member suggested EPD draw reference from other economies such as Taiwan on the collection of domestic food waste. Mrs Millie Ng assured Members that the Government had been keeping in view experience in other economies, especially those in Asia with similar food culture, in formulating food waste collection policies.

#### *Recycling in Rural Areas*

25. A Member shared that most of the residents of rural villages were unfamiliar with the principles and operation of MSW charging. Mr Bruno Luk explained that upon the implementation of MSW charging, MSW would have to be properly wrapped in designated garbage bags before disposal. After the preparatory period upon the passage of the Bill, enforcement actions would be taken on a risk-based approach, with frontline staff of EPD and FEHD conducting surveillance and enforcement actions at black spots, which would be identified based on intelligence and complaints received. Another Member shared that the village she lived in participated in the pilot schemes under the Recycling Fund for practising recycling at source, and the residents became more receptive towards MSW charging.

26. In response to a Member's enquiry about food waste processing in rural villages, Mrs Millie Ng shared that apart from the trial projects to collect food waste from rural areas under the Recycling Fund, the pilot scheme on the collection of food

waste would be expanded to cover domestic food waste gradually, with priority given to urban areas and residential buildings with experience in food waste separation. Mrs Ng also shared that an additional funding of \$1 billion would be injected into the Recycling Fund with the application period extended to 2027 so as to render further support to the recycling trade. Another Member appreciated the various waste recycling measures taken by EPD, in particular the pilot schemes for promoting waste separation and recycling funded by the Recycling Fund.

#### *Development of Waste Management Facilities*

27. A Member expressed support on the various waste management measures, in particular the development of waste-to-energy/resources infrastructure which was crucial to supporting the Government's plan of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and complemented the implementation of MSW charging. Mrs Millie Ng responded that the Government was committed to the expansion of waste-to-energy/resources infrastructure including modern incineration facilities with a view to achieving the goal of "Zero Landfill" under the new Blueprint.

28. A Member appreciated the idea and development of various waste management facilities such as T•PARK, WEEE•PARK, O•PARK1, O•PARK2, Y•PARK and I•PARK, and expressed interest in paying visits to these facilities in the near future. Mrs Millie Ng shared that more waste-to-resources facilities such as paper pulping facility were being planned or developed. EPD would be happy to arrange visits for Members in the near future.

#### *Education and Publicity*

29. A Member emphasised the importance of introducing environmental education to schools to strengthen and encourage public engagement in environmental initiatives, which was echoed by another Member. Mrs Millie Ng agreed that education was of paramount importance and the Government would spare no efforts in this respect.

30. A Member suggested awarding those organisations or companies with commendation in recognition of their efforts on environmental protection. The Chairperson suggested making films/videos to promote tips or good practices about waste reduction/recycling and to provide incentives to encourage public participation

as well as to consider introducing facilities of different themes. With regards to the wide range of measures planned and launched by EPD, another Member suggested the Government engage marketing agencies to launch marketing campaigns in a structured and unified manner. Mrs Millie Ng responded that EPD had been engaging marketing agencies to promote various initiatives on project basis and would continue with the publicity efforts in the promotion of waste reduction and recycling.

31. In response to a Member's enquiry on the Government's plan to drive behavioural change in recycling, Mr Bruno Luk advised that the Government would keep up its efforts to enhance the community recycling network, while MSW charging would be of vital importance in driving behavioural change in waste reduction and recycling.

32. A Member enquired whether "zero waste" guidelines were in place for businesses' reference. Another Member further enquired about the guidelines on handling waste generated from large-scale public events. Mrs Millie Ng advised that waste reduction guidelines were in place for different sectors. Mr Fong Kin-wa added that EPD had issued a guidebook on waste reduction for large scale event organisers to help them formulate waste management and clean recycling strategies. He also shared that over 250 organisations had pledged their support to adhere to the guidebook when organising and sponsoring events to practise waste reduction and recycling and enhance environmental performance.

#### *Inter-departmental Collaboration*

33. A Member considered that inter-departmental collaboration was essential for environmental protection. The Chairperson suggested EPD collaborate with the Home Affairs Bureau on the provision of collection services for waste items such as clothing, while another Member suggested the Government take the lead in raising the waste recycling performance within Government premises.

34. Mr Fong Kin-wa shared that each Government bureau/department had assigned a Green Manager to oversee waste reduction and recycling in the offices, and was required to publish an environmental report annually on the environmental performances and green measures taken. EPD would maintain close collaboration with bureaux and departments to further practise waste reduction and recycling.



*Other Relevant Issues*

35. In response to a Member's enquiry on the baseline for the medium-term target to reduce per capita MSW disposal rate by 40% to 45%, Mrs Millie Ng advised that the Government would adopt the most recent statistics in around 2019 to 2020 as a baseline for the target.

36. On other ways to reduce waste and improve recycling, a Member suggested arranging door-to-door collection of furniture and large electrical and electronic equipment, while another Member suggested the Government encourage producers to improve the durability of products with a view to lengthening the life span of electrical and electronic equipment.

*Conclusion*

37. The Chairperson thanked the subject teams for their detailed presentation. She summarised the views of Members and concluded that Members were in general supportive of the new Blueprint and the Government's various waste management measures.

**Item 4 : Any other business**

38. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

**Item 5 : Date of next meeting**

39. Members will be advised on the date and agenda for the next meeting in due course.

**Waste Management Subcommittee Secretariat  
May 2021**