

**WASTE REDUCTION STUDY  
REPORT ON 1ST STAGE CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

**FEEDBACK OF THE FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION**

During the first stage consultation, a total of 51 organisations/interested groups were provided with the Summary Document and invited to express comments on the Study's recommendations. The feedback obtained from each category of organisations are summarised as follows :

**Advisory Bodies**

- Both ACE and LegCo EA Panel have expressed support to the proposed integrated strategy of waste reduction.
- As waste reduction should be a top policy priority, more expeditious implementation of the programmes is desirable.
- Municipal councils should be given a major role to play in the Waste Reduction Plan.
- Doubts were expressed by some advisory bodies about the effectiveness of voluntary schemes.
- To commence as soon as possible the feasibility study on incineration facilities.
- Waste Reduction should be an urgent and top policy priority; success will depend on co-operation from and co-ordination with all policy branches and key public bodies.

### **Municipal Councils**

- Voluntary approach would be ineffective; both mandatory measures and financial incentives are essential to facilitate waste recovery and reduction.
- The Government should provide suitable incentives in the form of grants and land allocation to induce private sector to actively participate in waste reduction.
- The Government should clearly define the roles of the two municipal councils in waste reduction; it is common for central governments in overseas countries to impose mandatory requirements on local government to comply with waste reduction targets.
- Incineration is most effective in reducing the volume of waste and should be given a high priority.
- Some of the Study's recommendations e.g. setting up of a dedicated Waste Reduction Team, Green Labelling etc should be implemented with immediate effect.
- The Government should carefully consider the impact of the financial implications of the Waste Reduction Plan on the public.

### **Business and Industrial Sectors**

- The voluntary approach for waste reduction was supported as appropriate for Hong Kong as it would provide more flexibility and be acceptable to the public, and the industrial and commercial sectors.
- Waste reduction is the responsibility of all sectors of Hong Kong community, including Government, commerce, industry and individual citizens; any measures or policies proposed or adopted must not discriminate against any individual sector or section of the community.

- The setting up of the Waste Reduction Team within the Government and the Waste Reduction Task Force representing the wider views of society could help to drive the Waste Reduction Plan; the composition of the Task Force must include representatives from industry as well as from professional associations/organisations. Since most products in Hong Kong are imported, it will be important to include importers. The Government needs to ensure that no 'free-loaders' can operate under the Waste Reduction Plan.
- Although the public and members of industry and commerce do not directly pay for the costs involved in waste management, they bear quite a large portion of the financial responsibility indirectly through management fees, rates and taxes. If part of the costs of implementing the Waste Reduction Plan are transferred to them, the community would then be paying 'double' for waste management. This would mean an increase in costs and a weakening of the competitiveness of Hong Kong's industry.
- The inclusion of incineration as an integral part of the overall waste reduction strategy is supported.

#### Green Groups and Professional Bodies/Institutions

- The integrated waste reduction strategy is supported but there are doubts as to the effectiveness of the voluntary approach.
- A combination of positive encouragement together with enforcement of legal measures will be more effective than voluntary measures alone; for this reason, legislation and enforcement mechanisms should be set up concurrently with voluntary initiatives to provide the appropriate level of motivation.

There were concerns about the long lead time and possible delays in implementing the proposed programmes.

- At present, interest groups have difficulties of soliciting funding for organising recycling projects. It was proposed that more resources should be provided to local groups to organise waste reduction projects.

- The use of Waste Fired Power Generation as an integral component of the waste reduction strategy was supported.
- The formation of the Waste Reduction Team and Waste Reduction Task Force were supported; the Waste Reduction Task Force should include high level officials from the relevant departments and branches who have the authority to make decisions and to ensure the issue was given high priority.