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For advice

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

Purpose

This paper seeks members’ agreement to the recommendations by the Waste Subcommittee regarding the implementation of the key initiatives (**Annex**) in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (“Policy Framework”).

Background

2. The Advisory Council on the Environment was briefed on the “Policy Framework” at its meeting on 21 December 2005. Before offering its advice to the Administration, the Council decided to hold an Open Forum to gather public views on the “Policy Framework”, and to task its Waste Subcommittee to study the “Policy Framework” in detail and come up with recommendations.

3. The Open Forum on “Policy Framework” was held on 21 January 2006 at the Hong Kong Museum of History. Subsequently, the Waste Subcommittee held a meeting on 20 February 2006 to further study and discuss the implementation of the key initiatives in the “Policy Framework”.

Recommendations on the Implementation of the Key Initiatives in the “Policy Framework”

4. Having taken into account the views expressed at the Open Forum, the Waste Subcommittee recommended the following -

(a) *Targets in the “Policy Framework”*

- The Subcommittee agreed with the targets in the “Policy Framework”, and suggested that they should be considered as the minimum thresholds that the Government and the public should strive for.

(b) *Territory-wide Source Separation of Domestic Waste*

- The Subcommittee considered that source separation of domestic waste should be made more convenient to encourage households’ participation. To address the physical constraint of residential buildings, consideration should be given to amend the building regulation to require space for material recovery on each floor of new residential buildings. More funding should also be provided for retrofitting old buildings and purchasing waste separation bins/racks and bulk reduction equipment.
- To further facilitate the rollout of the source separation programme, the Government could explore the option of establishing an inter-departmental taskforce with representatives from relevant departments.

(c) *Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs)*

- The Subcommittee supported the legislative approach of introducing an enabling legislation, namely the Product Eco-responsibility Bill, into the Legislative Council this year to provide a legal framework for introducing PRSs for specific products. The Subcommittee also supported the introduction of individual PRSs in accordance with the proposed timetable.

(d) *Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging*

- The Subcommittee considered that the main objective of MSW charging was to create economic incentives for people to change behaviour, instead of cost recovery. The charge should be set at a level such that everyone could participate. Exemptions should be avoided as far as possible so as not to complicate the charging scheme.
- The Subcommittee agreed that a trial scheme should be conducted later this year to better understand the logistical issues that might arise and the potential impacts on households and other stakeholders. A “designated bags” system (volume-based) should form the basis of the trial scheme.

(e) *Land Policy*

- The Subcommittee agreed that short-term tenancy sites with longer duration should be provided for the recycling industry.

- (f) *EcoPark*
- The Subcommittee welcomed the establishment of the EcoPark, and considered that the Administration should assess the need and feasibility of advancing Phase 2 of the EcoPark if there was strong demand from the environmental industry.
- (g) *Green Procurement*
- The Subcommittee suggested that the Government should take the lead in green procurement to create a market for environmentally friendly items, while the private sector should be encouraged to practise green procurement as well.
- (h) *Funding for Recycling Technology Projects*
- The Subcommittee considered that funding should be provided for recycling technology projects through the Innovation and Technology Fund and the Small and Medium Enterprises Funding Schemes.
- (i) *Landfill Disposal Bans*
- The Subcommittee agreed that landfill disposal bans should be introduced to tie in with the implementation of PRSs and the commissioning of integrated waste management facilities (IWMF).
- (j) *Integrated Waste Management Facilities*
- The Subcommittee considered that the planning for IWMF should start now, and thermal treatment should be adopted as the core technology. IWMF should be built in phases, and state-of-the-art technology (e.g. ash melting) should be adopted if the cost was justified.
- (k) *Landfill Extensions*
- The Subcommittee agreed that both IWMF and landfills were needed to dispose of our waste. The impact of landfill extensions to the vicinity should be minimized.

Advice sought

5. Members are invited to note and endorse the above recommendations.

Waste Subcommittee Secretariat
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