

Trial Scheme on Municipal Solid Waste Charging

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the progress of the trial scheme on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and the selection of housing estates for participating in the trial.

Background

2. At the meeting of 20 February 2006, members were briefed on the framework of the trial scheme on MSW charging (*Ref. Paper WSC 2/06*). Members agreed that the trial scheme should be conducted later this year and a volume-based trial scheme should form the basis of the trial scheme.

Further Development of the Trial Scheme

3. Subsequent to the meeting, we have developed the trial scheme in further detail. The trial will aim to examine the logistical arrangements for implementing a “variable rate” charging scheme in different housing settings so as to assess the strengths and shortcomings of the charging scheme in different circumstances. The trial will consist of a 4-week baseline survey and a 3-month trial survey. The baseline survey will aim to investigate the current waste collection practices and collect the existing waste arising data in the participating housing estates. The trial survey will employ designated bags for collecting non-reusable and non-recyclable waste, imitating a variable rate charging scheme. Opportunity will also be taken to study the feasibility of separating food waste from the waste stream in selected housing estates. A programme for the trial scheme is attached in

Selection of Participating Housing Estates

4. The participating housing estates will be selected from four groups of housing settings namely, public rental housing estates, subsidized sales flats, private residential estates and government quarters. These four types of estates represent the most common housing settings in Hong Kong and should also cover the majority of the Hong Kong population. At this stage, we consider not necessary to cover other less representative housing settings such as single residential blocks (單幢樓) and village houses (村屋).

5. In order to assess the effect of source separation facilities on waste reduction under the trial scheme, participating housing estates will include those where floor-to-floor source separation facilities are already in place. Separation of food waste will be tested out in both the public rental housing and the private housing groups already equipped with floor-to-floor source separation facilities. For comparison and control purposes, participating housing estates will also include those where source separation facilities are only available in the common area.

6. Based on the above selection criteria and our experience on source separation of waste in residential buildings in the past years, we will select a total of 20 potential estates that may be interested to join the trial scheme. The general groupings of the 20 participating housing estates are summarized and attached in Annex B.

Annex B

Way Forward

7. We plan to commence the baseline survey and the trial survey according to the programme in Annex A. Before these, we will initiate liaison with individual housing estates to invite their participation. Promotional and publicity programmes will be conducted in each participating estate before the commencement of the baseline survey. We will also engage the service of a consultant and a contractor for the preparation and implementation of the trial scheme.

Conclusion

8. Members are invited to comment on the details of the trial scheme on MSW charging as set out above.

Waste Management Policy Division
Environmental Protection Department
June 2006

Programme

<u>Period</u>	<u>Description of Actions</u>
July - September 2006	Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with potential housing estates
mid October – mid November 2006	Baseline survey <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last for 4 weeks• Measure waste generation• Obtain recyclable figures
mid November 2006 – mid February 2007	Trial <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last for 3 months• Try out “Designated bags”• Test out source separation of food waste
early - mid 2007	Data Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review data• Collect feedback

Annex B

Groupings of Housing Estates

Goups of Housing Settings (no. of estates)	Equipped with Floor-to-Floor Source Separation Facility (no. of estates)	Test out source separation of food waste (no. of estates)	Source Separation Facility only in common area (no. of estates)
Group 1			
Public rental housing estates (8)	(6)	(2 out of 6)	(2)
Group 2			
Estates of subsidized sales flats (3)	(2)	-	(1)
Group 3			
Private housing estates (6)	(5)	(1 out of 5)	(1)
Group 4			
Government quarters (3)	(2)		(1)
Total no. of housing estates (20)	(15)	(3 out of 15)	(5)