



33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔告士打道 5 號稅務大樓 33 樓

ACE Paper 14/2025

For information on 11 December 2025

Report on the 46th Waste Management Subcommittee Meeting

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting on 10 October 2025, the Waste Management Subcommittee discussed the waste management initiatives in the 2025 Policy Address of the Environment and Ecology Bureau. For details of the subject, please refer to ACE-WM Paper 1/2025 at *Annex*.

KEY DISCUSSIONS

2. Members have offered extensive views and comments on the measures to support the long-term management of waste in Hong Kong. In particular, Members have highlighted the importance of the Government's continuous efforts to provide the infrastructure and support measures required for effective waste management such as proper planning on waste treatment facilities and recycling network, the development of a circular economy and a green culture, more in-depth publicity and public education, etc. Members' key suggestions are summarised as follows –

Recycling Facilities

- Make early plans for the infrastructure required for waste management including identification of new sites and land to meet the future demand;
- Expand the recycling network to cover different locations;
- Highlight the elements of technology, innovation, especially artificial intelligence and big data in the overall waste management direction;

Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs)

- Prepare an overall plan on the implementation of PRSs covering recycling facilities, ways to improve the recycling rate and contingency plans to handle changes;

Waste Reduction

- Include more details in the “Packaging Reduction Charter” and apply new technologies and data as appropriate;
- Have more engagement with the business sector and provide measures to help them engage their tenants in waste reduction;

Circular Economy

- Develop a closed-loop circular economy for recycled or upcycled materials in Hong Kong or the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area;
- Encourage local manufacturers to produce more new recycled products to promote sustainable merchandising and procurement;
- Provide supporting measures to facilitate the collection of recyclables and to foster the sustainability of the recycling industry;

Publicity and Public Education

- Deploy part of the savings, if the construction of I-PARK3 was no longer required, for long-term investment in other aspects such as process automation, logistics and facilities enhancement, in-depth education and public engagement;
- Share recycling statistics with residents and premises which had joined the “Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter” and stores of GREEN@COMMUNITY to encourage competitive performances; and
- Adopt nudging techniques to enhance the effectiveness of publicity and public education.

3. Members suggested that the Government should further enhance its efforts in collaboration with different stakeholders with a view to achieving the overall waste reduction and recycling targets.

4. The above key discussions are reported to the ACE for information.

WMSC Secretariat
December 2025



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ACE-WM Paper 1/2025

For discussion on 10 October 2025

**Briefing on Waste Management Initiatives in the 2025 Policy Address of
the Environment and Ecology Bureau**

PURPOSE

This paper sets out the major waste management initiatives in relation to the environmental protection and relevant issues in the 2025 Policy Address and Policy Address Supplement, and reports the progress of waste reduction and recycling measures.

MOVING TOWARDS “ZERO LANDFILL”

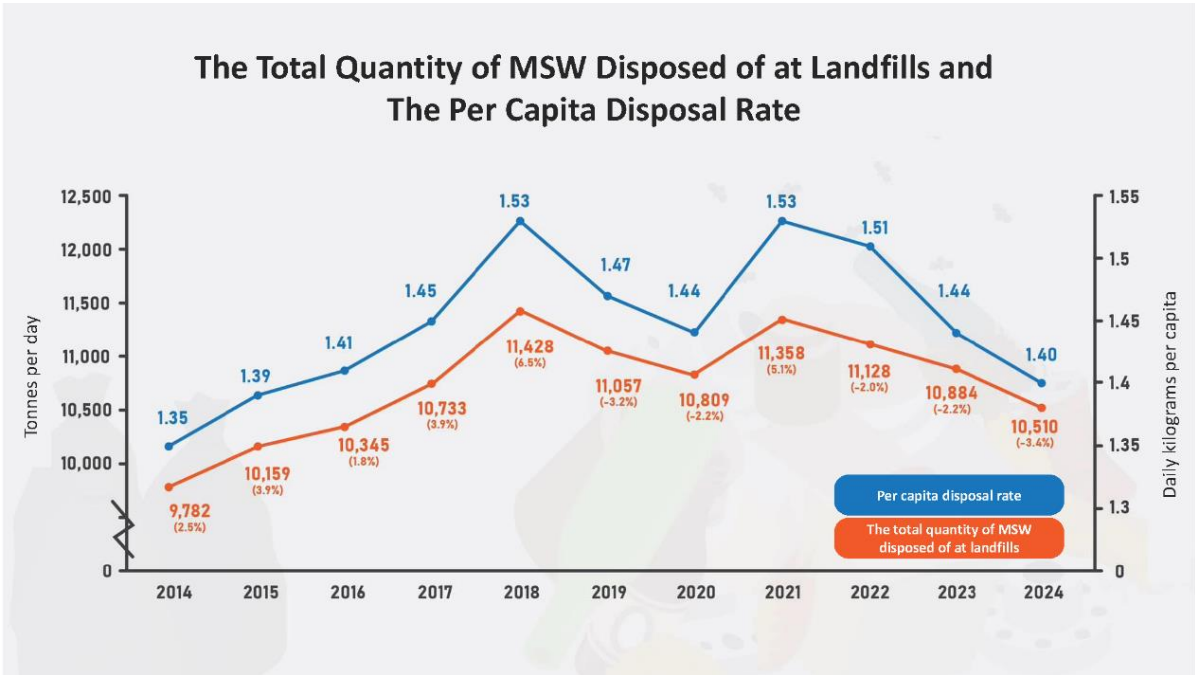
2. The Government is committed to promoting waste reduction and recycling and achieving “zero landfill” by 2035, thereby obviating reliance on landfills for disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). Last year, we continuously increased recycling facilities and strengthened public education and publicity. In terms of increasing recycling facilities, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has increased the number of public collection points under the GREEN@COMMUNITY(G@C) from around 300 to more than 800 at present; the number of food waste collection points has been increased from approximately 1 200 to more than 1 500. Additionally, to enhance recycling facilities in private residential premises, we launched the Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter in June 2024 through which about 930 private residential premises were successfully encouraged to participate, adding about 3 600 recycling facilities.

3. Over the past year, we also made significant efforts to strengthen public education and publicity. Since May last year, the EPD has organised over 4 600 education and promotional activities and launched the We-recycle@School activity in March 2024, which has been well received by schools, with the participation of

approximately 550 primary and secondary schools, involving about 350 000 students. For the trades, the EPD launched the Packaging Reduction Charter at the end of March this year, encouraging businesses to reassess and reduce packaging usage, with over 120 local and multinational companies signing the Charter. The EPD also launched the Non-Plastic Container Trial Programme in mid-August this year, publicly recruiting the trades to test various non-plastic containers and providing feedback on product performance, with a view to reducing the use of plastic in a pragmatic manner.

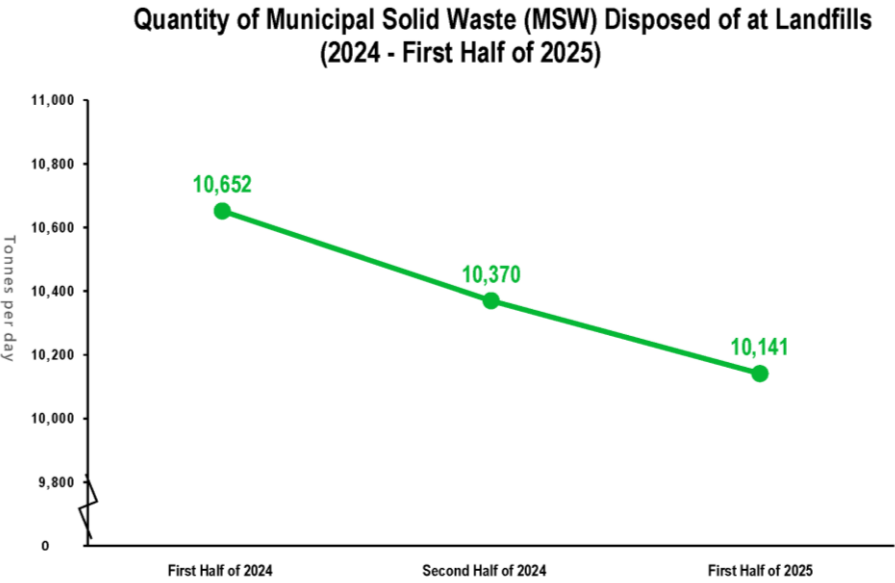
Successfully reversing trend, waste disposal quantity beings to decrease

4. Through these efforts, the current-term Government has successfully reversed the long-term upward trend in waste disposal quantities. The average daily disposal of MSW has continuously declined over the past three years since 2021, from an average of 11 358 tonnes per day in 2021 to 10 510 tonnes per day in 2024, a total reduction of 7.5%. The per capita disposal rate has also dropped from a peak of 1.53 kilograms per person per day in 2021 to 1.40 kilograms per person per day in 2024, a decrease of about 8.5% over three years (see the **chart** below).



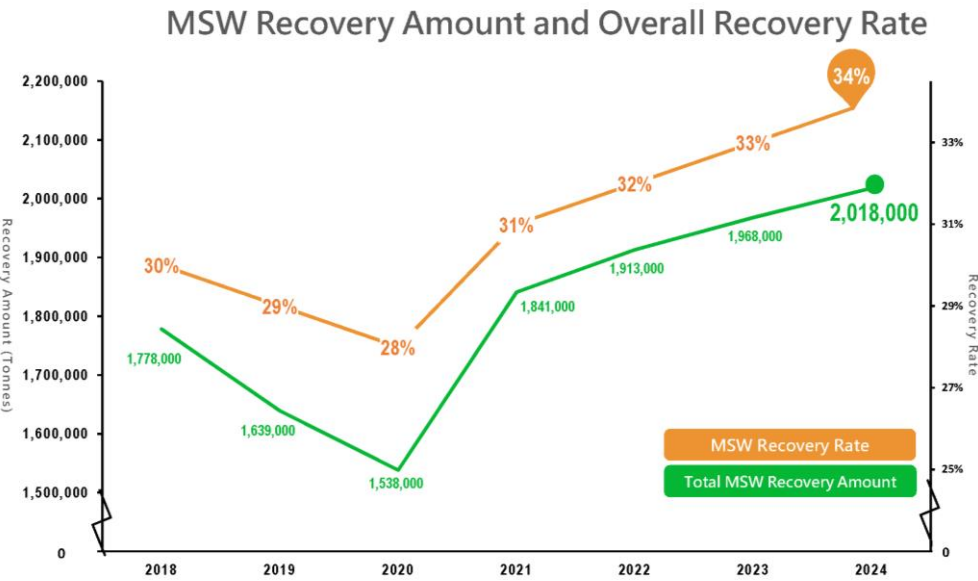
5. Since the first-half of 2024, there has been rising public awareness and participation in waste reduction and recycling. The average daily disposal of MSW has continued to drop, from an average of 10 652 tonnes per day in the first half of

2024 to 10 141 tonnes per day in the first half of this year, a reduction of about 5% (see the **chart** below).



The recovery rate has risen significantly

6. The achievements of the current-term Government in promoting waste reduction and recycling are not only reflected in the decrease in the per capita MSW disposal rate, but also the rise in the overall MSW recovery rate. The total recovery amount climbed from the low point of approximately 1.54 million tonnes in 2020 to around 2.02 million tonnes in 2024, marking an increase of about 480 000 tonnes. The recovery rate also rose from 28% to 34% (see the **chart** below).



Anticipation of foregoing the development of I·PARK3

7. To ensure the achievement of “zero landfill” by 2035, the Government endeavours to develop modern waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities. The soon-to-be-completed I·PARK1 and the planned I·PARK2 together can turn 9 000 tonnes of MSW to power daily. We are identifying a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for the long-term planning of an advanced WtE facility. Taking into account the growth of waste generated by population, economic growth in the long run, and the amount of waste reduction and recycling, we will regularly review the need for constructing I·PARK3. Over the past three years, the average daily disposal of MSW has dropped by about 1 200 tonnes to the current level of about 10 000 tonnes. If members of the public and various sectors of the society keep the momentum in waste reduction to further reduce the MSW disposal quantity to below 9 000 tonnes per day, there may not be a need to construct I·PARK3 for Hong Kong to achieve “zero landfill” by 2035.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Future directions and measures for waste management

8. To achieve “zero landfill” in a timely manner and continuously promote waste reduction at source, we will take forward waste reduction and recycling work along the following four directions, in conjunction with the development of the WtE facilities I·PARK1 and the planned I·PARK2 to also reduce carbon emissions.

- (1) Strengthen public publicity and education to change public behaviour and cultivate a green living culture

Continue to promote publicity and education on waste reduction and recycling, supporting community environmental education efforts through the Environment and Conservation Fund to encourage the public to reduce waste at source, practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. We will continue to implement the We-recycle@School activity at schools to raise students’ awareness of waste reduction at source from a young age and encourage them to make good use of the recycling facilities in schools and communities, and thereby, to influence their family members to practise waste separation and recycling together. The Government will also strengthen the collaboration with non-profit organisations to promote

the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme to reach out to more community groups such as women, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities and new arrivals, etc., strengthening promotion of green culture of waste reduction and recycling among people of different backgrounds.

(2) Continue to enhance recycling network

- (a) Continue to enhance the community recycling network G@C to improve services in a cost-effective manner. This includes enhancing service levels of the more than 800 existing public collection points under the G@C to support single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in lack of space for setting up their own recycling facilities; gradually transforming the operation of 82 Recycling Stores into self-service smart recycling facilities seeking to expand the recycling network at lower costs; and implementing full digitalisation of gift redemption under the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme in April 2026 to offer more convenient and diverse gift options to encourage and promote public participation in waste reduction and recycling; and
- (b) Continue to enhance food waste recycling service, including increasing the number of residential food waste smart recycling bins or food waste collection facilities across the territory to around 1 600 within this year, setting up Public Food Waste Recycling Points at more suitable locations, and strengthening support for private housing estates to participate in food waste recycling while gradually realising “one bin per block” in public rental housing estates. In parallel, the Government will actively explore various on-site food waste treatment technologies and conduct trials in housing estates, rural areas, and government premises to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of different equipment.

(3) Strengthen collaboration with industries to explore and take forward practical environmental protection measures, while minimising the impact on the business sector (especially SMEs), for example:

- (a) LegCo passed the Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal of Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 in July 2025 to establish a common legislative framework for Producer Responsibility Schemes under a market-led approach. To formulate the subsidiary legislation regarding the producer responsibility schemes on EV batteries, and plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, we will continue to consult the trades and, based on practical situation, target to consult the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs within 2026; and
 - (b) The EPD is encouraging the catering trade to progressively increase the usage of non-plastic containers on a trial basis in the light of the actual situation, while collecting more comprehensive data to support the optimisation of product design and supply chain, with a view to reducing plastics usage in a pragmatic manner.
- (4) Utilise market forces to develop environmental infrastructure and assist in the transition to a green economy
- (a) The Tuen Mun EcoPark's modernised paper pulping facility, which will begin trial operation at the end of this year, is expected to process a total of 720 000 tonnes of waste paper, with 630 000 tonnes of three types of local paper (cardboard, newspapers, and office paper) annually and 90 000 tonnes of mixed paper, expanding the types of recycled paper to include lower fibre value or mixed materials (such as paper bags, packaging boxes, and wrapping paper); and
 - (b) Promote Hong Kong's first large-scale EV battery recycling facility, which is expected to commence operations in the EcoPark in the first half of 2026. This facility will facilitate the reuse of retired EV batteries, transforming them into regenerated black powder containing precious metals, thereby promoting industrial development.

VIEWS SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and provide feedback on the aforementioned initiatives.

Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch)
Environmental Protection Department
October 2025