

**Confirmed Minutes of the 46th Meeting
of the Waste Management Subcommittee
on 10 October 2025 at 2:30 p.m.**

Present:

Prof Dennis LEUNG (Chairman)
Mr Eric HO
Ms Linda HO
Mr Alex KWAN
Ms Grace KWOK
Mr Simon NG
Mr Jonathan WU
Dr Raymond YAU
Dr William YU
Ms Karen CHEK (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Mr CHEUNG Chi-wah
Ms Ada FUNG, BBS

In Attendance:

Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB)

Ms Cynthia LAU Executive Officer (CBD) 1
Miss Glory CHONG Executive Officer (CBD) 2

Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

Mr Kenneth CHENG Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Reduction)
Mr Steve WONG Assistant Director (Waste Management)
Mr Stephen SIU Assistant Director (Municipal Solid Waste Charging)
Ms Joanne YUNG Assistant Director (Waste Reduction)

Action

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and informed Members that apologies of absence had been received from Mr Cheung Chi-wah and Ms Ada Fung.

Item 1 : Matters arising

2. The Chairman advised Members that the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 July 2024 were confirmed by circulation on 28 August 2024.

3. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Item 2 : Briefing on waste management initiatives in the 2025 Policy Address of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (ACE-WM Paper 1/2025)

4. The Chairman invited Members to refer to *ACE-WM Paper 1/2025* on Waste Management Initiatives in the 2025 Policy Address of the EEB.
5. There was no declaration of interest by Members.
6. Mr Kenneth Cheng briefed Members on the major waste management initiatives in relation to the environmental protection issues in the 2025 Policy Address and reported the progress of waste reduction and recycling measures.

Recycling Facilities

7. Considering that EcoPark had almost reached its maximum accommodation capacity, a Member viewed that the Government should make early plans for the infrastructure required for waste management including the identification of new sites and land to ensure that there would be sufficient capacity to meet the future demand and to support the development of recycling business. To meet the short-term needs of industries, Mr Steve Wong indicated that the Government had already identified about 20 land sites on short-term tenancy for accommodating recycling-related facilities. Mr Wong shared that additional sites would be reserved for recycling industry in the Northern Metropolis as well as new reclamation in the New Territories to cater for their medium to long-term needs. He added that the Government would keep the matter in view and identify new sites as and when appropriate.
8. A Member enquired about the source of retired electric vehicle (EV) batteries and the other types of batteries that would be handled at the new recycling facility at EcoPark. Mr Steve Wong explained that the facility was constructed and operated by a private recycler which would enter into commercial agreements with EV suppliers and agents for the recycling of end-of-life EV batteries. As regards rechargeable batteries, the GREEN@COMMUNITY (G@C) stores were serving as collection points for subsequent delivery to authorised downstream recyclers. In reply to the Chairman's follow up questions on the treatment capacity and future plans upon saturation of the facility, Mr Wong said that the anticipated treatment capacity of around 10,000 metric tonnes of retired EV batteries per year since 2026 would be sufficient to meet the local demand until 2030 or beyond. Depending on the market demand, the capacity could be further expanded as appropriate.
9. To address a Member's concern on the coverage of "Three-nil buildings" by the existing public collection points under the G@C system and the ways to motivate the tenants therein to practise recycling, Ms Joanne Yung explained that the establishment of the G@C system had been meant to serve the "Three-nil buildings" which was later extended to cover public housing estates and other residential estates. Taking into account the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste, Ms

Yung said that the current recycling network had covered 90% of Hong Kong's population. She added that the Government would make use of more smart tools such as Smart Recycling Bins to further expand the network to different locations.

10. A Member suggested that EPD should highlight the elements of technology, innovation, especially artificial intelligence and big data in its overall waste management direction. Mr Kenneth Cheng indicated that the Government would continue to explore better technologies or solutions to reduce costs, in particular for logistics and waste sorting as they were taking up a significant portion of the waste treatment cost. To enhance cost-effectiveness in treatment of food waste, Mr Cheng said the Government was exploring different technological solutions for in-situ processing to minimise the need to transport food waste to the centralised treatment facilities in O·PARKs. He added that various funds such as the Greentech Fund and Recycling Fund were available to support the relevant studies and experiments.

Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs)

11. A Member asked about the upcoming plans and schedules for the PRSs including the work arrangements, priority between plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, and EV batteries, the legislative timeline, etc. Mr Steve Wong indicated that the Government was working on both PRSs which were already in their final stage of preparation, including drafting of subsidiary legislation and discussion with the stakeholders such as suppliers of plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, and EV batteries, car dealers, recycling facilities, etc. to work out the implementation details. Mr Wong informed that the Government would, based on practical situation, consult the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council and the ACE on the PRSs in 2026.

12. Sharing her experience in operating a G@C store, a Member pointed out that the existing recycling rate of beverage cartons was on the low side. She remarked that it was necessary to strike a balance between the adoption of plastic and paper as packaging materials and there should be supporting measures to facilitate the collection of recyclables to make the recycling business sustainable. As the existing beverage carton recycling company in the market could recycle only the paper content but not the other materials in the package, to prepare for the future PRS, the Member suggested that the Government should have an overall plan on the implementation covering recycling facilities, ways to improve the recycling rate, contingency plans to handle changes such as the switching of packaging materials by manufacturers due to the legislative requirements, etc. Mr Kenneth Cheng acknowledged that plastic bottles recycling was far more mature than beverage cartons recycling in Hong Kong. Therefore, based on the prevailing recycling situation, different recycling targets were proposed for the two materials at different stages under the PRS. Mr Cheng supplemented that the new pulping facility at EcoPark would have sufficient capacity to process all locally-collected beverage cartons.

13. A Member indicated that Hong Kong was less competitive as a port than other places in terms of its ability to fulfil the environmental friendly packaging requirements of foreign companies under their environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. With the new pulping facility at EcoPark coming into operation, she considered that there was room for Hong Kong to meet such ESG standards. Quoting the Sustainable Procurement Charter of the Green Council as an example, the Member opined that more measures should be implemented to facilitate the business sector in the future. Mr Kenneth Cheng remarked that close collaboration with the business sector was one major direction of EPD as they were aspiring to explore common grounds for working out more effective support measures for the sectors.

Waste Reduction

14. Highlighting his recent observations on the excessive packaging for some mooncake products, the Chairman suggested that the Government should liaise with the Business Environment Council (BEC) and the sectors concerned to address the overpackaging issue. Mr Kenneth Cheng invited the Chairman to share more details about the products such as the brand or photos for EPD's follow up actions.

[Post-meeting notes: The Chairman has contacted EPD to follow up on the issue.]

15. In view of the significant amount of waste generated from packaging, in particular from online shopping, a Member supported the introduction of the "Packaging Reduction Charter". He suggested the inclusion of more details in the charter and the application of new technologies and data as appropriate in the process. Mr Kenneth Cheng shared that the industry had been reducing the use of foamed polystyrene in packaging and more reusable plastic or paper were used as a replacement. Mr Cheng remarked that EPD would liaise with the logistics companies on the collection of used packaging paper for recycling when the pulping facility would be in operation.

16. While it was encouraging to note the continual drop in the quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at landfills, a Member indicated that some developers and facility management had experienced difficulties in pushing forward waste reduction and recycling initiatives especially among small-and-medium sized enterprises after the suspension of the implementation of MSW charging. He said that the sector noted a withdrawal phenomenon even though the waste management measures and smart facilities were effective. He considered that the Government should have more engagement with the business sector and provide measures such as green charters to help them engage their tenants in waste reduction.

17. Mr Kenneth Cheng said that the Government conducted extensive reviews with key sectors impacted by MSW charging in the past year, such as the property management, food and beverage, and cleaning industries. He reported that most of the respondents in the latest review indicated that it was not an opportune moment

for implementing MSW charging given the severe challenges such as labour shortage and economic pressure. The sector representatives acknowledged that the previous preparation work for MSW charging had stimulated more debate and discussion which deepened public understanding of the subject. Mr Cheng highlighted that the challenge ahead following the suspension was to sustain momentum in enhancing public awareness on waste reduction and recycling. Noting that the business sector's commitment to contributing in waste management, Mr Cheng said that the Government would continue to collaborate with the business sector through platforms like the BEC and Green Council, with a view to strengthening incentives for waste reduction and recycling.

18. A Member noted the Government's efforts in waste reduction which resulted in a continual drop in MSW disposal, and asked about the disposal trend and measures to encourage further reduction in construction waste. Mr Kenneth Cheng explained that the recycling rate of construction waste in Hong Kong was very high at around 80% to 90% and the residual portion disposed of at the landfill was mostly a result of stricter law enforcement against illegal disposal.

19. Having regard to the reduced quantity of MSW disposed of at landfills, the Chairman sought to know Hong Kong's performance as compared with other advanced cities and whether there was a target for further waste reduction. While the existing per capita disposal rate in Hong Kong was slightly higher than that of some large cities, which could be affected by various factors including population change, level of economic activities, severe climate conditions, etc., Mr Kenneth Cheng indicated that Hong Kong was moving towards the waste reduction and recycling targets, with a view to ultimately achieving "zero landfill" by 2035. In response to the Chairman's comments on the type of waste involved in the "zero landfill" target, Mr Cheng clarified that the target was for MSW.

Circular Economy

20. A Member highlighted the importance of developing a closed-loop circular economy for the recycled or upcycled waste materials in Hong Kong or the Greater Bay Area (GBA). The Member remarked that more efforts should be made at the upstream processes including eco-design, repurpose, repair and reuse of a product as it would help both waste reduction and waste recovery. In addition, the Government should devise appropriate policies to encourage the industries in taking circular economy into consideration in their product design and to incentivise their action through highlighting the relevant benefits which included cost saving. He opined that the Government should consider waste management matters as a whole from the beginning of the life cycle since waste reduction, cost saving, recycling rates, recycling facilities and waste treatment facilities were all interrelated. More statistical analysis such as the percentage of local consumption vs exportation of recycled materials, the usage concerned, etc. should be considered to support the relevant work.

21. As most of the recycled materials were exported to other places due to the limited manufacturing activities in Hong Kong, Mr Kenneth Cheng said that the target was to close the loop of a circular economy in the GBA in the long run. Mr Steve Wong supplemented that the first meeting of the Special Panel for Building “Zero Waste Bay Area” was held in March 2025. The Special Panel aimed to advance solid waste management and resources circulation co-operation in the GBA. Mr Wong furthered that the Government had been pushing forward the construction of a recycling facility for EV batteries by the trade at EcoPark which would facilitate the reuse of lithium batteries and retired EV batteries, transforming them into black powder containing precious metals, thereby promoting industrial development with a view to contributing to the country’s resources recycling system and fostering circular economy.

22. A Member opined that local manufacturers should be encouraged to produce more new recycled products to promote sustainable merchandising. To develop a real circular economy, she said that sustainable production and repeated procurement would be equally essential, in particular for those matured items. Taking the polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bags which was a matured recycling item as an example, the Member indicated that some companies still needed to send the packaging bags to the Chinese Mainland for recycling as coloured plastic bags. Mr Kenneth Cheng welcomed innovative ideas, products and solutions for recycling and green business which would be important for policy formulation. He also shared with Members a successful example where a company, after deliberation with EPD, effectively reduced production cost while bringing solution to waste treatment by using low-value plastic instead of PET to manufacture acoustic metamaterials.

Publicity and Public Education

23. Noting the declining trend in MSW disposal in the past few years, a Member considered that the Government should carefully review the need for a third incineration facility in Hong Kong with reference to the experience of other countries where there might not be sufficient waste to support the operation of the incinerator after the public had gained sufficient awareness in waste reduction and recycling. If the construction of I·PARK3 was no longer required, the Member and another Member held the view that part of the savings could be deployed for long-term investment in other aspects such as process automation, logistics and facilities enhancement, in-depth education and public engagement by way of encouraging property management companies to sign the green charters, etc. as there was room to widen and deepen the existing efforts to induce behavioural change in society. Mr Kenneth Cheng agreed that it was worth making long-term investments in enhancing the effectiveness of waste management and the Government would enhance its publicity efforts by sharing more information on the downstream process of recycling as suggested by Members.

24. For private residential premises which had joined the “Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter”, a Member considered that sharing the relevant recycling statistics with residents and other participating premises could drive additional recycling efforts among peers. The Member added that the same approach could be applied to G@C stores to encourage competitive performances among districts with reference to the funding raising activities of a renowned charitable organisation. To create a green living culture, the Member suggested the adoption of some nudging techniques to enhance the effectiveness of publicity and public education. For example, nudging functions could be added to the GREEN\$ mobile application to allow users to set recycling goals, to track the routes of their recycled materials, etc. She considered that the above could help induce behavioural change in waste reduction and recycling.

25. Ms Joanne Yung informed that the GREEN\$ mobile application would be fully digitised and would collaborate with more e-reward platforms. This would facilitate the earning and redemption of an expanded variety of rewards across key lifestyle categories (food, housing, clothing, and transportation). She added that EPD would further explore a Member’s suggestions on nudging and sharing of recycling information to induce competitive performance. Ms Yung said that the Government would collaborate with more local communities including the District Councils to encourage whole community participation. To address the Member’s question on the application of the “Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter” in commercial premises, Mr Kenneth Cheng indicated that the business sector was supportive of the idea and EPD would explore with BEC on how to take it forward.

Conclusion

26. The Chairman thanked the subject team for the detailed presentation. He invited the Government representatives to consider the suggestions of Members and EPD provide regular updates on new measures and development.

Item 3 : Any other business

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

Item 4 : Date of next meeting

28. Members would be advised on the date and agenda for the next meeting in due course.

29. There being no other business, the meeting ended at around 4:05 p.m.

**Waste Management Subcommittee Secretariat
December 2025**