

(Translation)

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of the
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (2024) of the
Kwai Tsing District Council**

Date: 11 June 2024
Time: 2:30 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.
Venue: Kwai Tsing District Office (“K&T DO”) Conference Room

<u>Present</u>	<u>Time of Arrival</u>	<u>Time of Departure</u>
Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH (Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr CHAN Chi-wing, MH (Vice Chairman)	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG Chi-wah	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr NG King-wah	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHU Lai-ling, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LEE Wai-lok	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss CHAU Kit-ying	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms LAM Chui-ling, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr TSUI Hiu-kit	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr YUEN Yun-hung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms CHAN On-ni	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms Miranda CHAN Oi-yi	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr PANG Yap-ming	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Chun-yeung	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss WONG Shuk-man	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr WONG Siu-kwan	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms LAU Mei-lo	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Mr LAU Hing-wah, James, BBS, MH, JP	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Ms TANG Lai-ling	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting
Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH	Start of Meeting	End of Meeting

Standing Representatives of Departments and Institutions

Mr WONG Kong	Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YIP Chi-hung, Derek	Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Miss CHIU Yu-ying, Janice	Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)4, Environmental Protection Department
Ms LAM Hang-ling, Sara	Acting Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department

Representatives of Departments and Institutions Attending by Invitation

Miss CHIN Kit-wai, Tammy Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 43,
Environmental Protection Department

Secretary

Miss LUI Chiu-tai, Judy Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Kwai Tsing
District Office

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 3rd meeting of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (“FEHC”) (2024) of the Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&T DC”).

Confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting (2024) held on 9 April 2024

2. Members endorsed the minutes unanimously.

Discussion Item

Requests for Increasing the Numbers of Smart Recycling Bins and Recycling Spots as well as Lowering the Application Threshold for Smart Recycling Bins at the Housing Estates in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH, Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH, Mr WONG Chun-yeung, Ms TANG Lai-ling, Mr WONG Siu-kwan and Mr NG King-wah)
(FEHC Paper Nos. 6, 6a/D/2024)

3. Members discussed the aforesaid matter, and put forth enquiries and opinions as follows:

- (i) Regarding food waste recycling:
 - (a) Most of the residents in single-block private buildings or “three-nil buildings” were not familiar with the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates (“the Scheme”). On the other hand, some private buildings failed to meet the lowest application threshold of the Scheme due to insufficient

resident numbers. Therefore, it was hoped that the Department could provide clearer guidelines and take the initiative to offer assistance, e.g. paying visits to the district to reach out to the residents;

- (b) The residents had a keen demand for domestic food waste collection bins, but the quantity of such collection bins distributed earlier on by the Department was insufficient. Many residents had said that they could not get the collection bins. Therefore, it was hoped that the Department could deploy staff members to public housing estates again to distribute more collection bins and enhance publicity before each round of distribution;
- (c) Enquired of the Department about the usage of food waste smart recycling bins (“FWSRBs”), e.g. the timing for higher usage time slots and whether the Department had made appropriate manpower deployment in view of the usage;
- (d) Food waste recycling bins were unevenly distributed in some housing estates (e.g. Kwai Shing West Estate). It was hoped that the Department could replan the installation locations of food waste recycling bins in the estates, and consult Members or other local stakeholders before installing food waste recycling bins;
- (e) Hoped that the Department could enhance publicity and education work in the vicinity when setting up more food waste recycling spots. Taking the food waste recycling spot on Tai Loong Street, in Kwai Hing as an example, the residents or restaurants nearby were unfamiliar with the uses and operation of the recycling spot. The Department should enhance publicity for this reason, e.g. posting notices in nearby areas;
- (f) Pointed out that the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) had set goals for food waste processing facilities in a Legislative Council meeting. One of the goals was to substantially complete the installation of over 700 FWSRBs in 213 public housing estates (about 1 500 buildings in total) over the territory in August this year, covering about one-third of Hong Kong’s population. An enquiry

was made on whether the recycling scheme was mandatory or merely encouraging in nature. Moreover, Members enquired whether the Department had set any key performance indicators (“KPIs”) for the recycling facilities in Kwai Tsing District, such as the coverage rate of the recycling facilities. If positive, Members would like to about the principles behind such KPIs;

(ii) Regarding Recycling Spots:

- (a) Approved of EPD’s work for GREEN@CHEUNG HONG, and hoped that the Department and the Housing Department (“HD”) could coordinate for optimising the use of space near recycling points to properly store recyclables and improve public perception. Enquiries were made on the Department’s principles of setting up recycling points and whether Recycling Spots would be set up near Cheung Hong Estate Phase II and Ching Wah Court in the future. Moreover, FWSRBs were not available in all buildings in Cheung Hong Estate, so it was hoped that the Department could provide more FWSRBs;
- (b) At that time, the Recycling Spots in Kwai Fong and the area around Tai Wo Hau closed at 7 p.m., which made it difficult for the residents to recycle after work. Therefore, it was hoped that the service hours of the Recycling Spots could be extend to 8 p.m.;
- (c) At that time, most of the Recycling Spots in the district were located in Kwai Chung. An enquiry was made on whether the Department would set up more Recycling Spots in both the urban and rural areas of Tsing Yi;

- (iii) Although the Government had suspended the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, members of the public still showed great support to green measures. Recycling facilities were not available in the vicinity of many residential buildings. It was hoped that the Government could implement more measures to facilitate waste recycling, e.g. setting up more FWSRBs or Recycling Spots, and providing more support to rural recycling;

- (iv) Recommended the Department to launch a reward scheme to give encouragement to housing courts or buildings which had proactively promoted environmental protection work;
 - (v) Said that both Members and district organisations (e.g. Care Teams) could not effectively receive the information about environmental protection work in the district, e.g. news about the opening of Recycling Spots, details of recycling publicity activities, etc. It was hoped that the Department could enhance the communication with local communities;
 - (vi) Given the difficulty for the Government to install recycling facilities in single-block private buildings or “three-nil buildings”, the Department was recommended to provide such facilities at government properties in the vicinity of private buildings (e.g. Kwai Fong Community Hall and Shek Lei Community Hall) to facilitate residents’ recycling;
 - (vii) Enquired about the means of publicising environmental protection work in “three-nil buildings”; and
 - (viii) The Secretary for Environment and Ecology mentioned in a media briefing that the Government’s original aspiration to promote the culture of waste reduction and recycling had not changed, and it would continue enhancing publicity on recycling culture. The opinions given and questions raised by Members echoed the aforesaid direction. It was hoped that the Department could take note of and actively follow up on Members’ views, including communication enhancement with and opinion collection from local communities.
4. Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)⁴, EPD, gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (i) Members’ views on the distribution and operation of recycling facilities, as well as the education and publicity on recycling were noted. The views would be relayed to the Waste Reduction and Community Recycling Group;
 - (ii) Regarding food waste collection in single-block buildings, “three-nil

buildings” and restaurant clusters, there were 5 Food Waste Recycling Spots in the district at that time, aiming to collect food waste by means of a booth set up at a designated location and time on a daily basis. The Department had also set up a Food Waste Recycling Point in Kwai Shing Road Refuse Collection Point of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”) to facilitate nearby restaurants and residents to participate in food waste recycling. The Department planned to set up new Food Waste Recycling Points in Ta Chuen Ping Street Refuse Collection Point and Shek Yi Road Temporary Refuse Collection Point in July. The Department would continue to deploy staff members to inspect the operation of various Food Waste Recycling Spots. The Department would also review the publicity work on the Food Waste Recycling Spot in Tai Loong Street after the meeting to keep a close watch on public participation in food waste recycling and timely strengthen the support for relevant publicity and education work;

- (iii) As for the ancillary facilities for food waste recycling in rural areas, the Department provided traditional food waste recycling bins with lids under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. Also, the Environment and Conservation Fund launched Community Waste Reduction Projects to subsidise installation of FWSRBs in rural areas. EPD briefed Heung Yee Kuk New Territories on the details of food waste recycling services in November 2023 and in May this year, and invited Rural Committees and village representatives to participate in the services proactively. Rural Committees and village representatives intending to install FWSRBs at refuse collection points in rural areas could submit requests to EPD. The Department would then provide assistance and discuss the feasibility of such requests with FEHD;
- (iv) The installation of food waste recycling facilities in private housing courts involved numbers of stakeholders, including residents, management offices, and owners’ corporations. The representatives of private housing courts should first understand the intentions and views of relevant stakeholders and then come up with feasible plans before launching food waste recycling schemes in their housing courts. To facilitate food waste collection, the Government subsidised the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings mainly through Recycling Fund and

Environment and Conservation Fund. Among such funds, Recycling Fund launched Projects for Solicitation Theme under the Industry Support Programme to support and subsidise residential buildings to adopt smart bins for food waste collection. The subsidies under the programme covered the rents of smart recycling bins and related system, wages for additional workers, publicity and education expenses, as well as audit expenses. Moreover, Environment and Conservation Fund also funded EPD to launch the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates to provide FWSRBs, as well as installation and maintenance services to large-scale private housing courts with over 1 000 households for two years free of charge. The Department was considering optimising the scheme to cover private housing courts with fewer than 1 000 households, the details of which would be announced in the third quarter of this year;

- (v) As for public housing estates, the Department had installed a total of 91 FWSRBs in 22 public housing estates in Kwai Tsing District. The food waste recycling services would be extended to High Prosperity Terrace in July. At that time, the Department adopted a sharing principle in launching the food waste recycling scheme in public housing estates. About 2 to 3 buildings were arranged to share a FWSRB on average. The Department would continue reviewing the volume of food waste recycled in Kwai Shing West Estate and other housing estates, and gradually increase the number of food waste recycling bins in estates with higher usage. The Department was discussing with HD the preparation work. It was expected that more FWSRBs would be installed in estates with higher usage, including Cheung Hong Estate, Lai King Estate, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Fong Estate, Kwai Tsui Estate, Tai Wo Hau Estate and Shek Yam East Estate, before September this year;
- (vi) When launching the food waste recycling scheme in housing estates and housing courts, EPD and the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee would hold at least 3 days of education and publicity events, and distributed domestic food waste collection bins to the households. The Department encouraged residents to use suitable containers in their homes, e.g. reusable glass containers or plastic containers, to contain food waste which had been separated and drained for recycling. The

Department would carry out publicity in advance to inform residents of the estates concerned before distributing domestic food waste collection bins in the future;

- (vii) Regarding the installation of food waste recycling facilities in public areas or “three-nil buildings”, there were various factors to consider, including management of venue facilities, availability of suitable locations and power supply, and availability of sufficient space for temporary storage of recyclables. Therefore, to cope with the issue that installation of food waste recycling bins was impossible at single-block buildings where space was limited or owners’ corporation was absent, the Department was in the process of proactively setting up fixed or mobile recycling points in nearby communities to meet the residents demand for recycling. Regarding the installation of food waste recycling facilities in government facilities, the Department would consider different factors, including distance between the venue and residential areas, operation modes of nearby restaurants, and whether installation of such facilities would affect normal operations of the venue or cause inconvenience to the users. The Department would keep assessing the effectiveness of each recycling point, so as to select suitable venues, e.g. public markets and refuse collection points, to facilitate recycling by the public. The Department noted Members’ concerns about “three-nil buildings” and single-block buildings, and would relay their views to related sections for further studies to explore the ways to provide more support to the residents;
- (viii) Regarding the provision of three-colour recycling bins in private residences, housing courts and residential buildings which participated in the programme of Source Separation of Domestic Waste could apply for three-colour recycling bins via the Environmental Campaign Committee. The programme did not set any threshold for the minimum number of households in a housing court;
- (ix) The Department had been continuously expanding its community recycling network, GREEN@COMMUNITY. At that time, there were 1 Recycling Station, 7 Recycling Stores, 4 Recycling Spots running at designated times and locations, as well as 20 Add-on Recycling Spots running in the form of booths in Kwai Tsing District. The Department

would continue to monitor the usage of all recycling facilities and timely adjust their operation modes;

- (x) Members' views on GREEN@CHEUNG HONG and their preference for setting up food waste recycling spots in Tsing Yi District were noted, and would be relayed to relevant sections after the meeting;
- (xi) The service hours of GREEN@TSING YI had been extended from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. on a trial basis. The Department would continue to review the service hours of all recycling points and would inform Members of the updated information, if any;
- (xii) Regarding publicity and education, the Department would continue to work with district council members to further publicise the food waste recycling scheme. The Department carried out publicity events on food waste recycling in housing estates on an irregular basis. Green ambassadors were also assigned to assist the residents in downloading the "GREEN\$" mobile application and registering their physical point cards. During recycling peak hours, they also guided the residents to separate their waste at source, and demonstrated the proper way to use FWSRBs; and
- (xiii) As for the goals set for the installation of food waste recycling facilities, as well as the data such as the usage and parameters of FWSRBs within the district, the Department would furnish such information after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The information paper submitted by EPD in respect of the aforesaid matters was set out in FEHC Circulation (Information) Paper No. 23/2024, which had been circulated to FEHC on 4 July 2024.)

Concern about the Utilisation of Smart Recycling Bins in Kwai Tsing District

(Proposed by Miss LO Yuen-ting, MH, Ms KWOK Fu-yung, MH, Mr TSUI Hiu-kit and Mr NG King-wah)

(FEHC Paper Nos. 7, 7a/D/2024)

5. Members discussed the aforesaid matter, and put forth enquiries and opinions as

follows:

- (i) Food waste recycling bins were frequently out of order. The Department was requested to review the reasons (e.g. whether the residents knew the proper way to use food waste recycling bins, whether the recycling bins had inherent quality issues, and whether the overloading of recycling bins was caused by excessive usage) and then target at such reasons to resolve the problems;
- (ii) The design of the lids of food waste recycling bins should be able to withstand frequent opening and closing by the users. Therefore, the malfunctioning of such recycling bins was suspected to be related to parts quality. The operation of food waste recycling bins was relevant to the proper use of public money. Therefore, an enquiry was made on whether the Department had established a penalty system (e.g. a point deduction mechanism) for contractors failing to comply with their service pledges, and whether the Department would conduct reviews on such matters and consider whether to keep using the food waste recycling bins provided by the same contractors in the future;
- (iii) The Department did not carry out appropriate publicity on the proper use of food waste recycling bins. If EPD was unable to deploy sufficient manpower to all the districts for guiding the public to the proper use of food waste recycling bins, it should work with HD's estate offices to optimise the then manpower for conducting publicity on food waste recycling bins;
- (iv) The way to deal with malfunctioning of food waste recycling bins differed across different estates. For example, the openings of the malfunctioning recycling bins would be sealed directly in some estates, whilst temporary food waste recycling bins would be placed next to the malfunctioning bins in some other estates. EPD should establish a mechanism for the management of food waste recycling bins to standardise the practice of all housing estates and improve public perception;
- (v) At that time, EPD did not separate clean food waste from the dirty one in recycling. An enquiry was made on whether the Department would

install recycling bins merely for collecting clean food waste;

- (vi) Enquired whether the Department had established specific standards for the usage of food waste recycling bins;
- (vii) Understood that the Department had taken various factors into consideration when determining the installation locations of food waste recycling bins, but for some locations which were convenient for the residents to recycle, only minor modifications were needed to install food waste recycling bins. It was hoped that EPD and HD would invite District Council Members to conduct site inspection to identify the best locations for installing food waste recycling bins;
- (viii) Enquired whether food waste recycling bins available in the market were mature products, and whether there were any figures on malfunctioning of food waste recycling bins available for reference. The frequent malfunctioning of food waste recycling bins was considered unsatisfactory and the Department should consider whether to continue using those recycling bins;
- (ix) Hanging physical GREEN\$ cards on FWSRBs for shared use is not the best way to facilitate food waste recycling by non-GREEN\$ members. The Department should distribute more physical GREEN\$ cards. The Department was recommended to strengthen co-operation with District Council Members and Care Teams to help the elderly register for GREEN\$ cards. If the distribution of physical GREEN\$ cards would be too costly, the Department could consider making good use of the resources of Care Teams to distribute laminated QR codes of GREEN\$ cards to the elderly; and
- (x) With the increased public awareness on recycling, many residents earned a lot of GREEN\$ points through recycling, but the redemption gifts in the recycling points were often out of stock. The Department was recommended to make reference to the operation mode of Reverse Vending Machines, and offer rewards directly via electronic payment platforms to reduce the operating costs of gift redemption machines and achieve better environmental protection effect. Moreover, the Department was

recommended to add domestic food waste collection bins as GREEN\$ gift items for encouraging more residents to recycle domestic food waste.

6. Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West)⁴, EPD, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (i) Drawing on past experiences, the Department figured out that the major reasons for FWSRB malfunctioning included damaged parts of front door locks, fatigue failure and sagging of parts due to frequent lid usage, and unstable signal reception. The Department had already demanded contractors to take improvement measures. Apart from replacement of parts which were prone to damage, the contractor had already finished replacing the parts of front door locks of all FWSRBs in Hong Kong in late May. Adjustment or replacement of lid sensors/levers, as well as installation of new model of antennas for FWSRBs would be conducted in a progressive manner when necessary. The Department would also closely monitor the operation of FWSRBs via big data platforms;
- (ii) Regarding the ways of dealing with malfunctioned FWSRBs in housing estates, EPD had already communicated and coordinated with HD on such matters. Traditional purple pedal bins for food waste will be placed beside FWSRBs in public housing estates where the FWSRBs are out of order or when the recycling volume are relatively high. EPD had proactively contacted all estate offices to explain such measures to ensure continuous provision of recycling services and ensure environmental hygiene. Moreover, to further enhance the speed of notification, the Department had established a new alert system. When FWSRBs are unable to normally operate due to bin full or malfunctioning for more than half an hour, the system will automatically send messages to the management staff of estate offices, management companies and cleaning contractors for immediate follow-up, while EPD will also closely monitor the situation on the big data platform. Additionally, EPD had optimised the screen interface of FWSRBs. When the inner bin becomes full, the screen displays "Temporarily Full", allowing cleaning staff and residents to clearly know about the status of the FWSRB and expediting notifications to responsible parties for follow-up;

- (iii) Regarding the installation of food waste recycling bins, EPD would generally communicate with HD's estate offices to select suitable installation locations. HD's estate offices will carry out preparatory work, such as installing sockets, building platforms, providing additional lighting and arranging manpower, before officially installing food waste recycling bins. As for Members' views on the installation locations of food waste recycling bins, the Department would relay them to relevant sections for reference;
- (iv) Regarding separation and recycling of food waste, the Department has already listed the types of recyclable food waste and provided Tips on Separation of Food Waste on EPD's thematic website;
- (v) Regarding GREEN\$ points, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points to redeem daily necessities, groceries, as well as environmentally friendly products. EPD was in the process of launching a pilot collaboration programme with MTR's carbon emission reduction reward platform, Carbon Wallet, through which the public could use their GREEN\$ points to redeem Carbon Wallet points for redeeming rewards such as free single-journey MTR tickets. The Department was discussing reward arrangements with various potential partners in the hope of increasing reward variety and enhancing public motivation for recycling. The Department was also considering to include domestic food waste collection bins as GREEN\$ gifts for redemption. Members will be informed of the updates; and
- (vi) To help the elderly persons who have no idea of using GREEN\$ mobile application or do not possess physical card for food waste recycling, the Department provides physical GREEN\$ cards for public use at the enquiry counters of the lobbies in public housing estates and private residential buildings in order to let those in need to activate FWSRBs. EPD is coordinating with public housing estates and private housing courts to arrange the hanging of physical GREEN\$ cards above FWSRBs for public use to further facilitate food waste recycling by non-GREEN\$ members. The public can register as GREEN\$ members via GREEN\$ mobile application, which does not require submitting 2 kilogrammes of recyclables for meeting eligibility criteria. The Department thanked

Members for promoting green recycling in their district work. The Department will maintain communication with Members and hold irregular publicity events on food waste recycling in housing estates, including arranging green ambassadors to help those in need and the elderly in the estates to register for physical GREEN\$ point cards.

Any Other Business

7. Members enquired when FEHD would arrange site inspections for both the renovation works of Wing Fong Street Market and the hygiene problems in the vicinity of Kwai Fong Circuit, so that communication with owners' corporations and resident representatives in the district could be facilitated.

8. Chief Health Inspector (Kwai Tsing)¹, FEHD, said that the Department had deployed staff members to inspect specific locations with Members. The Department would arrange site inspection in Wing Fong Street Market and Kwai Fong Circuit after the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

9. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 13 August 2024.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
June 2024