

EPD provides training for relevant trade sectors in implementation of Municipal Solid Waste charging (with photos)

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been actively preparing for the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging to be implemented on April 1 next year. In addition to organising operational briefings and specialised trainings for various trade sectors to help them understand the relevant legislative requirements, the EPD has also provided them with the best practice guides (BPG) on how to make appropriate adjustment to their frontline operation.

As of August this year, the EPD has conducted more than 190 physical or online meetings and briefings, reaching out to about 7 300 stakeholders from various trade sectors to introduce the details of MSW charging and listen to their views. Since May, the EPD has planned to arrange about 300 training sessions for frontline staff of property management, environmental hygiene and relevant trade sectors, and about 50 training sessions were completed. Moreover, the EPD is organising training courses recognised by the Property Management Services Authority's continuing Professional Development Scheme, so as to enhance the Property Management Practitioner Licence holders' knowledge of MSW charging.

The EPD prepared eight BPGs jointly with working groups comprising stakeholders from relevant trade sectors. The BPGs have been uploaded to the thematic website on MSW charging (www.mswcharging.gov.hk) for reference by relevant stakeholders.

The EPD spokesperson said, "Meanwhile, we have rolled out a series of publicity and education campaigns through various channels, including broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest on television and radio; displaying advertisement on public transportation, stations and stops; producing television and radio programmes and social media videos; and displaying different kinds of banners, posters and leaflets, with a view to deepening the general public's knowledge of MSW charging, advocating behavioural change to reduce waste generation at source and to proactively practise clean recycling, and reminding citizens to comply with the legislative requirements."

The public education and promotion activities carried out by the Environmental Campaign Committee was launched in mid-August. Phase I focuses on promoting the commencement date of MSW charging, the culture of "Recycle More, Dump Less, Save More" and best practices for various sectors. Phase II will be launched in mid-November to promulgate the charging mechanism and how the community can prepare for MSW charging. Phase III will be launched in

February next year (i.e. two months before the commencement of MSW charging) to publicise the retail network of designated bags and designated labels and encourage the public to comply with the legislative requirements. The publicity work will continue until the end of next year.

The EPD's Green Outreach has also commenced promotion for MSW charging in mid-August by providing support for waste reduction and recycling in the community and through promotion activities and on-site demonstrations to educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements, and to actively practice waste reduction and recycling to tie in with the implementation of MSW charging.

In addition, the EPD also launched promotional activities for specific groups, such as chambers of commerce, students, ethnic minorities, foreign domestic helpers, and residents of "three-nil" buildings and rural villages, by producing promotional videos for foreign domestic helpers and broadcasting in their social media groups; producing radio promotional programmes that are targeted for the elderly; and creating comics and other publicity materials for helping student understand the implementation of MSW charging.

The spokesperson said, "To facilitate the implementation of MSW charging in April 1 next year, the Government has devoted substantial resources to enhance recycling support and we hope that the public will assimilate the practice of recycling into their daily lives. We welcome members of the public to visit the MSW charging thematic website (www.mswcharging.gov.hk) for more details on the implementation of MSW charging. Let's get prepared for this significant waste reduction initiative together."



