



**Recycling Fund Launches a Series of Enhancement Measures
to Further Support Recycling Industry**

(Hong Kong, 17 January 2019) The Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund (RFAC) announced a series of enhancement measures to address the rapid market changes and challenges confronting the recycling industry. The initiatives include a new rental subsidy scheme; increase maximum upfront payment amount during the early phase of projects, extend rental expense under Enterprise Support Programme, launch of new Standard Project - \$1M (SP-\$1M) Programme and simplify application procedure.

The RFAC, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Hong Kong Productivity Council (the implementing partner and the Secretariat of the Recycling Fund, hereafter as “the Secretariat”) completed the initial phase of a mid-term review, with a comprehensive review on the implementation of the Recycling Fund (the Fund), collecting views from the recycling industry and various stakeholders on the existing arrangement and areas of improvement of the Fund. Upon thorough deliberation, the RFAC decided to introduce a series of enhancement measures with major details summarised as follows:

Measures	Details
A New Rental Subsidy Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a maximum of 50% rental subsidy to encourage recyclers relocating their existing operations to more appropriate venues; • For example, relocating from street-corner shops to industrial buildings; or • From recycling sites located in inappropriate zones to industrial building or land zoned for industrial purpose.
Increase maximum upfront payment amount during the Early Phase of Projects, Extend Rental Expenses under Enterprise Support Programme (ESP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending rental expenses arising from the existing premises or newly rented premises under ESP; • With funding support cap of HK\$40,000 per month or 20% of the total approved funding amount (whichever is lower); • To improve grantees’ cash flow during the early phase of the projects, the maximum upfront payment for ESP projects is increased from 15% to 30% for the total approved funding amount.
Launch of new Standard Project - \$1M (SP-\$1M) Programme and Simplify Application Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing Standard Project - HK\$150,000 (SP-HK\$150,000) and Standard Project - HK\$1M (SP-HK\$1M) will be merged into one new programme named SP-HK\$1M; • Funding ceiling of the new programme is HK\$1,000,000; with the prescribed equipment list to be updated timely in response to the

	<p>needs of the industry so as to simplify the application process for recyclers to make the best use of the Fund;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides, streamline the workflow to expedite payment of the approved funding amount to grantees of Standard Projects; • Further reduce the grantees' administrative workload, the covering period requirements for the baseline quantity survey of the projects and frequency of submitting progress reports will be relaxed.
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Since the launch of the Fund in October 2015, the RFAC has been maintaining close liaison with the local recyclers in order to gauge their views of the industry. The mid-term review on the Fund will be continued. To date, RFAC has approved funding for 215 applications, among them 170 projects are either in progress or ready to start, involving a total funding of about HK\$130 million.

Applications for the Fund are accepted all year round. For more information, please visit the Fund website: www.recyclingfund.hk; contact the Secretariat at (852) 2788 5658 or email enquiry@recyclingfund.hk

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