

*Opinion Survey on Plastic Bag Tax
(Stages 1 to 3)*

Survey Questionnaire

April 2009 to January 2010

Part I Self-introduction

Good evening, sir/madam, my name is X, an interviewer from the Public Opinion Programme (POP) of the University of Hong Kong. We are conducting a survey on people's opinions on the use of plastic bags as well as plastic bag tax. I would like to invite you to participate in an interview which will take only a few minutes. I would like to stress that your telephone number was randomly selected by our computer and all information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and used for aggregate analysis only. If you have any questions about the research, you can call xxxx xxxx to talk to our supervisor XXX. If you want to know more about the rights as a participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong at xxxx-xxxx during office hours. For quality control purpose, our conversation may be recorded but will be destroyed shortly after our quality control process is complete.

[S1] Is it okay for us to start this survey?

Yes

No (skip to end)

[S2] Is your telephone number xxxx xxxx?

Yes

No (skip to end)

Part II Selection of Respondent

[S3] Is there any household member aged 15 or above? Since we need to conduct random sampling, if there is more than one available, I would like to speak to the one who will have his / her birthday next. (If no one aged 15 or above, interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye)

Yes

No → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye. (skip to end)

Refuse to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye. (skip to end)

[S4] Have you shopped at supermarket at least once in the **past month**?

Yes

No → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye. (skip to end)

Refuse to answer → Interview ends, thank you for your cooperation, bye-bye. (skip to end)

Part III Survey Questions

(I) Habit of using shopping bags

[Q1a] During the last month, how many shopping bags did you take every time you shop at supermarket?

Never

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q1b] (Only ask respondents cannot provide exact figures in Q1a) Number of plastic bags (range)
(Interviewers can read out the ranges)

Take less than 1 bag on average

1-2 bag(s)

3-4 bags

5-6 bags

7-8 bags

9-10 bags

11 bags or more

Refuse to answer

[Q2] How would you treat the plastic bags usually after shopping?

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q3] Do you often bring your an environmental shopping bag when you go shopping?

Never

Yes, rarely

Yes, sometimes

Yes, always

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q4] How many environmental shopping bags do you have at home?

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q5a] Does your household need to spend on buying garbage bags? (If respondents answer "yes", interviewers then ask "so how many garbage bags would your household use per month on average?"; if respondents answer "no", interviewers then ask "so are they provided by management office or supermarkets/shops?")

Yes, _____ per month
No, provided by management office
No, use plastic bags of supermarkets/ shops
Don't know/hard to say
Refuse to answer

[Q5b] (Stage 3) (Only ask respondents who answered "provided by management office") So how many garbage bags would the management office provide each month?

Don't know/hard to say/don't remember
Refuse to answer

[Q5c] (Stage 3) (Only ask respondents who answered "provided by management office") Do you think the number of garbage bags provided by the management office is too many, too few, or suitable?

Too many
Too few
Suitable
Don't know/hard to say
Refuse to answer

(II) Attitude towards plastic bag tax

[interviewer read out: Now we would ask you a few questions on plastic bag tax.]

[Q6] (Stage 1) If the plastic bag will be charged **in the future**, will you always bring your own bags then?

Yes
No
Don't know/hard to say
Refuse to answer

[Q6] (Stages 2 and 3) Plastic bag tax has been implemented for 1 month / half a year, do you bring your own shopping bags usually?

Yes
No
Don't know/hard to say
Refuse to answer

[Q7] (Only ask respondents who said "no" in Q6) Why **not**? (Do not read out the options, multiple answers allowed)

Don't know/hard to say
Refuse to answer

[Q8] (Stage 1) If the stores you often visit charge for each plastic bag, **how would it** affect your desire to shop at these stores?

- Would shop more
- Would shop less
- No impacts
- Don't know/hard to say/no comments
- Refuse to answer

[Q8] (Stages 2 and 3) If the stores you often visit charge for each plastic bag, **has** your desire to shop at these stores increased, decreased, or remained unchanged?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Remained unchanged
- Don't know/hard to say/no comments
- Refuse to answer

[Q9] If the government decides to levy at 50 cents for each plastic bag, do you consider it could reduce people from abusing plastic bags effectively? (Stage 1) / The government currently levies at 50 cents for each plastic bag, do you consider it could reduce people from abusing plastic bags effectively? (Stages 2 and 3)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/hard to say
- Refuse to answer

[Q10] (Stage 1) Would this plastic bag tax add on to your financial burden?

- Yes
- No (including those who don't use plastic bags.)
- I don't use shopping bags
- Don't know/hard to say
- Refuse to answer

[Q10] (Stages 2 and 3) Has this plastic bag tax added on to your financial burden?

- Yes
- No (including those who don't use plastic bags.)
- I don't use shopping bags
- Don't know/hard to say
- Refuse to answer

[Q11] (Stages 1 and 2) Do you know which stores are charging or about to charge their customers for shopping bags already? Please name up to three stores. (Do not read out the options, allow maximum 3 answers)

-
- Don't know/forgotten
 - Refuse to answer

[Q12] (Stages 1 and 2) Apart from supermarkets and large-scale chained stores, which types of stores do you think should implement charging for plastic bags as soon as possible? (multiple answers allowed)

Don't know/hard to say/no comments

Refuse to answer

[Q13 in Stage 3 only]

[Q13a] There is a view that the plastic bag tax should be further implemented, that means most retail shops have to charge for each plastic bag. Do you tend to agree or disagree this view?

Agree (ask Q13b)

Half-half (skip to DM1)

Disagree (ask Q13c)

Don't know/hard to say (skip to DM1)

Refuse to answer (skip to DM1)

[Q13b] (Only ask respondents said "agree" in Q13a) When do you think it should be implemented the soonest?

Year 2010 / immediate

Year 2011

Year 2012

Year 2013

Year 2014 or after

No need to hurry

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

[Q13c] (Only ask respondents said "disagree" in Q13a) Why do you disagree? (Do not read out options, multiple answers allowed)

Don't know/hard to say

Refuse to answer

Part IV Personal information

I'd like to know some of your personal particulars in order to facilitate our analysis. If you do not want to disclose your info, you could refuse to answer.

[DM1] Gender

Male

Female

[DM2] Age

_____ (Exact figure)

Refuse to answer

[DM3] Education attainment

Primary or below

Secondary

Matriculated

Tertiary, non-degree holder

Tertiary, degree holder

Postgraduate or above

Refuse to answer

[DM4] Occupation

Refuse to answer

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions regarding this interview, you can call xxxx-xxxx to verify this interview's authenticity and confirm my identity, or call the Human Research Ethics Committee for Non-Clinical Faculties of the University of Hong Kong at xxxx-xxxx during office hours. Good-bye!