Kitchen Waste Management: Beijing in Action

Report: Liu Zhe

In order to enhance the remediation of waste oil and management of kitchen waste, Beijing has conducted a special project to address kitchen waste and waste oil. Recently, the reporter interviewed the responsible officer of the Division for Solid Waste Management of Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment, to know how the administrative department would accelerate the establishment of a centralized, uniform, standardized and orderly transportation system of kitchen waste and waste oil, to ensure harmless treatment and resource utilization.

Accountability Mechanism Guarantee

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the special project, Beijing has set up a coordination group on the resource utilization of kitchen waste and waste oil, responsible for the co-ordination and deployment of related work. The municipal deputy mayor holds the post of group leader, and the municipal Deputy Secretary-General as the deputy group leader, and the members consist of related municipal departments and district and county governments. The main responsibilities of the coordination group are: lead, organize and coordinate the regulation management of the kitchen waste and waste oil unitedly; arrange major activities such as special rectification of kitchen waste and waste oil unitedly; coordinate and resolve the major problems in the regulation management of kitchen waste and waste oil; improve and promote the construction of long-acting regulatory mechanism of the standard management of food waste and waste oil and inspect and supervise the implementation of the regulatory responsibility of relevant departments; strengthen territorial responsibility, decompose the objectives hierarchically and integrate such tasks into the evaluation of government performance to ensure the completion of the objectives and tasks of the regulation management of kitchen waste and waste oil.

Giving financial assistance for on-site treatment in accordance with the principle of combining centralized treatment and decentralized treatment, Beijing will vigorously promote the construction of the facilities for resource processing of kitchen waste at source in situ. Beijing will encourage the party and government institutions, colleges, military units, state-owned enterprises and other units with a daily dining staff size of more than 1,000 people, and qualified large catering enterprises with a business area of more than 1000 square meters to construct facilities for the situ treatment of kitchen waste.

According to the report, the treatment facilities will be classified according to daily processing capacity, from tens of kilograms to hundreds of kilograms, and will be purchased through government tenders, in order to meet the demand of different production units.

To encourage qualified enterprises and units to be engaged in the cause of
environmental protection, the municipal and district governments will provide subsidies for the costs of the construction of kitchen waste in-situ processing equipment as well as daily operation. Currently, Beijing Municipal Committee is working with the City Department of Finance and other departments to study and formulate economic incentive policies. In the future, Beijing will study and formulate appropriate relief policy for the waste disposal fee and tax cuts on kitchen waste. Currently, more than 50 units of food waste in-situ processing equipments have been installed and put into operation in the party and government institutions, schools, hotels, and restaurants in Beijing, and kitchen waste in-situ processing has been carried out in the canteens of the Second Office of the Beijing Municipal Government and Housing and Urban-Rural Development Ministry. According to the requirement that the kitchen waste treatment facilities shall reflect the features of infrastructure and public welfare, relevant authorities will continue to increase the investment in the construction of food waste treatment facility and the operation and management and the supporting municipal infrastructure construction in the municipal and district levels. Combining optimized structural requirements, governments will adjust, supplement and improve some of the treatment facilities, increase the ability of biochemical treatment and encourage cooperation among counties on the construction of kitchen waste treatment facilities to improve the utilization rate of the solid waste disposal facilities.

Collection, Transportation and Treatment Closely Interlinked

In order to ensure “unified collection and transportation, centralized processing”, the administrative department in charge has implemented territorial franchise system on the collection, transportation and treatment of the kitchen waste and waste oil, delineated the franchise service area, and clarify the service range, duration and service standards of the collection, transportation and processing enterprises. All districts and counties will determine and make public the units that carry out kitchen waste and waste oil collection and transportation in their areas via franchising.

In addition, Beijing will strengthen management at the source of the food waste and waste oil production units, and include it into the day-to-day supervision scope of business, health, environmental protection and other departments. Food service units, as the responsible subjects of the emission of kitchen waste and waste oil, shall construct or configure such facilities as oil-water separator, dedicated collection containers, kitchen waste in-place processor, etc, according to relevant standards.

Waste oil collected and transported separately

In order to implement the Opinions of the State Council on the Remediation of Waste Oil and Management of Kitchen Waste, this year Beijing has carried out separate collection and transportation and safe disposal of waste oil. Beijing Municipal Commission of City Administration and Environment has made common technical requirements for collection barrels and vehicles of waste oil, developed industry standards, and published Kitchen Waste Oil Mark, Management Practices of Kitchen Waste Oil Collection and Transportation Operations in Beijing (Trial), which
clearly state that the scope of kitchen waste oil including frying oil, isolated oil, animal oil and swill oil. It is reported that the icon on the special waste oil collection vehicles (on the side without doors) is "Participating in waste oil recycling, creating a healthy and green Beijing".

The triplicate of waste oil collection and transportation records shall be retained separately by the transportation unit, processing unit and administrative unit. Each record sheet lists the source unit, the specific number, transportation units and license number, and processing units and the net weight. It can be said that the separate collection, transportation and processing of wasted oil in Beijing provide necessary conditions for later resource reuse (chemical raw materials for soaps, fatty acids and bio-diesel production).