

Legislative Council
Subcommittee on Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility)
(Amendment) Regulation 2013 and Waste Disposal (Refuse Transfer Station)
(Amendment) Regulation 2013

Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) supports in general stepping up efforts to address the rising concerns on environmental nuisance caused by the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill. Given that odour is a major subject of dissatisfaction, it is expected that the Government's proposal for changing the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste should help address the concerns and may be more welcomed by the community at large.

2. Diversion of waste, however, can potentially cause environmental impact due to extra haulage and increase in loading of other designation facilities. The Government should ensure that the proposed mitigation measures, such as maximising the utilisation of refuse transfer stations and enhancing the environmental performance of refuse collection vehicles, are properly implemented in order to minimise such impact.

3. We support taking proactive measures to enhance the environmental performance of refuse collection vehicles. Adequate devices should be installed to avoid nuisance such as leachate dripping, waste spattering or dust. It is suggested that the devices should be regularly maintained and inspected by well-trained personnels to ensure their effective performance in the long term. We are pleased to provide professional inputs where appropriate in the inspection checklist for the vehicles. We are ready to contribute our expertise to ensure that the impact of the operation of refuse collection vehicles on the surroundings is kept to minimal.

4. While landfills are an essential and ultimate part of the waste management chain like everywhere in the world, it is suggested that dumping of waste to the landfill should be kept to minimal and be considered as the last resort out of all the other waste management measures implemented/to be implemented, such as municipal solid waste charging scheme, organic waste treatment facilities, waste reduction, recycling, recovery, and waste to energy technologies etc. Also, the Administration should seriously consider and put forward the construction of facilities for high-tech incineration. Certainly, these measures should be administrated and operated in a manner that environmental nuisance to the community is minimised as far as practicable.