

## **Management of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong**

This submission sets out the views of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on the management of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Hong Kong.

To tackle the serious waste problem in Hong Kong, ACE supports an integrated approach to waste management. Emphasis should be put on the three elements in waste management strategy in the order of waste reduction, then recovery, recycling and reuse, and finally waste disposal, including treatment to reduce waste volume and landfilling the residues. Landfilling should not be relied on as the sole disposal means and should be minimized as far as practicable.

ACE urges the administration to implement Product Responsibility Schemes as soon as possible. The administration should consider introducing new umbrella legislation covering the specific types of waste e.g. tyres, electronic waste, batteries and beverage containers. The funds received should be used for investing in the waste recycling industry.

We support the “polluter-pays” principle, and agree that introducing MSW charges will provide financial incentives to waste producers to reduce waste.

ACE urges the government to engage the public in the process of deciding on which type(s) of treatment technology should be adopted for the proposed integrated waste management facilities (IWMF) to manage non-recoverable wastes in Hong Kong. We are of the view that a mix of technologies including mechanical biological treatment (MBT) and thermal treatment should be seriously considered. The public should be given full knowledge of the proposed IWMF, including the benefits of incineration as a part of the holistic way to treat waste.

Lastly, we would like to stress the importance of public education in the management of MSW. It is crucial that the public realizes that the waste problem is a community problem. The success of waste management requires participation from everyone in the society.