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Legislative Council Subcommittee on Combating Fly-tipping
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council

Attn: Miss Mandy Poon / Mr. Franco Kwong
Clerk to the Subcommittee

To whom it may concern,

May 7th Subcommittee Meeting on Combating Fly-tipping:
Green Council Submission

Thank you for inviting the Green Council to contribute comments and suggestions on the measures to combat fly-tipping in Hong Kong, specifically at the upcoming Meeting. For the Subcommittee's consideration, I am pleased to submit the following pre-meeting comments and suggestions:

- (a) As defined by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), *fly-tipping* refers to *illegal depositing of the construction and demolition (C&D) materials, which is often associated with haphazard and casual dumping from vehicles*. Fly-tipped C&D materials are usually scattered in small quantities all over the territory (especially in rural locations with road access). Green Council applaud and support the HKSAR Government's actions to enhance control measures to combat illegal land filling and fly-tipping. We recognize that efforts on incorporating different departments on different policy areas are crucial in tackling this anthropogenic environmental and hygienic problem.
- (b) Being a preeminent local organization with a vision and purpose to help transform Hong Kong into a world-class green city for the future, Green Council agree that complaint handling procedures and inter-departmental co-ordination should be enhanced so that "offenders" are identified and tackled promptly. More regular and effective surveillance and enforcement on illegal landfill and fly-tipping activities (especially at the black-spots referenced by the EPD) should be conducted by relevant departments. In addition, legislative amendment(s) strengthening the holistic planning and land use control should facilitate such control measures (with the Lands Department and Planning Department involved).



- (c) Pertinent educational and promotional programmes will not only encourage the public and all relevant parties to report to the Government, but also disseminate a warning message to any potential “offenders” that should discourage and reduce unlawful dumping of the C&D materials.
- (d) In research carried out by the Green Council (in its role as the official International Coordinator of the International Coastal Cleanup), C&D materials were determined and designated ninth of the Top Ten Marine Debris in Hong Kong in 2008. In our report¹, Green Council also pointed out that different departments (particularly the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, EPD, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Hong Kong Police Force, and Leisure and Cultural Services Department) could and should ensure better enforcement of legislation against dumping construction waste, with particular attention paid to construction sites that are close to natural waterways. Nevertheless, in addition to coastal areas, more attention should also be paid to fly-tipping activities in inland areas.
- (e) Among the sixty (60) private land filling sites (involving inert C&D materials) listed by the EPD², more than half are located in conservation-related zones (e.g. agricultural land, green belt, etc.) – i.e. these sites are definitely not designated for economic development nor dumping activities. Filling up such areas with C&D materials will not only ruin their ecological values but also potentially greatly affect the hygiene and aesthetic values of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The above summarizes the Green Council’s position on the desirable control measures to combat land filling and fly-tipping activities. On behalf of, and as CEO of the Green Council, I look forward to the opportunity to personally present, elaborate upon, and discuss this submission at the upcoming Meeting.

Yours Faithfully


Linda W P Ho
Chief Executive Officer

¹ Can be downloaded at http://www.greencouncil.org/eng/edu/ICC2008_Eng.pdf.

² Refer to http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/landfilling/introduction/files/private_land_filling_sites.pdf.