

**Panel on Environmental Affairs****Legislative Council**

E-mail address: panel_ea@legco.gov.hk

22 February 2013

By e-mail only

Dear Chairman and Members,

**Green Power's Support on Implementing the
Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on Glass Beverage Bottles**

1. We refer to the captioned to be discussed by the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 25 February 2013, and would like to provide our comments for the Panel's consideration.
2. Green Power fully supports the introduction of a mandatory producer responsibility scheme (PRS) on glass beverage bottles, which is in line with the "polluter pays" principle. In fact, we are concerned that the Administration has only implemented PRS on plastic bags and not yet taken measures to implement PRSs on other five types of products (i.e., vehicle tyres, electrical and electronic equipment, packaging materials, beverage containers and rechargeable batteries). We urge the Administration to speed up the introduction of mandatory PRSs on the remaining types of products.
3. Although the target of the captioned PRS is on glass beverage bottles at the present consultation, we call upon the Administration to include other glass food/sauce bottles at the next stage of PRS as they account for about 37% of the overall waste glass generation. We thus have the eco-responsibility to properly deal with these glass bottles as well.
4. Meanwhile, PRSs on other types of beverage containers, like the plastic bottles and Tetra Pak®, should also be considered. In recent years, Taiwan has successfully developed the treatment technology for Tetra Pak® containers and recovered considerable amounts of reusable paper and metal contents. We think Hong Kong can follow suit if our Administration can provide more support to our local recycling industry to develop more advanced resource recovery technology, and enhance the collection network of our resource materials.



5. We in principle support that the recycling fee be imposed on beverage suppliers as they will wholly or partially recover the recycling fee from consumers and other stakeholders in the supply chain. In addition, the Administration should consider establish a public “recycling fund” to help the midstream to downstream levels of the recycling industry.
6. Currently, the waste glass beverage bottles can be reused as construction materials in suitable public works. The Administration should continuously promote the wider use of the recycled glass materials and engage the private construction sector to use the recycled glass materials in the private projects. For example, the Administration can formulate policies to prioritize purchase of recycled glass materials, or set procurement ratios for recycled glass products to encourage other departments, agencies and local enterprises to prioritize buying locally recycled glass products. This will help develop a market for recycled glass products and assist local recycling industry in the long run.
7. Finally, we urge the Panel to support the introduction of PRS on glass beverage bottles in view of the environmental and social benefits brought about by the captioned scheme.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Karen Woo
Conservation and Education Manager
Green Power