



Advisory Council on the Environment

Comments on the Public Consultation on a Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage bottles

The Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) discussed the consultation paper on a Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage bottles at its meeting on 18 March 2013. Members are fully supportive of the scheme. The Council has also made the following suggestions for consideration by the Administration –

- (a) The glass management contractor (GMC) can be asked to set aside a portion of the recycling fee collected to offer refund to the public who deposit recyclable glass bottles at the collection points. The monetary incentive can encourage the public to take part in the recycling programme and boost up the recovery rate. The GMC can also be required to attain a minimum recovery rate specific to the collection points, or else a penalty clause will be imposed. This will induce the GMC to explore all practicable measures to increase the volume of waste glass bottles to be collected.
- (b) Community green stations to be operated by non-governmental organization(s) (NGOs) should strengthen the logistics support for interested parties in the districts to practise separation at source. The NGOs should reach out to the different stakeholders in the community, e.g. schools, local residents, property management etc. and give clear information to the public as to how and what the recyclables will eventually be turned into productive use. This is part of environmental education in the community and can help drive up the recovery rate.
- (c) The current mandatory recycling fee can be extended beyond glass beverage bottles. The public should be clearly informed that waste glass bottles other than glass beverage bottles, e.g. glass food bottles after proper cleansing, will also be accepted at collection points. This can give a stronger signal to the community that the Government is committed to glass recycling, with the

mandatory recycling fee on glass beverage bottles as the first step. The public should also be educated that glass recycling is an obligation/commitment of the community.

- (d) Retailers can also be engaged to collect waste glass bottles in their localities so as to encourage the public to return waste bottles with greater convenience. This can help further increase the recovery rate and improve the success of the scheme.
- (e) There should be sufficient local capacity to absorb and treat the anticipated waste glass materials expected to be recovered for recycling. A wider use of the glass materials should be explored beyond the present production of eco-pavers for use in public works projects. Both the public and private sectors should be encouraged to use the recycled glass products so as to sustain local demand for the products and contribute to the success of the scheme.

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