



Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance

香港綠色策略聯盟

Unit G, 7/F, Century Centre, No. 33-35 Au Pui Wan Street, Fotan, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

Speech for special meeting on 22 March 2014

Good morning. I am representing the *Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance* to share our views on Hong Kong's waste management strategy.

We agree that Hong Kong should build an advanced waste incineration facility, as it is environmental friendly and widely adopted among international cities. According to the Environment Bureau's Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022, in Taiwan and Singapore, more than 40% of municipal solid waste is treated by incineration. In Japan, the percentage is over 70%, with more than 1,000 incinerators in operation. In terms of effectiveness, waste incineration should be a viable option. However, waste with low heat value is incombustible. That's why in cities like Japan, they have developed a comprehensive system of source separation. If Hong Kong is to build a new incinerator, recyclable and incombustible waste should be source separated before sending to incineration plants, so as to maximize the sustainable use of resources.

On the other hand, we also support the extension of landfills. If the incineration plant is approved, it can treat 3,000 tonnes of solid waste per day, but there are still thousands of tonnes of solid waste that need to be disposed of at landfill each day even though other facilities and measures are in place, such as organic waste treatment facilities, municipal solid waste charging, etc. Unless there are better alternatives, we believe extending landfills is needed before our landfills become exhausted in 2019. In the long run the landfill sites should be use for final disposal of ashes, residue from incineration plants and non recyclable materials. Since no waste can be 100% recycled, there must be landfills to store the untreatable materials. Hong Kong should gradually reduce direct landfilling of solid waste and actively promote the development of recycling industry.

Food waste has been a major source of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong. It is the main source of odour and also generates leachate in landfills. Therefore, we propose in the long run Hong Kong should adopt a landfill ban on food waste, which can extend the life of landfills. In fact, similar policy is commonly found across Europe and Asia. In 2005, Korea imposed a landfill ban on food waste. In Germany, zero tons of biodegradable municipal waste were landfilled since 2006, according to the EU. In Hong Kong, it is foreseeable that such ban would force local authorities to collect leftovers separately from households and businesses, boosting technology that turns waste into energy, e.g.



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technology adopted in the organic waste treatment facilities.

In short, we support the new incineration facility and the extension of landfills, at the same time the government should active promote the pre-incineration source separation and maximization of landfill's life span. We also urge our government to consider the possibility of landfill ban on food waste.

Your Sincerely,

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Vice Convener of Waste Management Panel
Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance

Encl.
