



Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Electrical Equipment and Electronic Equipment)
(Amendment) Bill 2015

According to government, 80 percent of our Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is exported to other places for reuse/recycling while the remaining portion is disposed in our landfills, it is a serious environmental problem that we believe mandatory control is urgently needed. It is worthwhile to note that mainland China enacted a law to manage WEEE in January 2011.

WEEE is different from waste paper or beverage containers in terms of harmful substances embedded in products. Different types of WEEE contain different heavy metals and toxins such as mercury, cadmium, lead, flame retardant etc. that will be released when being dismantled. We consider it is unethical and irresponsible for Hong Kong to transfer some of our hazardous waste to other places as it stands a high chance to threaten the health of others.

It is utmost important for our government to set up the law to require WEEE producers to contribute money and efforts to make possible proper recycling of WEEE in Hong Kong. This includes the collection of WEEE from various locations in Hong Kong and the sustainable operation of the WEEE recycling plant that the government is going to build.

Under the law, producers will shoulder the WEEE recycling fee to demonstrate their environmental responsibility, while users of WEEE are responsible for making sure that their WEEE is collected by an authorized WEEE collector.

Our government aims to recycle 42 percent of WEEE (30,000 tonnes) annually by the plant at the start, however this target should be reviewed annually and to increase steadily to recycle more and cover other types of WEEE that are not yet covered by the proposed legislation.

The government should collect samples of soil and underground water at all WEEE storages (especially those that are exempted from acquiring licences) from time to time to examine if toxins are found around these storage sites to prevent our environment from degradation.

To further prevent WEEE from being disposed at our landfills or being imported and exported illegally, the government should enact a landfill ban for WEEE when the WEEE plant starts its operation, and to step up the import and export control of WEEE. Such a ban will send another strong signal to the trade and recyclers of WEEE that they should make good use of the plant to properly dismantle and recycle WEEE within our territory as a responsible corporate citizen.

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April 2015