



香港廢物管理學會

Hong Kong Waste Management Association
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<http://www.hongkongwma.org.hk>

Legislative Council Bills Committee on Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal
 (Electrical Equipment and Electronic Equipment) (Amendment) Bill 2015

Hong Kong Waste Management Association (HKWMA) is the premier organization representing professionals in Hong Kong's solid waste management and environmental industries and we take an active interest in all areas represented by our membership. Since our inauguration 20 years ago, HKWMA has been witnessing the evolution, needs and challenges of waste management issues in Hong Kong.

HKWMA strongly supports this initiative which is an important bill derived from the Product Eco-Responsibility Ordinance. The fast-growing electrical & electronic equipment (EEE) problems should be properly addressed and dealt with, considering the trend of rising sales and shortening life cycles of electrical and electronic equipment in Hong Kong.

The compulsory Take-Back System and control of waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE) export are the two essential factors to the success of local recycling. The Take-Back System should be of extensive coverage through the retailing network and other applicable channels involved in importing and consuming EEE within Hong Kong. Despite the conventional practice of certain second hand EEE or WEEE being exported to other countries for resale or recycling, the government should legislate to prohibit these export activities. Stringent enforcement actions by relevant authorities would also be needed.

Our association supports the licensing approach to proper and environmentally sound treatment and recycling facilities for WEEE. These facilities, including the government funded, privately invested or NGO operated ones, should be properly monitored and regulated for their collection, processing, treatment activities of WEEE and export of resulting raw materials. There should be a reasonable mechanism to review and define the acceptable quality/level of recycled materials that are fit for export/reuse.

Moreover, the safe handling & treatment of toxic substances (e.g. mercury, lead, CFC)

Working towards Effective Waste Management for a Sustainable Society
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from the dismantling and recycling of WEEE should be closely monitored. In coping with changing manufacturing technologies of EEE and toxic materials resulting from the WEEE, the government should keep abreast of the latest industrial trends and overseas experience, with the rationale to minimize and avoid the secondary pollution, to facilitate the setup of local treatment facilities and even the controlled re-export of the toxic substances for ultimate treatment.

Last but not least, E-waste generation is largely dependent on consumer behavior. We urge the government to strengthen the public's education to encourage a reduction in the frequency of replacement and an increase in the reuse of EEE when they are still functional. A proper platform should be set up to inform and update the public on the present WEEE recycling situation. Part of the recycling fund collected from EEE consumption should be allocated for this education process. Whenever possible, consumers in Hong Kong should be made aware of the monetary, social and environmental costs of disposing of WEEE in Hong Kong.

Submitted by & on behalf of Hong Kong Waste Management Association

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