



BY E-MAIL ONLY

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Legislative Council

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

24 March 2017

Dear Chairperson and Members,

**Green Power's Comments on
Implementation Arrangements for Municipal Solid Waste Charging**

1. We refer to the captioned agenda item to be discussed in the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 27 March 2017, and would like to provide our comments for the Panel's consideration.
2. Green Power supports in principle the introduction of a mandatory municipal solid waste charging proposed by the Environment Bureau in March 2017, which should be
 - (a) in line with the "polluter pays" principle that charging is based on the amount of wastes being disposed of. Then, the small waste producers will no longer subsidize the large waste producers through paying taxes and/or rates which are not based on payers' environmental performance.
 - (b) supported by interdepartmental collaboration including frontline workers, enforcement personnel, property management agents, etc.
 - (c) backed up by stringent enforcement in private premises and public spaces to avoid aggravate flytipping.
 - (d) accompanied with extensive publicity and community education about reducing wastes at sources, clean recycling and consume-less life style.
 - (e) supported by a comprehensive, convenient and extensive community recycling scheme to divert the recyclables from municipal solid waste.
3. We opine that the transitional period of charging through "bin-counting" should be as short as possible, because this charging method does not provide the incentives to reduce wastes for individual households and renders the municipal solid waste charging scheme ineffective.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. We look forward to your favourable decisions.

Yours faithfully,

Cheng Luk Ki, Ph.D.

Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation