

January 6, 2019

Dear Honorable Legco Environment Panel:

I'm writing to support the quick passing of the Municipal Solid Waste Scheme.

Hong Kong needs to focus on a cleaner and sanitary environment. When I walk and drive around Hong Kong, I notice more and more discarded lunch boxes (which attracts rats), plastic bottles and plastic bags on the ground. The current fines don't seem to deter people from littering. Currently all waste goes directly to the landfills. How can the landfills cope with 2000 tonnes of plastic sent to there daily?

Typhoon Mangkut regurgitated hundreds of thousands of plastic bottles and styrofoam which surrounded Hong Kong last month. Today, tiny bits of styrofoam is still on our beaches... people have become used to seeing this. Please don't let this become a normal site. There is too much garbage seeping into our oceans which is already unhealthy. Today 60% of the local fish have plastic in their stomachs already. Imagine what 5-10 years will look like.

Our neighbors such as Taiwan, Korea and Japan have all implemented waste schemes similar to what has been proposed. It won't be easy for the general public at first but after a few months, people will have to adapt. Ultimately we need legislation to have a waste management scheme to keep Hong Kong clean and from turning into a dumping ground.

We need an effective policy that will drive behavioral change and encourage reduction of waste and separation of food and recyclables. We need a proper timeline. The proposed MSW is not a perfect scheme but it will be a good first step as we need to have regulation to control our waste. If Hong Kong's landfills will be at full-capacity within 8 years time, how will our next generation deal with the huge amounts of waste if there is no mechanism for reduction.

Please consider the future of our next generation. They shouldn't have to clean up after our indulgences and because this generation is making a mess. How many people received Christmas hampers last month? None of that cellophane is recyclable. All of the wrapping on our gifts received went straight to landfill.

Lastly, we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. I implore your support to pass this bill.

Best regards,

Yolanda Choy

  
Attachment







