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Subject: Written Submission by HKGBC on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018

Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018

Written Submission by HKGBC

The Hong Kong Green Building Council supports the captioned Bill, which seeks to establish a charging scheme for the disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). We note that the issue of MSW charging has been discussed for a long time, with the first public consultation carried out in 2012. The approval of the Bill can lead to the roll-out of the scheme in accordance with a definitive timeframe. This would be beneficial to the progress of the society.

We opine that significant preparation work in terms of both hardware and software has been carried out in Hong Kong. On the hardware side, our BEAM Plus green building rating schemes have induced more buildings to incorporate floor-based Material Recovery Rooms (MRRs) and waste recycling facilities. There are also various kinds of public infrastructure including EPD's Community Green Stations, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) treatment plant and Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTFs), etc. Besides, the Government has set up specific funds to boost up the capacities of the recycling industry. On the software side, there have been a number of Food Wise campaigns and food waste recycling projects carried out by NGOs and similar bodies. Other waste recycling education schemes, including our Green Shop Alliance programme, also help to mobilise the society.

In brief, we support the Bill and hope that the aforementioned hardware and software can soon work together in conjunction with the MSW charging scheme to make Hong Kong a greener city. We believe it is the right timing to take forward this meaningful initiative.

For and on behalf of the Hong Kong Green Building Council Limited

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