



Hong Kong, December 22, 2018

Honorable Ma Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Chairman  
Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment)  
Bill 2018

c/o Clerk to Bills Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
[bc\\_02\\_18@legco.gov.hk](mailto:bc_02_18@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Chairman and Members,

I am representing the *Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group* and its “*Drink Without Waste*” initiative.

### **Support for waste charging**

We support the Waste Disposal (Charging For Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018, including quantity-based MSW charging, designated garbage bags and tipping fees, and the future consideration of fair and transparent producer responsibility schemes.

We believe that to obtain community support for the proposed MSW charging and to achieve the waste reduction targets set out in the Hong Kong Blueprint for the Sustainable Use of Resources it is critical that all handling of waste and recyclables is seen to be handled efficiently and effectively. We propose therefore three parallel actions.

### **Time for an update of the Waste Blueprint**

With the Bill as part of government’s effort to tackle the waste crisis, we urge government to update the strategies, targets, policies and action plans set out in the *Hong Kong Blueprint for the Sustainable Use of Resources*. The next version of the Blueprint should go further in implementing a holistic waste policy and adhering to the Waste Hierarchy where the greatest effort should be devoted to waste avoidance and reduction, followed by reuse and recycling, if Hong Kong is to greatly reduce waste disposal to landfills.

### **Deploy technology driven sorting of waste and recyclables**

Almost all waste can be turned into a resource. Key is that waste is separated by consumers, households, offices and commercial enterprises at source. Next, there is a need to invest in Material Recovery Facilities at landfills, re-designed refuse transfer stations and new collection centers to retrieve and separate the different materials for recycling from the incoming streams of waste and recyclables. After sorting, the recyclable materials could then be sent for processing and value capture. Such technology allows for greater efficiencies in collection - a key cost driver in dealing with the city’s waste.



### **Transparent and accountable institutional framework**

We advocate for total transparency in the volumes of waste collected and recycled as well as the amount of levies collected through the MSW charging and producer responsibility schemes. Any charges or levies collected should be applied to fund collection, sorting and recycling under a holistic waste policy in Hong Kong.

To facilitate this level of transparency and accountability, we urge the government to establish an over-arching institution such as a Waste Authority or a trading fund to manage all waste and recycling – from product make up, to collection, to reduction initiatives, to sorting, to end of life – as well as to manage all charges, deposits, levies and penalties. This institution could be formed by combining the waste and recycling operations of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Environmental Protection Department and other government departments.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Zimmerman 司馬文

For and on behalf of the  
Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group  
[info@drinkwithoutwaste.org](mailto:info@drinkwithoutwaste.org)  
21/f Chun Wo Commercial Centre  
25 Wing Wo Street  
Central, Hong Kong

Note:

The *Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group* recently announced its *Drink Without Waste* initiative ([www.drinkwithoutwaste.org](http://www.drinkwithoutwaste.org)) and published our proposed *Strategies and Actions* for reducing waste from beverage consumption. See: [https://drinkwithoutwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/DWW\\_PositioningPaperEN.pdf](https://drinkwithoutwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/DWW_PositioningPaperEN.pdf)