



33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔告士打道 5 號稅務大樓 33 樓

Advisory Council on the Environment Resolution on Municipal Solid Waste Charging

At its meeting on 5 November 2018, the Advisory Council on the Environment (the Council) welcomed the Administration's plan to introduce the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 into the Legislative Council on 14 November 2018. The Council unanimously passed the following resolution.

Resolution

The Council strongly urges for the early implementation of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging through the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018, having regard to the successful experience in other places in implementing MSW charging, which has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to raise public awareness and drive attitude, behavioral and cultural changes in promoting waste reduction and recycling; and the relief it will bring to alleviate heavy pressure on our MSW reception, disposal and treatment facilities (e.g. refuse collection points, refuse transfer stations and landfills).

2. The Council also strongly welcomes the Administration's commitment to providing additional resources in undertaking waste reduction and recycling initiatives in complementing the implementation of MSW charging. Noting that it is a continuous process to strengthen recycling support to the community and the development of the required infrastructural facilities will take time, the Council considers that they should not be taken as prerequisites to or preconditions for the implementation of MSW charging.

3. The Council takes note of the possible challenges in enforcement but considers that the Government should proceed full steam to implement MSW charging early whilst in parallel stepping up publicity and public education as well as addressing the enforcement issues noting that there will be at least some two years before MSW charging will take effect to sort out such matters.

4. The Council urges that the Government should proceed with the implementation of MSW charging while in parallel continuing to take steps to –

- (a) provide more supporting facilities for collection and treatment of MSW and further explore the use of advanced technologies to facilitate recycling;
- (b) incentivise the practice of waste recycling but uphold the “polluters-pay” principle and avoid rewarding the waste producers;
- (c) deploy effectively resources in undertaking enforcement actions having regard to the inherent challenges with a view to improving compliance with the charging requirements over time; and
- (d) step up publicity and public engagement to promote reduction and recycling of MSW.

5. The Council urges all parties, including the Administration and the Legislative Council, to work together to facilitate the passage of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 for the implementation of MSW charging as soon as practicable.
