



香港廢物管理學會

Hong Kong Waste Management Association
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Having reviewed the “Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018” published by the Bills Committee on Waste Disposal, our Institute would like to offer the following comments for your consideration.

In principle, we support the Bill as it is able to provide some financial incentives to drive behavioral and cultural changes, and encourage different sectors of the community to cherish resources and proactively practice waste reduction at source as well as clean recycling, thus reducing overall waste disposal.

We urge that the MSW charging should be implemented ASAP. In 2016, the daily disposal of MSW reached 1.41 kilograms per person, which is much higher than those of other major cities. To combat global climate change, it is imperative to promote resources saving as well as waste reduction and recycling in order to reduce carbon emissions and facilitate a transformation to low-carbon living. In Seoul and Taipei City, waste disposal dropped by some 30 percent in the initial period after quantity-based waste charging was introduced.

To ensure effective reduction of waste, the scheme must not be a standalone strategy of the Government. Recycling at source is still considered as the most effective principle to reduce solid waste disposed at landfills. The Government needs to inject more resources and effort to assist the community implementing source separation; provide more effective collection of the source-separated recyclables; and technical and financial support to the local recycling industry. Equally important, to conduct research and development on the adaptive reuse of recycled waste. To encourage collectors to recycle those less attractive wastes, the Government may need to offer such assistance and incentive as research and development for the more economical adaptive reuse of the waste.

To encourage community awareness on environmental protection and the importance of the three principles; Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, the Government shall reinforce education to the community. This could be in the form of producing promotional videos and booklets. To assist the Owners’ Corporation and property management practitioners in resolving problems encountered whilst setting up recycling arrangements in their building, discussion forums, workshops, and seminars shall also be organized regularly to provide an update of the most advanced technology and methods. Public education is, therefore, the key to the successful implementation of municipal solid waste charging. We urge the government to devote more resources to organizing promotional activities to educate the public on our city's waste crisis, as well as on the easy steps that every Hong Kong people can take to avoid or reduce waste generation.



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Once the scheme is implemented, there would be a higher tendency for people, both from the domestic and C&I sector, to dump their waste illegally on Government land or on private land. We support the Government to establish the enforcement of existing laws on such activities and consider introducing penalties when legislating for the MSW charging scheme.

Prior to the full implementation of the new legislation, there shall be a smooth transitional period so as to allow the community to adapt to the new charging arrangements. 12 to 18 months to prepare for the charging shall be agreed during the transitional period for different kinds of buildings with varying design and management in order to observe and resolve the possible difficulties anticipated. Refinement can be developed after the preparation so as to ensure fair and equitable implementation of the new charging scheme.

ECF has been supporting non-profit organizations in organizing different community involvement projects in order to allow different types of waste producers to try out the charging mechanism and arrangements in real settings. Their experience will provide a useful reference to different stakeholders in implementing MSW Charging is implemented. The Government will also be preparing Best Practice Guides for the reference of property management companies and their frontline staff