

Hong Kong, 15 February 2021

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-Ming, SBS, JP
Chairman
Bills Committee to Study the Waste Disposal
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018
Legislative Council
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Dear Honorable chairman and members:

We are writing to support the passing of the Municipal Solid Waste Scheme.

Hong Kong needs to focus on a cleaner environment and a better waste disposal scheme. With covid-19, the use of plastic containers, bottles, utensils and face masks have doubled compared to the previous years. Very soon the landfills will not be able to cope with 2000-tonnes of plastic being sent there daily.

In 2018, Typhoon Mangkut spat out hundreds of thousands of plastic bottles and styrofoam which surrounded Hong Kong. It was a wake up call for many Hong Kong people that there is too much garbage seeping into our oceans through our streets and drains. That is because Hong Kong does not have a Municipal Solid Waste Scheme and people just throw away what they do not want irresponsibly.

Finally, we would like to applaud the EPD for installing recycling centers throughout Hong Kong. However it doesn't make sense to have these centers without a MWS scheme to deter trash. Otherwise people will just use more plastic to recycle and get rewards. There needs to be a charge for general garbage to encourage people to reduce first and if need be, recycle to get free garbage bags so the unavoidable trash can be free for those who make an effort to recycle.

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 and littering enforcement to keep Hong Kong clean.

The policy isn't perfect but it is a good step to drive behavioral change and encourage reduction of waste and separation of food, other wastes and recyclables. Through communicating with different NGOs, corporates and through Drinks Without Waste, we have already seen many parties in the society and individuals supporting this scheme. We need to start now. If Hong Kong's landfills become full, our next generation will not be able to 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 and too slow to act. How many

people received Christmas hampers and Lunar New Year hampers in the last two months? How much of that cellaphane has been recycled and how much has gone to landfill?

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

Best regards,

EcoDrive Hong Kong

EcoDrive is a registered charity organization in Hong Kong. We promote the awareness and reduction of single use plastic in Hong Kong through education, connecting with the community and corporates, and by providing possible solutions. By motivating and driving each individual to make a lifestyle change, we believe together we can make a difference. Single use plastics are polluting our cities and our oceans. It is affecting our environment and contributing to health problems in humans and animals. Our organization is focused on promoting change.

Website: www.ecodrivehk.com