

Bill Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)  
(Amendment) Bill 2018  
Legislative Council

15 Feb 2021

**Submission to Bills Committee on Waste Disposal**  
**(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018**

I fully support the Government's introduction of a bill on waste disposal to implement a charging scheme for the aim of reducing municipal solid waste (MSW) in HK. This bill has been discussed and debated for many years. The HKEPD has taken many efforts in the past years to incorporate most of the inputs and comments from public and professional bodies to improve and amend the charging scheme. As you can see, the HKEPD has built various waste infrastructures for waste treatment with value-added products produced (e.g. sludge treatment facility), provided waste collection points (such as green community, recycling stations, recycling stores and recycling spots) for facilitating waste separation at source, and established recycling funds for enhancing industry's recycling capacity. What our people need at present is the incentive to do recycling. MSW charging is the most effective means to encourage people to take actions. From the waste management experience in Taipei and Seoul, the waste reduction can be of around 60% after launching waste charging scheme in their cities for some years. For Taipei, it was found that 37% waste reduction in the 1<sup>st</sup> year and 65% reduction in its 7 years of waste charging implementation in 2000.

Some people are always misunderstood that waste charging will post financial burden in industry. Actually it may not be true because Taipei, Seoul and some European countries have demonstrated that it greatly enhances their environmental business and also provides a good driving force for sustainable circular economy. What about HK? Our waste generation has been increasing in the recent years, while our recycling rate is decreasing. Most of our valuable resources are currently disposed of at landfills instead of recycling. It is not affordable for us to further delay the implementation of MSW charging in HK. I look forward to seeing a clean and environmentally sustainable HK in very near future.

Yours sincerely,



---

Irene M. C. Lo, *PhD, M.EASA, F.ASCE, F.HKIE, F.HKGSa, M.AEE, CAP, BEAM Pro*  
Chair Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Academician of European Academy of Sciences and Arts