



The Environmental Management Association of Hong Kong

18 February 2021

Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

Submission to Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
Views from the Environmental Management Association of Hong Kong

Established in 2010, the Environmental Management Association of Hong Kong Limited (“EMAHK”) is a charitable organization which aims to be a leading and recognised contributor to environmental management and sustainable development discourse, as well as to the advancement of environmental management as a professional field.

It was a big pity that the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 could not be passed. EMAHK is delighted to see that a new Bills Committee on the issue has been formed and the Government has recently released the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035. Hong Kong has an imminent waste problem. This is an important and essential bill that links the responsibilities of this generation to our environment and future generations. EMAHK supports the captioned bill.

Of all the different kinds of wastes, **food and plastic wastes** are disposed by almost every person each day. These two types of wastes constitute the major portion of the total wastes generated. Food waste can also contaminate other useful recyclables and creates hygiene issues if they are disposed improperly. Once the charging scheme is implemented, it is foreseeable that most people would be concerned about the cost. They may make use of different ways, proper and improper, to reduce their own waste generation.

To achieve “**Waste Reduction • Resources Circulation • Zero Landfill**”, the Government should provide more appropriate facilities and put more efforts in building software (such as education, promotion, and public engagement). To encourage proper waste treatment, the Government should set up more collection points at convenient locations for recyclable wastes, in particular food and plastic wastes, together with relevant facilities and logistics management for local waste treatment. In the long run, it is essential to provide incentives and establish measures to the awareness and knowledge of the public and change their behaviour on waste reduction.

Yours faithfully,

Freeman Cheung
President
The Environmental Management Association of Hong Kong Limited