



Hong Kong, 19 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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By post and email

Drink Without Waste Supports Waste Charging

Dear Chairman and Members,

We urge members of the Legislative Council to pass the required amendments of the Waste Disposal Ordinance and Waste Disposal Regulation during this term of the Legislative Council. In line with the “polluter-pays” principle, charging for waste is a necessity in any modern society’s waste management toolkit. Legislation for waste charging will promote waste avoidance, strengthen local recycling industries, and allocate the societal cost of waste handling and recycling correctly.

Studies¹ from our *Drink Without Waste* initiative highlight MSW charging as an effective tool towards the recovery of recyclables. With Hong Kong’s recycling industry facing challenges of land tenure and international waste trade restrictions, MSW charging is a timely economic tool to support the long-term sustainability of local processing and recycling businesses.

Since the introduction of waste charging in the 1990s, South Korea and Taiwan have improved their recycling rate to 86% and 55% respectively². The latest figures from Hong Kong government indicate that the per capita daily MSW disposal rate remains high (1.47kg) while the overall recycling rate has dropped to 29%. The lack of MSW charging is a leading contributing factor to this state of affairs. It is time for Hong Kong to catch up with its neighbours.

Citizens and their representatives may have concerns over the weight of MSW charges on household budgets. We welcome the proposed monthly subsidies for all recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Higher Old Age Living Allowance. Moreover, based on our knowledge of international policies and Hong Kong attitudes towards

¹ Wealth of Flows (2020) Blueprint: a statutory value-on-return scheme for Hong Kong’s beverage containers (<https://bit.ly/2Z3uJ48>); Deloitte (2018) Drink Without Waste: Research Report (<https://bit.ly/3a97pbK>)

² Ministry of Environment (2021) Land & Waste (<https://bit.ly/3ap0F9K>); World Bank (2018) What a waste 2.0 (<https://bit.ly/3u7ZnrB>)



waste management, the proposed transition period of 12 to 18 months is deemed to be adequate.

The Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group, established in 2017, is a coalition of beverage manufacturers and importers, waste handlers and recyclers, institutions, retailers and NGOs. Our goal is to reduce the volume of used beverage packaging going to waste by 70 to 90% in 2025. Municipal Solid Waste charging will help ensure we can meet this target. For more information, please visit <https://drinkwithoutwaste.org/>

Yours sincerely,

Paul Zimmerman
Chairman
Drink Without Waste
Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group



Single-Use Beverage Packaging Working Group

Participants

A.S. Watson Group
ADM Capital Foundation Limited
ALBA Group (Asia) Limited
Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Limited
Business Environment Council (BEC)
Coordinate4u
Designing Hong Kong Limited
EcoDrive
Environmental Association Limited
Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Fung Group
Green Power Limited
Hong Kong Retail Management Association
John Swire & Sons (HK) Limited
Link Asset Management Limited
Plastic Free Seas Limited
Secure Information Disposal Services Limited (SSID)
Steven Molyneaux-Webb
SUEZ NWS R&R (Hong Kong) Limited
Swire Coca-Cola Limited
Swire Waste Management Limited
The Coca-Cola Company
The Dairy Farm Company Ltd.
The Green Earth
The Hong Kong Beverage Association Limited
The Hong Kong Jockey Club
Veolia Asia Limited
Vitasoy International Holdings Limited
WWF – Hong Kong
WYNG Foundation

Observers

Airport Authority Hong Kong
Civic Exchange
Deloitte Advisory (Hong Kong) Limited
Executive Counsel Limited
Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong Scrap Plastic Association
Hung Fook Tong Holdings Ltd.
Kin Che Lam
Lee Hysan Foundation
MTR Corporation Limited
New Life Plastics Ltd.
Ocean Recovery Alliance
WYNG43 Social Investment Limited

Legal Advisor

Slaughter & May
Stephenson Harwood

Secretariat

ADM Capital Foundation (Funds and Contracts)
Designing Hong Kong Limited (Secretarial and Project Management)

Chairman

Paul Zimmerman (CEO, Designing Hong Kong)