

Submission to the Hong Kong Legislative Council on Municipal Solid Waste Charging Bill



HKIQEP
香港環專會

*Photo credit: Arup,
North East New Territories
landfill extension, Hong Kong*

**Hong Kong Institute of
Qualified Environmental
Professionals (HKIQEP)**

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The Hong Kong Institution of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP) supports the enactment of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill

The implementation of waste charging is a critical and important foundation to delivering on Hong Kong's waste management strategy. With Hong Kong's municipal solid waste volumes continuing to rise and our landfill capacity reaching its limit, an early enactment of the Amendment Ordinance is a critical and urgent priority.

The HKIQEP is pleased to note that a new Bills Committee was formed on 16 October 2020 to resume the scrutiny of the Amendment Bill. With years of preparation and many hours of discussion in previous Bills Committee meetings, we already have the foundation to move forward with passing the Amendment Bill that will help Hong Kong build our own capability in solving our waste management problem, as well as catching up with other Asian cities like Seoul and Taipei.



Source: Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources, 2013-2022, Environment Bureau, HKSAR Government

Recent reports on the current undesirable state of our recycling industry has perhaps affected the LegCo deliberations on the Amendment Bill. It is therefore important that the HKSAR Government support the recycling industry not just with the financial subsidies it is delivering, but to also provide and/or endorse:

- technical design and operating standards, principles and requirements for recycling processes and facilities (to prevent unintended negative environmental impacts),
- industry guidelines and standards to ensure safety of employees, and contractors involved with the collection, processing and delivery of recycled materials, as well as customers who are receiving them,
- *employment of qualified professionals in critical decision-making roles*, and
- adopting a longer-term vision, by exploring the feasibility of allowing the import of waste for the purpose of recycling, to create enough critical mass for Hong Kong to become a centre of excellence in recycling in the region.

In synergy, these will all help to boost the performance of our recycling industry by ensuring that the appropriate technologies, practices and experienced talent are being employed to deliver high quality recycled materials. Creating new regulations and standards will create new job opportunities as well as increase quality of output and prevent unintended pollution. By aiming to be one of the world's best recycling locations, this can create new market opportunities for Hong Kong within the Greater Bay Area.

The HKIQEP considers that we should not carry on with the misperception that a free economy equates to having no or less regulation. In many cases, creating new regulations and standards that are appropriate and reasonable, will create new job opportunities as well as deliver on the desired policy objective, such as reduction of waste or any other form of environmental pollution. This can also help position and create for Hong Kong, new market opportunities within the Greater Bay Area.

For Hong Kong to assume green, visionary, and ethical leadership to better protect our environment and ensure sustainable living and economic development in Hong Kong, we must first successfully manage the waste we produce every day. The HKIQEP appeals to the community to support waste charging, in recognition of our duty and responsibility to manage our own waste in a manner that is more in line with a world class city than a developing economy.

HKIQEP Contact

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One of THE most impactful measures that the Hong Kong SAR Government can implement is to:

“enact an Ordinance to regularise environmental professional qualifications, creating new jobs and careers for our younger generations to support Hong Kong’s green economy and ranking as a world class smart and healthy city.”

重專業， 規範環保資格
撐青年， 創造環保就業
保民生， 拓展綠色經濟
共構建， 健康智慧都會

Source of background image: <http://www.ust.hk/news/news/hkust-holds-its-19th-congregation-conferring-honorary-doctorates-four-distinguished>, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, 2011