

By post and email at bc_01_20@legco.gov.hk

19 February 2021

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

[Attn: Angel SHEK, Clerk to Bills Committee]

Dear Ms SHEK

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on Study the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment)
Bill 2018**

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to present to you our views and suggestions as set out in the enclosure for your kind consideration on the captioned subject.

With our expertise and experience, the Institution welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government on the area of concern if and when it is needed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Ir Prof P L YUEN
President

Enc

PLY/CKH/EK/SS



Enclosure

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
regarding the Bills Committee Formed on 16 October 2020 to Study the Waste
Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) would like to provide the following suggestions and views regarding the Bill Committee Formed on 16 October 2020 to Study the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 for the Committee's consideration:

2. The “Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use Resources 2013-2022” issued in May 2013 put forward a vision to “Use Less, Waste Less” with the target of decreasing the per capita disposal rate of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) by 40%, representing a reduction from 1.27 kg per day in 2011 to 0.8 kg by 2022. In addition to this, “A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022” was unveiled in February 2014, which also outlines the Government's target of cutting food waste disposal to landfills down to 2,160 tpd in 2022, equivalent to 40% reduction from 2011's level.

3. During the past eight years, various actions have been taken including waste reduction, industry support, education and publicity, waste separation, and resources circulation. Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS) on plastic shopping bags, waste on electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and glass beverage containers were implemented to reduce waste production. A number of large-scale waste management infrastructure was initiated to support the waste separation work and facilitate the transformation of waste into resources. Waste management infrastructure includes T-Park, WEE-Park, O-Park, I-Park and Y-Park to convert sludge from sewage treatment works to electricity, to transform regulated WEEE to valuable secondary raw materials, to digest food waste into electricity, to transform yard waste into various useful materials such as compost, and to treat waste into energy respectively. In addition, the Government has set up recycling outlets to facilitate waste separation at source and recycling by the public. There are waste reduction and recycling campaigns organised to mobilise different sectors of the community to support “Use Less, Waste Less”.

4. However, as shown from the figures in the following table¹, instead of reduction in the MSW per capita disposal rate, it is actually increased from 1.27 kg per day in 2011 to 1.47 kg per day in 2019, equivalent to an increase of 16%. Part of the reason for the increase is probably due to the decrease in the MSW recovery rate because of the facts that the global market prices of many recyclables have declined substantially and the Mainland has tightened up the import control of recyclables. However, even

¹ The figures in the table are extracted from the Data & Statistics in the website of the Environmental Protection Department (https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en/assistancewizard/waste_red_sat.htm)

though the factor of reduced recovery rate is excluded, the MSW generation still cannot be reduced at a rate as expected by the Blueprint. The amount of food waste landfilled also cannot be reduced at the expected rate and thus the 2022 target would most likely not be achieved.

	2011	2013	2019	2022 Targets
Total Solid Waste Landfilled (tpd)	13,458	14,311	15,637	
MSW Landfilled (tpd)	8,996	9,547	11,057	
MSW Disposal Rate (kg/person/day)	1.27	1.33	1.47	0.8 (-40%)
MSW Recovery Rate	48%	37%	29%	
Food Waste Landfilled (tpd)	3,584	3,648	3,353	2,160 (-40%)

5. The increasing trend of MSW landfilled is quite alarming. It indeed reflects the urgency of implementing the MSW charging to drive waste reduction. In view of the current high level of waste disposal, downturn in external recycling market and scarcity of local land resources, implementation of MSW charging is considered as the main driving force behind waste reduction to drive enterprises and the public to practise waste reduction and recycling proactively because charging will impose financial burden to enterprises and the public. This will certainly encourage “Waste Less, Pay Less”. Experience from Taipei City and Seoul has clearly demonstrated the effects. Moreover, the MSW charging will also make waste recycling more attractive than landfilling, creating the environment to stimulate the waste recycling industry.

6. In this regard, HKIE supports the implementation of MSW charging together with other actions to reduce waste, strengthen waste separation and enhance waste to resources infrastructure, as well as educational promotion campaigns on waste reduction and recycling.

7. HKIE concurs that it is very challenging to implement MSW charging. HKIE supports that a multipronged strategy as proposed in the Legislative Council Brief (ref: EP CR/9/65/3) should be adopted when implementing the MSW charging. The strategy includes (i) provision of appropriate preparatory time; (ii) enhanced support for waste reduction and recycling; (iii) intensive public education, publicity and engagement drives; (iv) application of innovation and technology (IT) initiatives; (v) assistance for the needy; and (vi) risk based enforcement approach. In particular, effective monitoring of compliance situation and appropriate enforcement actions against illegal waste dumping in black spots will be very critical to the successful

implementation of MSW charging. HKIE believes viable innovation and technology initiatives can help overcome the difficulties during enforcement of the regulations, and will make appeals to members to explore innovative and suitable technical solutions in support of the waste reduction policy.