

Chairman
The Bills Committee on Waste Disposal
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
Hong Kong Legislative Council

10 February 2021

Dear Sir,

Support for Legislating Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme

I write to support enacting the legislation for a municipal solid waste charging scheme.

As a former government official closely involved in land administration and town planning, I am acutely aware of the extreme difficulty in finding sites for developing landfills or extending existing landfills, but this difficulty is secondary to other more important and far-reaching considerations which strongly oppose the disposal of MSW by means of landfills, such as the sterilization of the landfill sites from subsequent re-development, the need for the surrounding land to provide a buffer zone between the landfill and neighbouring land occupants such as housing estates, and permanent trashing of Mother Earth.

Charging for disposal of MSW is a lynchpin to reducing both such waste and lessening the burden on other means of disposal to replace landfills. **A charging scheme should have been adopted in Hong Kong years ago** as it has proven its effectiveness in reducing MSW in other overseas cities. The vision of “Waste Reduction, Resources Circulation and Zero Landfill” in the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” proclaimed by the Administration on 8 February 2021 has added urgency to the adoption of the Charging Scheme without further delay.

I respectfully urge the Bills Committee to examine the Bill in earnest and **recommend it to the Council for second and third reading before the end of the current term of the Council.** This would be in the best interest of Hong Kong’s sustainable development, enhancing the livability of our City and honoring Hong Kong’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality before 2050.

Yours sincerely,
(signed)
Patrick LAU Lai Chiu
Former Director of Lands (2002-2007)