



香港廢物管理學會

Hong Kong Waste Management Association

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<http://www.hongkongwma.org.hk>

Our Ref: HKWMA/MSW/2020-02

**The Bills Committee on Waste Disposal
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)**

Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

By email only (bc_01_20@legco.gov.hk)

Attn: Chairman - The Hon Frankie Yick Chi-ming *SBS, JP*

10th February 2021

Dear Hon Yick,

**Statement of Support on
a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging Scheme**

Established in 1994, the **Hong Kong Waste Management Association** (HKWMA) is a not-for-profit professional organisation representing professionals in Hong Kong's solid waste management and environmental industries. For the past 25+ years, we have taken an active interest in all areas represented by our membership and topics of our ambit.

In the past two decades, we have been advocating the need and necessity of a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging scheme for Hong Kong. Apart from providing written opinion papers on consultation exercises and voicing out at various related meetings at the LegCo, HKWMA held a high-profile forum "**Municipal Solid Waste Charging: How will it impact Hong Kong?**" in September 2019 as the keystone event to celebrate our 25th anniversary, bringing experts and experiences near the neighbourhood regions with similar cultural and waste management challenges. HKWMA has been in support of MSW Charging since its inception.

Since the "**Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022**", the generation rate of Municipal Solid Wastes (MSW) has gradually increased from 1.33 kg/capita in 2013 to 1.47 kg/capita in 2019, representing a >10% increase since 2013. Over 70% of the MSW wastes were disposed of at landfills in 2019, which is clearly not a sustainable way of managing wastes. Besides, this rising trend is very worrying, and the targets set forth in the Blueprint are unlikely to be achievable.



As evident in similar schemes already in place for construction and demolition (C&D) wastes and plastic shopping bags (PSB), HKWMA believes charging for MSW will (a) **drive fundamental behavioural changes in MSW disposal** and (b) **alter the commercial landscape of the recycling market for good**. Besides, HKWMA believes that the "polluter pays" principle should always apply.

To wean the City off its reliance on landfill and the ability to capture and develop a commercially viable and sustainable recycling industry requires there to be in place mechanisms to make other disposal or recycling choices more attractive than disposal to landfills. The implementation of a MSW Charging Scheme has been seen to affect substantive change in people's behaviour towards recycling and recovery of resources, especially when coupled with source separation.

This in turns yields a larger supply of resources for the recycling industry to operate in a sustainable manner. The potential increase in supply of recyclable material does require there to be in place supporting treatment / processing infrastructure so that the public can be re-assured that the material is being properly recycled. The private sector and NGO's are already embarking on numerous initiatives to get themselves ready for more substantive change that may arise from MSW Charging. The Beverage Industry is seeking to reduce Single Use Plastic and NGO's such as Drink without Waste have extensive levels of community engagement and support from the waste sector. With this Charging Scheme in force, HKWMA believes that a healthy and sustainable cycle can be established.

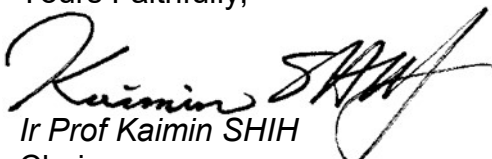
The consequences of inaction are that our landfills will continue to swell and the shift change required in per capita disposal rate will remain unattainable with valuable recycling resources going to waste.

HKWMA was very disappointed that in June 2020, no progress was made on the said Scheme for various reasons, but is now very pleased that a Bills Committee on the subject was formed again in October 2020.

We have long past the best "window of opportunity" for having this Scheme in place. The scheme can always been fine-tuned and adjusted, but inaction is not a proactive step forward. We must act now!

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours Faithfully,



Ir Prof Kaimin SHIH
Chairman

Hong Kong Waste Management Association