



Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance

香港綠色策略聯盟

Unit G, 7/F, Century Centre, No. 33-35 Au Pui Wan Street, Fotan, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

4 January 2019

Bills Committee on Waste Disposal  
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance (HKGSA) would like to share our views and comments regarding the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018. Our detailed submission is attached as Appendix A.

HKGSA is a non-profit making organization founded in 2012 by a group of professionals and stakeholders who are visionary and wish to undertake the responsibility on the issues of environmental protection and sustainable development. Through active participation, discussions and exchange of views in green issues, projects and technologies etc., members of HKGSA offer our professional opinions and solutions to tackle green issues in Hong Kong and neighbouring region.

Should you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at 9482 3227 (irkennywong@gmail.com).

Yours Sincerely,

Ir Kenny Wong  
Honorary Secretary  
Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance



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Appendix A (A1/3)

## **HKGSA's view on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018**

The waste statistic data showed that the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal rate per capita has progressively increased from 1.27 kg/capita in 2011 to 1.45 kg/capita in 2017. The rising trend of the figures is not a good feeling for those who have made effort. To meet the ultimate target of 0.8kg/capita in 2022 as proposed in the Government's issued Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources in 2013 seems to be very challenging. There is no doubt that the one of the high priority areas is the early implementation of the quantity-based Municipal Solid Waste charging. The Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance (HKGSA) remains the view that quantity based charging is an effective tool to accelerate behavioral change, and it has been proven effective in our local community in the case of plastic shopping bag levy, as well as in many other cities including our nearby jurisdictions, e.g. Taipei City and Seoul. HKGSA's specific views are as follows:

### **(i) Charging Mechanism (收費模式)**

It was understood that the Government proposes to use pre-paid designated garbage bags in a way that about 80 per cent of MSW collected daily would be charged for through the purchase of pre-paid designated garbage bags, while the remaining 20 per cent of MSW would be charged by weight subject to the gate-fee requirement. HKGSA suggests the Government to give a clear message to the general public that the majority of our city will be using designated bags for waste charging, benchmarking with the success in our neighbor jurisdictions. Knowing that there are a number of MSW charging trial projects for various sectors either being carried out or completed, the Government should make good use of the experience gained to educate various stakeholders on the proper way of waste reduction and recycling. HKGSA recommends the Government to arrange more high profile events to share the experience learned, and continue to conduct more trials. Such trial programme should be able to raise citizens' awareness on MSW charging and bring about their earlier behavioral changes before full implementation. It would also help the Government to identify difficulties and be prepared for improvement, which will ensure the ultimate success of the MSW charging scheme.



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(ii) Fly-tipping (非法棄置)

Fly-tipping is not unexpected at the early stage of MSW charging and is an "necessary evil", as learned in the case of C&D waste charging over a decade ago. The Government is suggested to prepare sufficient enforcement actions to address concerns of fly-tipping once MSW charging is implemented since the fly-tipping problem could be serious at the beginning of law implementation, and the proposed 6 months grace period seems appropriate to get our citizens acclimatize to the change in dumping behavior. Since fly-tippers can easily evade the Government's inspection by doing all their illegal dumping during weekends, holidays or at night, the government should have a proactive plan for regular surveillance, as well as installation of GPS tracking devices on waste collecting vehicles and cameras at illegal dumping hotspots, e.g. bin sites in remote areas. Wireless transmission technologies and drones these days shall assist greatly.

(iii) Use of Designated Fund (專款專用)

We support the provision of recurrent resources of around \$300-400 million per year to strengthen the support on waste reduction and recycling (e.g. outreach crew, central collection of food waste and plastic, trial of reverse vending machine, etc.) to complement the implementation of forthcoming MSW charging scheme. This approach well demonstrates that the levies collected from environmental protection related charging schemes should be used to support the relevant initiatives. The details of the expense should be made known to the public as soon as possible in order to demonstrate the Government's determination to put appropriate facilitation measures on tackling large amount of wastes being dumped at landfills (i.e. amount of food waste and plastics dumped are 3,662 and 2,124 tonnes/ day in 2017 respectively). In addition, the Government is suggested to expand the scope of the Recycling Fund to allow a higher funding cap per enterprise so as to attract high end recycling operation and to subsidize the associated costs as long as the business is sustainable and can help recycle wastes which otherwise would be dumped into our invaluable landfills. The Government is also suggested to allocate more land for recycling related operation. Ultimately, general citizens will see tangible and measurable results on their recycling efforts while the Government can achieve the objectives of waste reduction and recycling, thereby establishing a healthy and sustainable cycle.



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Appendix A (A3/3)

In conclusion, HGKSA supports the Government's introduction of the Municipal Solid Waste charging bill as soon as possible, and we strongly believe this charging scheme will be able to induce behavioral changes in the community through providing financial incentives and awareness promotion, thus reducing overall MSW disposal.