

Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance

Comments on "Environmental infrastructure projects (a) 5163DR: Northeast New Territories landfill extension; (b) 5164DR: Southeast New Territories landfill extension; and (c) 5165DR: West New Territories landfill extension"

to

Panel on Environmental Affairs for Legislative Council

1. Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance (HKGSA) generally supports the recently published Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022, which quite aggressively spells out our waste reduction targets and timetable, as well as means (plans and facilities) to achieve the targets.
2. Any further delay in the plans and facilities will however cause negative and irreversible effect on the targets & timetable. The government is urged to take a leading role to explain and lobby support from all stakeholders, including general public, local residents, professionals, waste collectors and recyclers, facilities operators, LegCo members etc., and to work out a reasonable implementing timetable.
3. HKGSA agrees that landfills are an essential and ultimate part of the waste management chain everywhere in the world. No matter how far we can do to reduce waste, there will still be inert materials, non-recyclables, construction waste and post-treatment residues that need to be disposed of. The decision to extend landfill should not be tied in with the implementation status of other waste reduction measures.
4. While landfill is still essential for a holistic waste management plan, dumping waste to the landfill should be kept to absolute minimal and be considered as the last resort out of all the other waste management measures, such as waste reduction / recycling / recovery, incineration, etc.
5. The ultimate targeted (minimal) size of landfill shall be clearly spelt out to rest the doubts and discontent of local residents – that is closely relevant to whether the blueprint can be effectively implemented on time.
6. HKGSA suggests the government to take more active measures to alleviate the dusty environment and dirty access road leading to all Landfills, such as using fully enclosed truck, arranging sea transportation of waste to SENT landfill, etc.

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