



**Council for Sustainable Development**  
**可持續發展委員會**

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Ir Dr Hon Lo Wai Kwok  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance  
Room 709, 7/F Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ir Dr Hon Lo,

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), I am writing to invite the Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance-

- (a) to be a **supporting organisation** with respect to SDC's upcoming public engagement exercise on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging; and
- (b) to participate in a **thematic focus group meeting (FGM)** to be held in April/May 2013.

The SDC is an advisory body appointed by the Chief Executive to advise the Government, among other things, on priority issues it should address in promoting sustainable development. To this end, the SDC has designed a public engagement process that involves stakeholders from various sectors in considering the way forward for different sustainability issues. Since 2004, the SDC has conducted five rounds of engagement exercises covering seven policy areas, including solid waste management, renewable energy and urban living space; population policy; air quality; sustainable built environment; and combating climate change through energy saving in buildings. After each round of the public engagement, the SDC would draw up a report of recommendations to the Government. For more details of SDC's public engagement exercises, you may access to this link:

<http://www.susdev.org.hk/susdevorg/archive2011/en/home.html>

### SDC's upcoming public engagement on MSW charging

Solid waste management is fundamental to the sustainable development of an international city. In early 2012, the Government conducted a public consultation to deliberate the issues pertaining to MSW charging as a policy tool to encourage waste reduction at source. According to the Government about the consultation outcome, there was majority support within the community for the introduction of quantity-based MSW charging to drive the necessary changes in the public's waste-generating behaviour and thus achieving waste reduction benefits. But views were fairly mixed when it came to the implementation details, including concerns about fly-tipping and other compliance and environmental hygiene issues. In this regard, the Government affirms that a quantity-based MSW charging system should be the approach as the broad direction in pursuing the initiative. Upon its invitation, the SDC agreed and decided to conduct a second-stage public engagement process this year to gauge the community's views and foster in-depth, open and cross sector discussion on proposed implementation details of the charging scheme. The public involvement phase of the engagement is expected to be launched in mid 2013.

### Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance invited to be the Supporting Organisation

The objective of the SDC's upcoming public engagement exercise is to facilitate public and stakeholders' discussion and deliberation to arriving at consensus on identified key issues and feasible solutions to enable the SDC to make recommendations to the Government on how the quantity-based charging scheme may be implemented in Hong Kong. Strategic focus on core sectors and groups will include the domestic sector, commercial & industrial sectors, environmental hygiene, recycling, garbage collection & transport sectors, green groups, welfare & youth non-governmental organisations (NGOs), education sectors, public authorities, professional organisations, and the Government departments etc.

To widen the scope of engagement with different sectors of the community, I would like to invite the Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance to be

a supporting organisation of this public engagement exercise. The supporting organisation is invited to -

- (a) disseminate information/messages about the public engagement exercise to its members, including the distribution of the Invitation for Response document to be issued by the SDC which is a discussion framework to impart information and initiate public dialogue;
- (b) facilitate SDC representatives to give briefings on the public engagement to its members at appropriate forums;
- (c) encourage its members to participate in the public engagement exercise and provide views and comments;
- (d) promote SDC's public engagement exercise in its activities and programmes; and
- (e) submit views and comments of the supporting organisation on the discussion topics to be covered in the public engagement exercise.

Your support for this public engagement exercise would help enhance community ownership of the process, and would also provide a good opportunity for your members to participate meaningfully in activities that contribute to promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong. Supporting organisations' participation in the engagement will be acknowledged in the relevant publicity materials.

#### Focus Group Meeting

The SDC's public engagement is a stakeholder-led engagement process and, as in previous public engagements, an Invitation for Response (IR) document will be published by the SDC to impart information to the community and initiate informed public dialogue. In order to ensure that the IR document will be addressing the relevant issues and posing the relevant questions for the core sectors/groups, stakeholders and the general public, a series of thematic FGMs is being lined up before the formal launch of the public involvement stage of the engagement.

In light of the above, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and representative(s) of your organisation to attend the FGM the particulars of which are enclosed.

The Hong Kong Productivity Council has been commissioned as the Programme Director for this public engagement exercise. They would contact you shortly to follow up on this invitation. Should you have any questions regarding the public engagement and the FGM, please contact Ms Amy Kwan of HKPC at 2788-5716 or Dr Keith Choy of HKPC at 2788-5407 or via email at [amykwan@hkpc.org](mailto:amykwan@hkpc.org).

We look forward to your favourable reply to our invitation for the Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance to be the supporting organisation of the SDC's coming public engagement on MSW charging and to participate in the FGM with the meeting schedule as enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



(Bernard CHAN)  
Chairman  
Council for Sustainable Development

c.c

Professor Nora Tam, Convenor, Support Group on Municipal Solid Waste charging

Ms Margaret Hsia, Secretary, Council for Sustainable Development

## Purpose

The purpose of this appendix is to provide some background information for the participants of the Focus Group Meetings (FGMs) on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging so that they can engage in a meaningful discussion of the topics involved.

## Introduction

- The waste problem

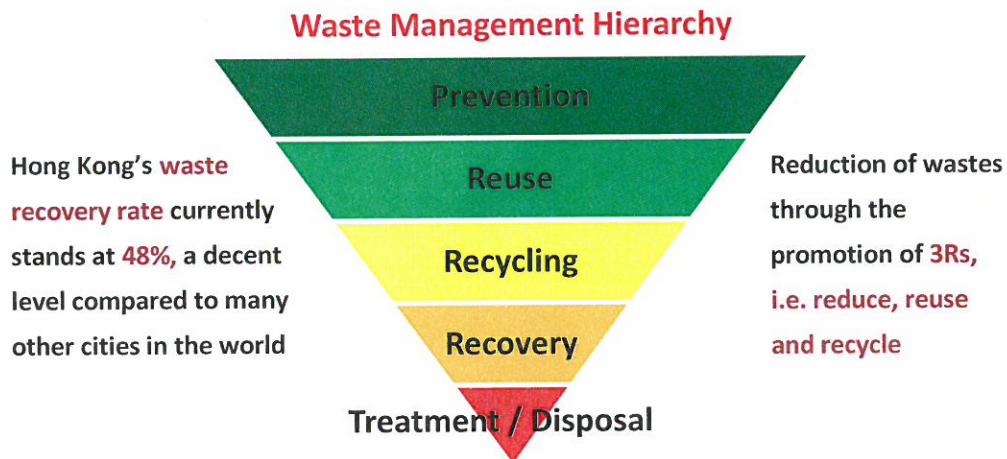
*The **daily quantity of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)** being dumped into Hong Kong's three strategic landfills stands at around **9,000 tonnes**.*

*Our landfills will be **exhausted** soon, and we need to redouble our effort in **MSW reduction**.*

*Our **recovery rate for MSW** is reasonable but our **generation and disposal rates** are **NOT**.*

- The Government's **overall waste management strategy**

## Overall Waste Strategy in Hong Kong

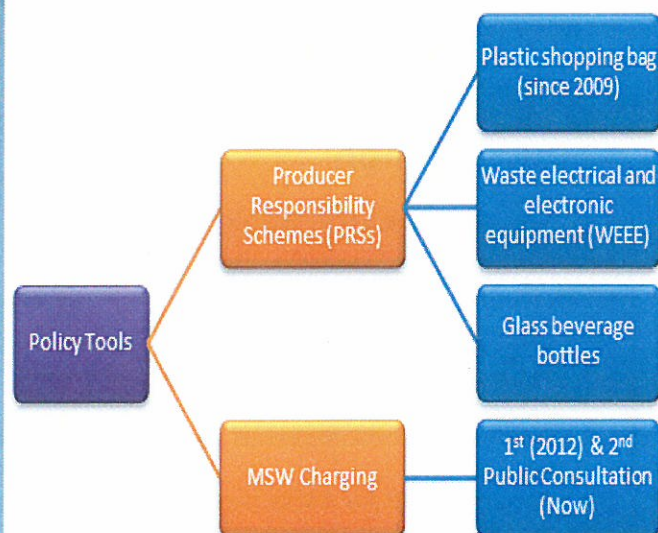


People call for an overall package of waste reduction strategies **BEFORE** considering extending/ expanding landfills & incineration.

Under this principle, **the Government is planning to implement waste reduction measures that will further reduce waste and build a sustainable future.**

## What have been done/being done by the Government?

- ✓ Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS) on **plastic shopping bags** - the legislative proposals for extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags are under preparation.
- ✓ PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) - the legislative proposal is under preparation.
- ✓ PRS on glass beverage bottles - public consultation of mandatory PRS on glass beverage bottles has just been launched.
- ✓ 1st Public Consultation on MSW Charging



*Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has completed a three-month public consultation from 10 January to 10 April 2012 to gauge the community's views on whether Hong Kong should implement MSW charging.*

- ✓ **63%** of the written submissions indicated **support** to the introduction of **MSW charging**
- ✓ **57%** opted for **quantity-based charging**

### ➤ First stage Public Consultation on MSW Charging showed **SUPPORT**

The Government affirms that a quantity-based MSW charging system should be the approach as our broad direction in pursuing the initiative. It also considered the need to conduct **a second-stage public engagement**, through the SDC's engagement process, to gauge the community view and foster in-depth, open and cross sector discussion on **proposed implementation details of the charging scheme**.

## Topics to be discussed

The topics to be discussed in this stage of the public engagement exercise will include, but not limited to, some of these major issues and questions:

### 1. MSW Charging Mechanism

**Quantity-based system** is one in which the waste charge is assessed on the basis of waste quantity, directly linking the charge to the quantity of waste requiring treatment or disposal.

Two common modes of implementation under the quantity-based charging approach are “weight-based” charging and “volume-based” charging.

**Some issues about charging mechanism to be discussed include:**

- ❖ “volume-based” charging (e.g. pre-paid designated garbage bags) or “weight-based” system (e.g. weighing of waste at collection/disposal points)?
- ❖ Charging based on per household or per building?
- ❖ Hybrid system of both?

**Each Mechanism will be further discussed, including:**

- Potential MSW reduction / effectiveness
- Potential impacts to different stakeholders?
- Limitations in their implementation?
- Potential trade-offs?
- Acceptability in Hong Kong’s communities?
- Fly-tipping and environmental hygiene concern?
- Reduced provision of refuse collection points and public litter bins?
- Stepped up enforcement and monitoring mechanism, e.g. CCTV? Fixed penalty?

## 2. Phased Implementation

Should we ***adopt phased implementation***? Or apply across-the-board to domestic and commercial and industrial (C&I) wastes ***in one go***?

***Some issues about phased implementation to be discussed include:***

- ✧ Applying by phases/sectors?
- ✧ How to distinguish between domestic and C&I wastes?  
Feasible in composite buildings and RCPs?
- ✧ How to deal with buildings without property management?

### 3. Charging Principle

What are the *charging principles* in determining the *level of MSW charge*?

*Some issues about charging principle to be discussed include:*

- ✧ What are the principles in determining the level of MSW charge?
- ✧ Need for a basic allowance?
- ✧ Need of relief measures and if so to whom and how?
- ✧ Incentive scheme? Rebate? Reward?

