

Women's Commission

**Council for Sustainable Development's Public Engagement on
Municipal Solid Waste Charging –
“Waste Reduction by Waste Charging • How to Implement?”**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the issues raised for the public engagement on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging as launched by the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), entitled “Waste Reduction by Waste Charging • How to Implement?”.

Background

2. The Government conducted a public consultation in early 2012 to deliberate the issues pertaining to MSW charging with the community and relevant stakeholders. On the whole, there was majority support within the community for the introduction of quantity-based MSW charging as a policy tool to promote waste reduction and recovery. But views were fairly mixed when it came to the implementation details, including concerns about fly-tipping and other compliance and environmental hygiene issues. The specific level of the waste charge (though not being a subject of the public consultation) and the need of relief measures to help the needy are also areas of concern. 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. It also considered the need to conduct a second-stage public engagement, through the SDC's engagement process, to gauge the community's view and foster an in-depth, open and cross sector discussion on the proposed implementation details of the charging scheme.

SDC's public engagement

3. The SDC has launched a public engagement process on 25 September 2013 which takes a bottom-up and stakeholder-led approach to gauge the community's views on how best to implement the

quantity-based MSW charging in Hong Kong, as well as to raise the public awareness about the importance of behavioural changes to achieve waste reduction at source. The SDC issued an Invitation for Response (IR) document entitled “Waste Reduction by Waste Charging • How to Implement?” at **Annex**, which serves as a discussion framework to impart information and initiate public dialogue. Four key considerations categorised under “Charging Mechanism”, “Coverage of Charging Scheme”, “Charging Level” and “Recycling” are identified for soliciting public views, summarised as follows –

Charging Mechanism

- To explore different mechanisms in implementing quantity-based waste charging that are feasible in the unique settings of Hong Kong;

Coverage of Charging Scheme

- To consider the implementation of charging scheme to all sectors in one go or to different sectors by phases;

Charging Level

- To consider a charging level which can be widely accepted by the public and which can also be able to induce behavioural changes in achieving waste reduction; and

Recycling

- To seek views on how to support local waste recycling activities to meet the community demand.

4. The SDC’s public engagement will last for four months up to 24 January 2014. Views and responses collected during the public engagement process will be analysed and taken into account in preparing a report of recommendations by the SDC to the Government.

Advice sought

5. Members are invited to provide comments and views on the issues set out in the IR document at **Annex**.

**Environment Bureau
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