



## Highlights of BEC EnviroSeries 2017

### Circular Economy: Towards a Resource Efficient Hong Kong – Managing Waste, Driving Growth

BEC hosted its flagship event EnviroSeries Conference on 16 May 2017 setting the theme on Circular Economy. This interactive full-day event attracted more than 150 participants, including policy makers, business leaders and academics to examine the opportunities, strategies and innovative solutions in promoting a zero waste economy in Hong Kong. The following is the key takeaways from the conference.

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#### Key Takeaways

To support a circular economy, we need to **encourage the right design of products** to make it easier to recycle materials.

**Buyers/Procurers need to be more innovative** in what they purchase and make use of.

**A holistic waste policy taking on board the waste hierarchy of reuse, recycling, waste to energy, and landfill issues needs to be developed.** Some policies are in place but they need to be reviewed with the ultimate goal of the circular economy in mind. The waste hierarchy is a useful reminder of the steps that should be prioritised.

**MSW charging rate is on the low side** considering the relative costs of collection/transportation and recycling, but it is an important first step in terms of kick-starting recycling.

**Government has an important role to play in terms of creating a level playing field to enable businesses to come up with the best technologies.**

**Tendering systems to allow for more flexibility** are recommended when it comes to developing waste management and other related facilities. For example, it may be better to have 5 small waste to energy facilities than one large facility.

It is equally important for the government, business sector and organisations like BEC to make **a concerted effort to institute one or more pilot projects** aimed at developing a circular economy in

## **About Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司**

Business Environment Council Limited (“BEC”) is an independent, charitable membership organisation, established by the business sector in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1992, BEC has been at the forefront of promoting environmental excellence by advocating the uptake of clean technologies and practices which reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution and improve corporate environmental and social responsibility. BEC offers sustainable solutions and professional services covering advisory, research, assessment, training and award programs for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

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