

# BEC's Views on Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015

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### BEC's Submission

The Legislative Council Bills Committee on the Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015 (the "Bill") has started discussions since October 2015. BEC has made a **submission** to the Bills Committee to provide views on the Bill.

According to the Report "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong – Waste Statistics for 2014" published by the Environmental Protection Department, the amount of waste glass containers constitute about 2.9% of our daily municipal solid waste ("MSW") disposal in 2014, including about 204 tonnes per day of glass bottles and about 81 tonnes per day of other glass. BEC recognises the urgent need to reduce the disposal of glass bottles to landfill sites in Hong Kong. Therefore we support policy and regulatory approaches that encourage waste reduction, separation, and diversion.

### BEC's Views

BEC's views on some of the key proposed amendments are set out below:

#### 1. Scope of Bill

To further apply the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) ("PERO") to a new group of regulated products (generally referred hereinafter as "regulated articles") which are distributed or consumed in Hong Kong. Regulated articles include beverages that are held in glass containers.

*BEC's response: BEC supports. We also look forward to having a broader scope of the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme ("PRS") to cover other glass containers as glass containers are bulky, creating a heavy burden on Hong Kong's waste management system.*

#### 2. Charging of Recycling Levies

To collect the recycling levy from the registered suppliers of regulated articles. Manufacturers and importers who carry on a business of distributing regulated articles in Hong Kong will have to be registered as "registered suppliers". A registered supplier must submit to the Director of Environmental Protection periodic returns, setting out the information that is necessary for the computation of the recycling levy payable.

*BEC's response: BEC supports. For the importers who should pay the recycling levy, we provide an opinion that the amount payable as a recycling levy could also be computed on the basis of product quantities contained in the import declaration of the beverages held in glass containers.*



### 3. Exemption

To establish an exemption mechanism such that a registered supplier may apply by submitting a plan setting out the operational details of how the glass beverage containers will be covered, reused and ultimately recycled. Subject to meeting certain performance standards and other terms and conditions, beverages held in glass containers that are covered by an environmentally sound container reuse/ recycling plan will not be subject to the recycling levy.

*BEC's response: BEC supports. To provide incentive for suppliers to reuse glass bottles, we suggest that these suppliers should have the obligation to disclose the percentage of reuse of their glass bottles periodically in order to receive/ retain the exemption, i.e. the exemption for the beverage suppliers should be linked with adequate performance for both glass bottle reuse and recycling.*

### 4. Proper Treatment of Waste Glass Containers – Licensing Controls

To apply the licensing control under section 16 of Waste Disposal Ordinance to the disposal (including storage, treatment, reprocessing and recycling) of glass containers.

*BEC's response: Licensing control for the processing of waste glass beverage bottles is necessary to support the objective of PRS. This can also facilitate quality control and monitoring by the Government for the collection and recycling processes.*

### 5. Complementary Measures for the Mandatory PRS



*Separation at source with the support of effective collection and recycling system could help enhance the recovery rate of glass containers. The existing network of glass container collection is conducted on a voluntary basis. To help achieve a recovery target of 50,000 tonnes<sup>1</sup> of glass containers to be collected territory-wide per year, BEC suggests considering the strengthening of the Bill Amendment by including mandatory segregation, and to incentivise recycling of glass containers by the end users.*

<sup>1</sup> Legislative Council's Brief – Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Product Container) (Amendment) Bill 2015

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Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司 ("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 programmes for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

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