

29 May 2024

Mr Tse Chin Wan, BBS, JP
Secretary for Environment and Ecology
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government
16/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear Secretary Tse,

**Response Statement to Deferral of Municipal Solid Waste Charging Scheme
from Business Environment Council Limited
商界環保協會有限公司**

Over the last 32 years, Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司 (“BEC”) has played a leading role in advocating the business case for environmental excellence, given the importance of sustainable development to Hong Kong. Our members are committed to actively engage with the HKSAR Government (“the Government”) to help develop a supporting policy framework as well as impactful implementation in respect of environmental protection and sustainability.

Views expressed in this submission are those of BEC, in line with BEC’s Mission and Vision as well as policy position on relevant issues, but may not necessarily be the same as the views of each individual member. BEC is an independent charitable membership organisation comprising over 300 member companies from Hong Kong’s major holding companies to small and medium-sized enterprises.

BEC’s response statement

BEC has long supported the Municipal Solid Waste (“MSW”) Charging Scheme as a crucial component of Hong Kong’s Waste Blueprint 2035 to drive waste reduction, resources circulation, and achieve zero landfill. The Scheme, premised on the “polluter pays” principle, provides the necessary incentives and impetus for waste avoidance, reduction, separation and recycling, which are essential steps towards the transition from a linear to a circular economy.

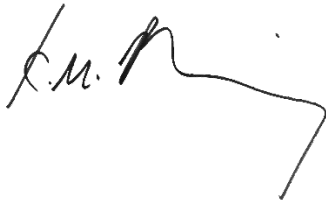
Despite the deferral of the Scheme, BEC reiterates our support for the Government’s waste blueprint. We want to highlight the pressing need to ramp up recycling and food waste collection facilities city-wide, as well as to get businesses, households and individuals ready for supporting and practising waste reduction and recycling in their operations and everyday life.

In this connection, BEC will continue a trial scheme in our headquarters, the Jockey Club Environmental Building (“JCEB”), together with the tenants. With measures that facilitate sorting and recycling, devices that collect and analyse waste data, and a clear objective to reduce waste at source, we will learn from our experience and draw insights to inform and optimise the waste management strategies in JCEB. BEC will share the learnings from this trial with the Government and other stakeholders as appropriate. BEC will also call for our member companies to initiate similar schemes in their premises.

To address Hong Kong's long-standing waste problem, BEC will continue to work closely with the Government in raising corporate and public awareness and readiness on waste reduction, recycling and material circulation through training, education programmes and community engagement.

For queries related to this response, please contact our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Simon Ng at simonng@bec.org.hk

Yours sincerely,



Kevin O'Brien
Chairman
Business Environment Council Limited