



Summary of BEC's Submission on the Supply of Recycled Water

Wider use of recycled water is necessary in many regards: resource conservation, water security, and climate resilience. This is one step forward towards a closed-loop water management approach, in line with the philosophy of circular economy, and is especially important given we are reaching planetary limits in different aspects due to current patterns of consumption and that Hong Kong lacks local water resources.

This Topical Digest summarises BEC's policy submission to the Water Supplies Department's public consultation on the supply of recycled water in Hong Kong.

[Click here to see the full policy submission.](#)

Progressing Towards Wider Use of Recycled Water

- 15% of Hong Kong's population uses fresh water for flushing. It is a priority to transition those from fresh water to recycled water for flushing.
- For areas where salt water is used for flushing, the Government should also explore switching to recycled water where opportunities arise.
- As it is more cost-effective to supply a single type of lower-grade water source, ultimately city-wide provision of recycled water is preferred.
- Recycled water has potential for wider applications, whereas salt water is limited to flushing. Recycled water can contribute more towards conservation of fresh water.
- Towards this, the Government should take an opportunistic approach, taking least-cost, least-interruptive steps to transform the infrastructure system.
- To enable wider use of recycled water, robust and holistic support must be in place: setting fair regulations, establishing technical protocols and guidelines, and raising awareness through education and campaigns.

Managing and Utilising Recycled Water

- In line with water conservation, a sensible tariff should be set for recycled water. It must be at a level which encourages business and the community to make use of recycled water in lieu of fresh water, whilst safeguarding Hong Kong's sanitation.
- A tariff, with smart water meters, would help discourage misuse of recycled water.
- Increased use of recycled water may require more energy for treatment and pumping. As such, Hong Kong needs to continue to progress towards low-carbon energy supply with efficient energy consumption.
- Key to the success of a recycled water programme is building trust through excellent transparency and disclosure of the quality of recycled water.

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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