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## BACKGROUND

To create financial incentives to drive behavioural changes in waste generation as well as to encourage recycling and thus reduce overall waste disposal, the Environment Bureau has made proposals for municipal solid waste (MSW) charging.

Environment Bureau announced its proposed arrangements on MSW charging in March this year. It stated that MSW charging would be implemented in around the second half of 2019 the earliest.

Two charging modes were set out, namely "charging by pre-paid designated garbage bags" and "charging by weight".

## THE MODIFICATION

Over the past few months, the Government conducted engagement sessions to solicit views and comments from different stakeholders and the general public.

The following revised proposed arrangements were announced in October 2017:

- I. The use of pre-paid designated garbage bags as the charging tool to be expanded to cover most residential, commercial and industrial buildings whose MSW is collected by private waste collectors using refuse collection vehicles with rear compactors.



- II. "Charging by weight", also known as the gate-fee, to apply to some commercial and industrial buildings and premises using other waste vehicle services. Charges will be based on the weight of waste disposed of at landfills or refuse transfer stations directly, ranging from \$365 to \$395 per tonne.



- III. The transitional arrangement of bin counting, i.e. charging on a per building basis based on the number of waste bins collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, was removed.



Under the revised arrangements, about 80 per cent of MSW collected daily would be charged for through the purchase of pre-paid designated garbage bags, while the remaining 20 per cent of MSW would be subject to the gate-fee requirement.



Proposed charging scheme:

Per litre charge for designated garbage bags:	HK\$0.11
Smallest size:	3L / HK\$0.3
Largest size:	100L / HK\$11
Oversize waste labels:	HK\$11

#### 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.