

## RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING SYSTEM FOR THE WASTED PACKAGING CONTAINERS IN TAIWAN

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### ABSTRACT

Owing to increasing amount of general waste (GW) to be disposed, the Waste Disposal Act (WDA) was modified by Legislation Yuan, Taiwan in 1988. The Act proclaims that the responsible enterprises (REs), including manufacturers and importers, need to take care of the recycling, clearance, and disposal responsibilities of the wasted packaging containers (WPCs) such as iron cans, aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic containers, paper container, and aluminum foiled paper packs. REs should be charged with a certain amount of recycling, clearance, and disposal fees (RCDFs), which was collected by EPA for the establishment of the Resource Recycling Management Fund (RRMF) in 1997. With the assistance of RRMF, the amount of recycled WPC increased drastically. Meanwhile, to fulfill the equitableness and justice, EPA is trying to extend the scope of REs and amend the RCDFs reasonably reflecting market economy. Based on such efforts, the reduction of WPC in GW is expected. However, there are still some problems to be addressed, including the charged targets of RCDFs, the use of differentiated rate of RCDFs for the containers made of multiple materials. The current work presents responsible recycled mechanism for the WPC and the proposition on the future work.

**Keywords:** wasted packaging containers, responsible enterprises

### INTRODUCTION

GW in solid or liquid form is one of the waste products, inevitably generated from our daily life and various activities. It includes garbage, excrement and urine, and animal carcasses from households or some other non-industrial sources which may pollute environmental sanitation significantly. It increases with the growth of individual income and population. In Taiwan, a small island with the size of 36,100 Km<sup>2</sup> and a population of around 23 million, 55.3 metric tons of municipal solid waste were generated in 2005 and this caused a severe disposal problem. To reduce the demand of landfill space and incinerators for the treatment of GW and to follow the world-wide trend of municipal solid waste (MSW) management in the 21st century, EPA Taiwan has set resource recovery and recycling as the priority policy of MSW management. To achieve this goal of GW resource recovery and recycling, the legislation procedure for the designation and management of REs and WPC, the foundation and management of RRMF have been finished. This provides a strong incentive for individual