

***Urging the Ombudsman to support the recycling industry
Regulation of use of public space required***

The Ombudsman is investigating the illegal occupation and obstruction of streets by goods and miscellaneous Articles; and will be making recommendations for enforcement policies.

We call on the Ombudsman:

- To support the flexible use of public space for recycling facilities to recover material; and
- Government and property managers to make space for recovery facilities in commercial, housing and residential

With government's ambitious goal of "Zero Landfill" by 2035, this is a critical time to support the recycling industry and to enable operators to maximize collection. While there is an increase in demand for recycling, lack of space persists for all forms of recycling.

The demand for space is dynamic throughout the day as recyclables come and go. Recycling trucks and recycling pop-ups make flexible use of public space in response to the time of day and shifting market conditions. The overflow of materials out of the confinements of recycling shops onto public areas is common.

Government should strike a balance between tackling the unauthorised use of public space and the promotion of recycling. The operations of recyclers including the areas of space used and the operating hours can be regulated to minimize public nuisance. We are making the following recommendations to the Ombudsman:

- 1) Shopfront extensions onto public space by recycling shops can be treated as Tolerated Areas whereby enforcement priority is lowered.
- 2) A system similar to hawker licenses can be offered for sites for mobile recyclers using trucks or pop-ups. Enforcement can be managed with a permit system whereby operators are limited to designated areas for limited period of times to minimize conflict with other stakeholders.
- 3) Re-allocating Short-Term Tenancy sites to the recycling industry for the trading, collection, and sorting of recyclables.

To read our full submission to the Ombudsman: <https://drinkwithoutwaste.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/DWW-Submission-to-Ombudsman-on-Illegal-Occupation-and-Obstruction-of-Streets-Sep-21-v1.1-cover.pdf>

Make your submission to the Ombudsman by visiting: https://ofomb.ombudsman.hk/abc/zh-hk/press_releases/detail/290