

# Appendix 2

## Glossary of Terms

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#### **Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)**

Hong Kong Government's principal advisory body on matters related to pollution control and sustainability of the environment. It is consulted on a wide range of issues relating to new legislative proposals and the implementation of existing pollution control and conservation measures. ACE's chairman and its 20 members were appointed by the Chief Executive from different sectors of the community.

#### **Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)**

Objectives set for seven main air pollutants (sulphur dioxide, total suspended particulates, respirable suspended particulates, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, photochemical oxidants and lead) listed in the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.

#### **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)**

A measure of the pollution potential of effluents as measured by the amount of oxygen consumed when micro-organisms oxidise a given amount of the substances in the effluent. A lower BOD measurement signifies a lower pollution potential.

#### **Continual improvement**

Process of enhancing the environmental management system of an organization to achieve improvements in its overall environmental performance so as to be in line with the organization's environmental policy.

#### **Controlling Officers**

Government officers, mostly heads of departments and bureaux, designated to be responsible and accountable for all public money and Government property under their department or service. They are the equivalents of Chief Executive Officers in private business organizations.

#### **Environmental aspect**

Element of an organization's activities, programmes and policy that can interact with the environment.

#### **Environmental audit**

A systematic and documented verification process of objectively obtaining and evaluating evidence to determine whether an organization's environmental management system conforms to the audit criteria set by the organization, and for communication of the results of this process to management.

#### **Environmental groups**

Organizations and groups established with the principal aim to defend the interest of the environment. Examples of environmental groups in Hong Kong are the Conservancy Association, Friends of the Earth, Green Power, Green Lantau Association, the Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society and World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong.

#### **Environmental impact**

Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, programme and policy.

#### **Environmental management system**

The part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy.

#### **Environmental objective**

Overall environmental goal, arising from the environmental policy, that an organization sets itself to achieve, and which is quantified wherever practicable.

**Environmental performance**

Measurable results of an environmental management system, relate to an organization's control on its environmental aspects, based on its environmental policy.

**Environmental policy**

Statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance which provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and targets.

**Environmental target**

Detailed performance requirement, quantified wherever practicable, applicable to the organization or parts thereof, that arises from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives.

**Interested party**

Individual or group concerned with or affected by the environmental performance of an organization.

**Pollution prevention**

Use of processes, practices, materials or products that avoid, reduce or control pollution, which may include recycling, treatment, process changes, control mechanisms, efficient use of resources and material substitution.

**Sustainable development**

The World Commission on Environment and Development describes sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**

Substances such as gasoline and many hydrocarbons which evaporate at room temperature. VOCs react in the presence of sunlight to form smog.