

**Advisory Council on the Environment  
Waste Management Subcommittee**

**Notes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Held on 4 February 2009**

**Present**

Prof. Wong Ming-hung (Chairman)  
Prof. Lam Kin-che  
Mr. Edwin Lau  
Dr. Man Chi-sum  
Mr. Tsang Kam-lam  
Dr. Yau Wing-kwong  
Mr. Te Chi-wang (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr. Simon Wong

**In Attendance**

Mr. Albert Lam	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)
Mr. Alfred Lee	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Management Policy)
Mr. Vincent Tang	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Nature Conservation and Infrastructure Planning) [Agenda Item 3 only]
Dr. Derek Wong	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy Division)

**Action**

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. The draft minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8 December 2008 were confirmed without amendment.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

***Re-submission of the Funding Application***

2. The Secretary noted that a revised funding application was submitted by the Friends of the Earth (FoE) under the Public Education Programme of the “Policy Framework”. A Member declared interest as the Director of FoE and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion of the application. After deliberation, the Subcommittee supported the revised funding application. The Secretariat would recommend this application to the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee for consideration.

Secretary

*[Post-meeting Note: The revised funding application of FoE was approved by the ECF Committee in March 2009.]*

**Agenda Item 3: Progress of Key Initiatives in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Paper WMSC 01/09)**

3. Mr. Alfred Lee briefed Members on the progress of key initiatives in the “Policy Framework”. Regarding the Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation, he explained to Members that the withdrawal of the motion from Legislative Council (LegCo) was a standard procedure for the positive vetting of subsidiary legislation. The LegCo would establish a subcommittee to consider the Regulation in details, and interested parties would be invited to provide views and comments on the Regulation. Upon the completion of this process, the LegCo would then vote on the motion to approve the Regulation. The Subcommittee appreciated that the Administration had worked out the implementation details of the environmental levy scheme in close consultation with the retail trade and considered that the implementation of the scheme would be a major step forward in achieving sustainable waste management. The Subcommittee expressed support to the scheme and would urge the LegCo to expedite the scrutiny of the Regulation. Mr. Albert Lam thanked the Subcommittee for the support and reiterated that the EPD was committed to implement the levy scheme by mid 2009.

4. Mr. Vincent Tang briefed Members on the progress of green procurement initiatives and the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF). Regarding green procurement, Mr. Vincent Tang noted that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had already promulgated mandatory “green” specifications for a range of commonly used products, such as paper products and other stationery. On this foundation, EPD had further commissioned a consultancy study to update and develop “green” specifications for more items commonly used within the Government. The study was expected to be completed by mid 2009. A Member suggested that the “green” specifications could be publicized as reference for the private sector. Mr. Vincent Tang said that relevant information would be uploaded to EPD’s website after the completion of the consultancy study.
5. On IWMF, Mr. Vincent Tang informed Members that Shek Kwu Chau and Tsang Tsui Ash Lagoons were identified as potential sites for developing the first phase of the IWTF. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and feasibility studies were in progress, and would be completed by mid 2010. EPD had been closely liaising with the relevant District Councils, local communities and other stakeholders to deliberate matters of concern. Subject to the study findings, EPD would select the final site and commence construction with a view to commissioning the IWMF in mid-2010’s.
6. A Member enquired the progress of the sludge treatment facility and asked whether the cumulative effect of sludge treatment facility and IWMF would be taken into account in the EIA and feasibility studies. Mr. Albert Lam responded that the progress of the sludge treatment facility was on schedule, and such cumulative effect would be taken into consideration in the studies as appropriate.
7. A Member noted that there would always be resistance from local residents on site-selection for waste facilities. He suggested that the EPD should enhance public education and publicity programmes to ease the concerns of the public. In addition, views and opinions from

professionals should also be adopted during the site selection process. Mr. Vincent Tang very much agreed and noted that there would be a 2-year programme organized by Lingnan University to educate Tuen Mun residents on waste management issues. It was expected that the public could have a more positive attitude towards the establishment of waste facilities.

8. A Member noted the positive public response on the fluorescent lamp recycling programme, and suggested that the collection points for fluorescent lamps could be extended to more locations. Mr. Alfred Lee pointed out that besides the current 57 public collection points, over 590 housing estates had joined the fluorescent lamp recycling programme. To further improve the recovery rate, EPD would enhance promotion of the programme in housing estates.
9. A Member noted that a study organised by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) would be conducted on the implementation of waste separation on floor basis in schools. He opined that the ECC should facilitate the participation of schools by offering more flexibilities to the participating school for placement of the waste separation bins. The Secretary would reflect the suggestion to the ECC.

Secretary

*[Post-meeting Note: The suggestion was reflected to the ECC Secretariat.]*

10. The Chairman asked about whether there was any mobile collection service for recyclables generated from housing estates. Mr. Alfred Lee noted that in addition to the source separation of waste programme which covered close to 1,000 housing estates, mobile collection services for waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) were also provided. Exhibition panels were also displayed at the WEEE mobile collection vehicles to promote scheme.
11. On the source separation of waste programme, a Member asked about the coverage target of the EPD. Mr. Alfred Lee responded that about 50% of the population had been covered currently and EPD targeted to cover 80% of the

population by 2010.

12. A Member asked, besides the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags, which producer responsibility scheme (PRS) would be considered in the near future. Mr. Alfred Lee said that EPD would study the possibility of introducing a mandatory PRS on WEEE as stated in the 2008-09 Policy Address. A public consultation exercise would be conducted in due course.
13. The Chairman shared his knowledge on the environmental impact of the improper treatment of WEEE. A Member raised his concern about the situation of massive old television replacement after digital broadcasting. Another Member opined that WEEE should be banned from entering Hong Kong as there were no adequate facilities in handling the concerned waste. A Member suggested that the EPD should impose stricter control on import of WEEE.
14. Mr. Alfred Lee responded that no massive television replacement trend was noted so far, and a mechanism in the control of imported WEEE was in place. Given Members' concerns, EPD would further brief the Subcommittee on the management of WEEE at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 4: Public Education Programme of the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (Paper WMSC 02/09)**

15. Mr. Alfred Lee briefed Members on the proposed theme for the 4<sup>th</sup> round of funding applications. Funding applications, particularly at the district-level, would be invited to complement the implementation of the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment would shortly attend the monthly meeting of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of District Councils to solicit support from the District Councils. In the light of the tight timeframe, funding applications received in this round would be circulated for Members' consideration. The Subcommittee supported the proposed theme and

arrangement.

*[Post-meeting Note: An invitation for funding applications was issued on 5 February. A total of eight proposals were received so far, and five of them were endorsed by the ECF Committee.]*

## **Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business**

### ***Three-Coloured Waste Separation Bins***

16. A Member noted that the number of waste separation bins was not adequate at the venues of Lunar New Year Fairs. The Secretary said that the view would be reflected to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). This Member further noted that the warning stickers on the waste separation bins might deter users from putting recyclables into the bins. Mr. Alfred Lee responded that the warning stickers were necessary to ensure the proper use of waste separation bins. Secretary

*[Post-meeting Note: Member's view was reflected to FEHD.]*

### ***Plastic Waste Recovery***

17. A Member noted that some recyclers had stopped accepting plastic recyclables owing to the plunge of demand. He asked whether the recovered plastic recyclables could be stockpiled at EcoPark until resuscitation of the market. Mr. Albert Lam responded that short-term tenancy sites had been identified for operation by the recycling trade exclusively, and EPD would work with Lands Department to identify more lands where necessary.

## **Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting**

18. The next meeting had been scheduled for 5 June 2009.

ACE Waste Management Subcommittee  
Secretariat  
May 2009