

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

Notes of the 32nd Meeting held on 12 November 2014

Present

Prof Jonathan WONG	(Chairman)
Dr HUNG Wing-tat	
Prof Ray YEP	
Dr Carrie WILLIS	
Mr Luther WONG	
Ms Pansy YAU	
Ms Libera CHENG	(Secretary)

Absent with Apologies

Mr Oscar CHOW
Mr Anthony LOCK
Miss Yolanda NG
Prof Ignatius YU

In Attendance

Mr Samson LAI	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Management)
Dr Ellen CHAN	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Environmental Infrastructure)
Mr George NG	Senior Statistician
Mr WONG Wai-yuen	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction & Recycling)
Mr Rupert YUEN	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Group)

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Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the 31st meeting held on 18 March 2014 was circulated to the Members of Waste Management Subcommittee and was confirmed.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. In response to a Member's request at the last meeting, EPD had sent the Powerpoint presentations materials on "Waste Statistics (Recovery Rate)" and "Recycling of Plastic Waste in Hong Kong" to members for information.

**Agenda Item 3: Enhancing the Collection of Waste Data
for Municipal Solid Waste Recovery Rate
(Paper WMSC 03/2014)**

3. Upon the Chairman's invitation, Mr George NG gave a Powerpoint presentation on "Enhancing the Collection of Waste Data for Municipal Solid Waste Recovery Rate".
4. A Member complimented EPD's effort in introducing measures to enhance the collection of data for estimating MSW recovery rate, and opined that the trade might have financial incentives in lodging customs declarations incorrectly. In response, Mr George NG advised that there was already strict delineation on the country of origin and heavy penalty for incorrect declaration. Dr Ellen CHAN further supplemented that in any case imported/re-exported plastic waste would not be counted as locally recycled plastic waste when calculation of recovery rate.
5. A Member inquired on the implementation of the enhancement measures. Mr George NG stated that the statistical audit procedures on exports of plastic waste were fully put in place in 2013, and the enhanced quality control procedures to confirm the country of origin of plastic waste were implemented in 2014. They would continue to conduct thematic workshop for the trade.
6. Members inquired whether the export of recycled plastic materials has been affected by tightened import control by Mainland China. A Member asked if the

Government had any plan to expand the existing plastic recycling facility run by NGO in the EcoPark. Mr George NG advised that amount of recycled plastics exported fluctuated over time but a decline was noted. Dr Ellen CHAN advised that the facility at the EcoPark had served the purpose of the programme, while the Government had no plan for another similar facility in the EcoPark. Nevertheless the Government would continue to support the recycling industry through various means, and promote recycling including clean recycling for better resource recovery.

7. After some deliberation, the Chairman concluded that:
 - (a) waste plastics recovered accounted for only a minor portion of the MSW disposal. However, the fluctuations in recovery of waste plastics in recent years were likely caused by declarants from declaring re-export waste plastics as domestic export by error; and
 - (b) with more understanding on the reasons behind the fluctuations of the waste recovery rate in recent years, EPD could work out scenarios on the base-line trend of the waste recovery rate by excluding the waste plastic..

(Mr George NG left the meeting at this juncture.)

**Agenda Item 4: Latest Development of EcoPark
(Paper WMSC 04/2014)**

8. Upon invitation by the Chairman, Dr Ellen CHAN gave a brief account of the latest developments in EcoPark.
9. A Member asked about the scope of operation of the tenants. Dr Ellen CHAN advised that all tenants in EcoPark would only be allowed to recycle locally generated wastes, and the Government has been facilitating their operation by, among others, promoting their services to relevant waste producers.

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10. A Member inquired about the handling capacity of the tenants. In response, Dr Ellen CHAN replied that the estimated throughput of the EcoPark would be more than 200 000 tonnes per year when all existing tenants were in full operation.
11. After some deliberations, the Chairman concluded that:
 - (a) the business environmental of recycling industry in Hong Kong was tough with high land and operating costs; and
 - (b) the healthy development of local recycling industries would require a more vibrant market and outlets, continuous government support and also public education to promote recycling behaviours.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

12. There was no other business.

[Post-meeting Notes: In response to the request from a Member, the Powerpoint presentations on item 3 & 4 were sent to members for information.]

Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

13. The Secretariat would contact individual members to arrange the next meeting.

ACE Waste Management Subcommittee
Secretariat
April 2015