

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

**Notes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 18 March 2014**

**Present**

Prof Jonathan WONG (Chairman)  
Dr HUNG Wing-tat  
Mr Anthony LOCK  
Miss Yolanda NG  
Dr Carrie WILLIS  
Prof Ignatius YU  
Mr Luther WONG  
Ms Pansy YAU  
Ms Libera CHENG (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr Oscar CHOW  
Prof Ray YEP

**In Attendance**

Mr Andrew LAI	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)
Mr Elvis AU	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning)
Dr Ellen CHAN	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Environmental Infrastructure)
Mr CHEN Che-kong	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction & Ecopark)
Dr Calvin LAU	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction Group)
Mr Rupert YUEN	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy Division)1

**Action**

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

1. The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7 December 2011 were circulated to the Members of the former Waste Management Subcommittee and was confirmed.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

2. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**Agenda Item 3: Food Waste Blueprint  
(Paper WMSC 01/2014)**

3. Upon the Chairman's invitation, Mr Elvis AU gave an introduction to Members on "A Food Waste and Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014 – 2022".
4. A Member complimented the government's effort in the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign. Two Members echoed. In response to a Member's enquiry, Mr Elvis AU advised that large food chains were increasingly picking up with the Food Wise campaign and he expected more would come on board. A Member added that publicity and public education should start at schools as well.
5. A Member asked about the potential waste reduction impact arising from waste charging. Two Members were interested about operation of the OWTF, in particular the logistics arrangements for delivery of food waste to the facility. Mr Elvis AU advised that according to overseas experience, waste charging would trigger behavioural change which would lead to significant waste reduction. As for the OWTFs, the initial phases were intended to accept food waste delivered from C&I establishments but future phases might be extended to treat domestic food waste after gaining practical experience.
6. The Chairman pointed out that it would magnify the impact if OWTF could be developed in good time with waste charging as well as enhancement in recyclable collection and recycling facilities. He also asked whether suitable legislation might promote food donation. Mr Elvis AU concurred with the Chairman's

observation and advised that food safety guidelines had been in place facilitating food donors and receivers to enter into bilateral agreements on suitable donation arrangements.

7. After some deliberation, the Chairman concluded that:
  - (a) members were appreciative of the Government's effort in tackling the food waste problem and looked forward to more concrete timetable and other implementation details;
  - (b) there should be concerted efforts among Bureaux and Departments in tackling the food waste problem facing Hong Kong; and
  - (c) the Government should aim for treating domestic food waste in future phases of OWTFs and in preparation of that step up publicity and public education on source separation of food waste.

[Mr Elvis AU left at this juncture]

**Agenda Item 4: Waste Statistics (Recovery Rate) (Paper WMSC 02/2014)**

8. Dr Ellen CHAN presented and Members noted the waste statistics on recovery rate.
9. Considering that there were public misconceptions, a Member opined that EPD should explain the waste statistics to the public in greater details. A Member suggested that the methodology in compiling the waste statistics be improved.
10. The Chairman also remarked that reliable waste statistics was important for assessing the effectiveness of the waste reduction initiatives. He however accepted that compilation of waste statistics involved highly technical procedures and the process was full of operational challenges.

**Agenda Item 5: Recycling of Plastic Waste in Hong Kong**

11. Upon the Chairman's invitation, Dr Ellen CHAN presented to the meeting on plastic waste recycling in Hong Kong.
12. In view of the challenges faced in promoting effective plastic waste recycling, a Member suggested that clearer instructions be provided on the recycling bins so as to better inform the users of the proper source separation procedures for plastic waste.
13. A Member remarked that one regulatory approach overseas was to mandate certain green features in product design so as to facilitate post-consumption recycling. In Hong Kong, she said that it could be more pragmatic to explore improved design of recycling bins that might help minimize contamination. In response, Dr Ellen CHAN said that EPD would continue to monitor relevant developments overseas and devise appropriate measures to promote plastic waste recycling. Mr CHEN Che-kong supplemented that effective publicity and public education were also very important in inducing proper recycling behaviour.
14. After some deliberation, the Chairman concluded that:
  - (a) the Government should continue to step up publicity and public education so as to promote proper recycling behaviours; and
  - (b) the Government should assess the merits for a publicly-funded recycling plant which could properly recycle mixed plastic waste.

**Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business**

15. There was no other business.

## Action

*[Post-meeting Notes: In response to the request from a Member, the Powerpoint presentations on item 4 & 5 were sent to members for information.]*

### **Agenda Item 7: Date of Next Meeting**

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

**ACE Waste Management Subcommittee  
Secretariat  
August 2014**