

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

Notes of the 34th Meeting held on 11 September 2015

Present

Prof Jonathan WONG (Chairman)

Prof FUNG Tung

Ir Conrad WONG

Ir MA Lee-tak

Dr Carrie WILLIS

Mr Luther WONG

Mr Anthony LOCK

Miss Libera CHENG (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies

Dr HUNG Wing-tat

Ir Prof Irene LO

Miss Yolanda NG

Mr Stanley WONG

Ms Pansy YAU

ACE Members in Attendance

Ir Cary CHAN Member of Advisory Council on the Environment

In Attendance

Mr Howard CHAN Deputy Director of Environmental Protection

Mr Samson LAI Assistant Director of Environmental Protection
(Waste Management Policy)

Mr Elvis AU Assistant Director of Environmental Protection
(Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning)

Mr YU Wang-pong Principal Environmental Protection Officer
(Strategic Facilities Development and Planning)

Mr CHEN Che-kong	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Transfer and Development)
Mr Lawrence CHEUNG	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Community Relations)
Mr Michael LUI	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Transfer and Development)
Ms Queenie LEE	Senior Administrative Officer (Special Duties Division)
Mr SIN Wai-kuen	Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy Division)

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Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the 33rd meeting held on 13 May 2015 was confirmed as circulated without amendment.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

2. There was no matter arising.

Agenda Item 3: Waste Diversion Plan: Latest Development (Paper WMSC 03/2015)

3. Upon the Chairman's invitation, Mr CHEN Che-kong gave a Powerpoint presentation on "Waste Diversion Plan: Latest Development".
4. A Member inquired on the potential traffic impact to other areas, while a Member opined that the number and capacity of Refuse Transfer Stations (RTSs) should be increased. A Member suggested that study should be conducted to optimize the routing of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and utilize the capacity of RTSs. Other Members echoed and suggested that modern information technology could be used for routing utilization. A Member inquired if the operation time of RTS would be adjusted to meet the operational need of

RCVs.

5. In response, Mr CHEN Che-kong welcomed members' suggestions in using information technology to facilitate the operation of the RTS. He explained that the Waste Diversion Plan ("WDP") aimed to maximize the use of the RTSs within their design handling capacities, the number of RCVs using them would not increase much and hence there would be minimum adverse traffic impact. He added that the trade found the current RTS operation time acceptable, and EPD had plans to develop new RTSs to meet future need. Mr Howard CHAN supplemented that as waste deposited at some RTSs would be transported by sea to landfills for final disposal, the overall road traffic impact arising from the WDP should be positive with reduced nuisance caused by road traffic.
6. A Member inquired on the current enforcement and reporting mechanism on malpractices spotted on RCVs. Mr CHEN Che-kong advised that EPD had carried out regular checks on RCVs entering into landfills and RTSs to see if they complied with statutory requirements on equipment standards. To enhance compliance they would also conduct briefings with trade and property management companies on best practices to be adopted. Mr Howard CHAN supplemented that EPD, FEHD and HKPF had carried out regular joint operations in tackling trucks with insecure loading or dripping of waste water, and a hotline had been set up to receive public enquiries and reports.
7. After some deliberation, the Chairman concluded the item and complimented EPD's efforts in implementing the WDP. He also agreed that researches could be done on the use of RTSs, and to include RTS as an important facility when conducting future town planning.

(Mr CHEN Che-kong and Mr Michael LUI left the meeting at this juncture.)

**Agenda Item 4: Study on Strategic Infrastructure Planning
(Paper WMSC 04/2015)**

8. Upon invitation by the Chairman, Mr Elvis AU gave a presentation on “Strategic Infrastructure Planning”.
9. Members agreed that the study would help identify the long term needs of waste treatment and transfer facilities for Hong Kong. A Member commented that it would be important to consider the applications and interactions of the various facilities. A Member echoed and opined that the Study should be more focused and provide guiding principle in how to synergize various waste management tools and technologies. A Member added that the smart city concept might be unclear, and suggested that study should be done on the technology chosen and its scale.
10. Mr Elvis AU said that the Study would consider such elements as the co-use or multifunctional use of land resources, the associated procurement strategies and the role of the government.
11. The Chairman opined that the Study should look into the root problem of local waste management instead of focusing primarily on hardware development. He commented that it should also study on the decentralization of waste treatment facilities and focus more on resources recovery and waste reduction so as to achieve the waste reduction targets. He also advised that public responses should be taken with care. A Member echoed and commented that the waste reduction target by 2041 should be clearly defined, while a Member opined that attention should also be paid to smaller scale recyclers.
12. A Member suggested that more researches could be derived from the Study, and the Hong Kong model, if successful, could be showcased at other jurisdictions.
13. In response, Mr Elvis AU stated that the Study would also look at the number, scale and type of the

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infrastructure and the possible spatial distribution, and would look at both current and future needs. Sensitivity tests would be conducted for different scenarios under different assumptions and response plans.

14. Mr Howard CHAN welcomed Members' suggestions and said that the Secretary for the Environment would chair a high level inter-departmental steering committee for the formulation of clear policies and strategies in the study. He agreed that public engagements would be important and the current Study would complement other studies and policies rather than replacing them.
15. After some deliberations, the Chairman concluded and wished that the Study would be smooth and successful, with the findings able to help in formulating waste management policy and strategy to tackle local waste problems in the future.

(Mr Elvis AU and Mr YU Wang-pong left the meeting at this juncture.)

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

16. As agreed by the Chairman, the Secretary invited Mr Lawrence CHEUNG to give a presentation on "Municipal Solid Waste Charging – Bin-counting Pilot Trial".
17. The Secretary sought Member's views on the proposed arrangements on the field visit of bin-counting demonstration. The meeting agreed with the arrangement and the Secretary would invite Members to sign up by email.
18. There was no other business.

[Post-meeting Notes: The field visit on bin-counting pilot trial and Eastern Community Green Station was conducted on 25

September 2015.]

Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

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

**ACE Waste Management Subcommittee
Secretariat
December 2015**