

For information
on 25 May 2016

AQO Review Working Group

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Working Group and the Work Plan for the AQO Review

Purpose

This paper briefs Members' on the terms of reference and membership of the Working Group, and the work plan for the AQO review.

AQO Review Working Group

2. The AQO review is to identify further practicable air quality improvement measures and then examine the resultant scope for tightening the AQO. To facilitate the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) to prepare a review report to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), Under Secretary for the Environment (USEN) would chair a Working Group on the review of AQO to engage the relevant stakeholders for drawing up a list of practicable air quality improvement measures and assessing how they could help tighten the AQO. Members of the Working Group include air scientists, health experts and professionals, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, the relevant trades, green groups as well as government representatives.

3. To undertake the review, the Working Group will be divided into four sub-groups for specific tasks. As vehicles, marine vessels and power plants are the three major air pollution emission sources in Hong Kong, each of them will be taken up by a dedicated sub-group (i.e. a total of three sub-groups will be formed) to explore further practicable air quality improvement measures. In the deliberation, Members will take account of the availability of proven technologies, the implications for the stakeholders, the acceptance by the community, the preparation time for their adoption, as well as the associated economic and social implications.

4. The remaining sub-group works on air science and health issues. It will review the latest development on air quality standards and health effects of

air pollution; advise on the methodologies and assessment of air quality improvements and health benefits due to the new measures.

5. Should there be measures that Working Group Members consider worth pursuing but outside the three major emission sources, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will look into these measures in consultation with relevant stakeholders and report the findings to the Working Group.

6. The Terms of Reference and the membership of the Working Group and sub-groups are set out in the **Annex A**.

Deliverables of the Working Group

7. The sub-groups on Energy and Power Generation, Road Transportation and Marine Transportation are expected to come up with a list of new air quality improvement measures, which are prioritized into three categories such as “High”, “Medium” and “Low” having regard to the practicability and readiness for implementation. Measures that would not be ready for implementation within the next AQO review period will be accorded a low priority.

8. With the prioritized list of new air quality improvement measures drawn up by the above three sub-groups, a consultant engaged by the EPD will estimate the scope for tightening AQO afforded by the three categories of measures. Specifically, the consultant will undertake estimation of emission reduction, air quality assessment and projection, cost benefit analysis and health impact assessments under the above three control scenarios having regard to the practicability and readiness for implementation. The Air Science and Health sub-group will advise on the adequacy of the methodology proposed by the consultant.

9. Reports will be prepared for each of the sub-groups, summarizing the key points of their deliberations. Specifically, the reports for the sub-groups on Energy & Power Generation, Road Transportation and Marine Transportation will primarily be lists of prioritized new air quality

improvement measures. There will also be a record of the views of members in respect of practicability, the implications for the stakeholders and the acceptance by the community, as well as cost and social implications.

10. The report of the sub-group on Air Science & Health will document the assessment methodologies (including assumptions) and findings that have been endorsed by the sub-group.

11. These four reports, in combination, will be the report of the Working Group for the SEN's consideration.

12. To promote frank exchange of views and candid discussions in the Working Group/sub-groups, all meetings will not be open to the public. Nevertheless, to keep the public informed of the review progress, a dedicated webpage for the AQO review will be set up to enable the public to access to the information of the Working Group and sub-groups, which include membership, Terms of Reference, agenda and discussion papers and meeting minutes with members' identity kept anonymous.

13. The AQO review is expected to draw media attention. Members should refer media enquiries about the review and the discussions in the Working Group and its sub-groups to EPD for handling.

Work Plan

14. The AQO review involves intensive deliberations on new air quality improvement measures among stakeholders and complicated assessments on air quality and health benefits. The sub-groups on Energy and Power Generation, Road Transportation and Marine Transportation should aim to complete its list of prioritized new practicable air quality improvement measures in the first quarter of 2017. A consultant commissioned by EPD will then carry out the assessments on air quality and health benefits under different control scenarios in light of the deliberation of the Air Science & Health sub-group. The sub-group should aim to complete the deliberation on the assessment results in the third quarter of 2017.

15. After consideration, the SEN will submit a review report to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) in mid-2018. Thereafter, the Government will launch a 3-month public consultation on the review recommendations.

16. If the AQO are to be tightened arising from this review, we will commence the legislative amendment process including the preparation of a Bill to amend the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) and consult the ACE and the Legislative Council accordingly.

17. Key milestones of the review are in the table below–

Key Milestones	Timeline
Set up the AQO Review Working Group. Engage relevant stakeholders on new practicable air quality improvement measures and assess on the scope for tightening AQO.	Q2 2016 to Q3 2017
Draw up a list of prioritized new practicable air quality improvement measures based on deliberations in the Energy & Power Generation, Road Transportation and Marine Transportation sub-groups.	Q1 2017
Complete the air science and health assessments under different control scenario and seek advice from the Air Science & Health sub-group.	Q3 2017
Consolidate findings and assessment results of the Working Group for the SEN's deliberation.	Late 2017
SEN to submit a review report to the ACE.	Mid 2018
Launch a 3-month public consultation on the review recommendations.	Q3 2018
Report to the ACE and the LegCo EA Panel on the consultation findings.	Q2 2019
Introduce the APCO Amendment Bill to the LegCo if the AQO are to be tightened	Mid 2019

Meeting Schedule

18. To work to the above tight schedule, sub-groups meetings will be held tentatively at least once in every two months starting from this June. More frequent meetings would be held in consideration of the workload of individual subgroups. The Working Group will meet at various milestone points so as to keep members informed of the overall progress of the AQO review. A tentative meeting schedule for the Working Group/sub-groups is in **Annex B**. The Secretariat will remind Members of the date of meeting nearer the time.

Advice Sought

19. Members are invited to take note of the contents in this paper.

Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department
May 2016

**Terms of Reference and Membership of the
Air Quality Objectives (AQO) Review Working Group**

Terms of Reference

1. To engage relevant stakeholders including air scientists, health experts, academics, professionals, green groups, community leaders and the business sector to enable thorough deliberations on key aspects of the AQO review including air science and health as well as potential air quality improvement measures on power and energy sector, road and marine transportation, etc.; and
2. To report findings of the Working Group to Secretary for the Environment for his consideration in the review of AQO.

Membership

Chairperson

Under Secretary for the Environment

Vice Chairperson

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Members

All members of the sub-groups

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Air Science & Health Sub-group

Terms of Reference

1. To review the latest development on air quality standards and the health effects of air pollution;
2. To advise on the methodologies on air science and health assessments, including emission estimation, air quality assessment and projection, cost benefit analysis of air quality improvement measures and health impact assessment; and
3. To advise on the assessment of air quality improvements and health benefits under different control scenarios.

Membership

Chairperson

Under Secretary for the Environment

Vice Chairperson

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Representatives from Government B/Ds

Development Bureau

Planning Department

Department of Health

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Environmental Protection Department

Members from External Stakeholders

Health experts

Air scientists

Medical practitioners

Professional institutions

Chamber of commerce

Green groups

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Energy & Power Generation Sub-group

Terms of Reference

1. To identify new practicable air quality improvement measures for energy and power generation;
2. To evaluate the feasibility of implementing the measures having regard to the availability of proven technology, time for implementation, economic and social implications and other relevant factors; and
3. To prioritize the new air quality improvement measures based on the practicability of implementation.

Membership

Chairperson

Under Secretary for the Environment

Vice Chairperson

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Representatives from Government B/Ds

Development Bureau*

Environment Bureau

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (Energy Efficiency Office)

Planning Department*

Environmental Protection Department

(*To attend on an as-need basis)

Members from External Stakeholders

Power companies

Chambers of commerce

Academics

Professional institutions

Green groups

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Road Transportation Sub-group

Terms of Reference

1. To identify new practicable air quality improvement measures for road transportation;
2. To evaluate the feasibility of implementing the measures having regard to the availability of proven technology, time for implementation, economic and social implications and other relevant factors; and
3. To prioritize the new air quality improvement measures based on the practicability of implementation.

Membership

Chairperson

Under Secretary for the Environment

Vice Chairperson

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Representatives from Government B/Ds

Development Bureau

Transport and Housing Bureau

Planning Department

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Transport Department

Environmental Protection Department

Members from External Stakeholders

Transport trade associations

Oil company

Academics

District Councils

Green groups

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Marine Transportation Sub-group

Terms of Reference

1. To identify new practicable air quality improvement measures for marine transportation;
2. To evaluate the feasibility of implementing the measures having regard to the availability of proven technology, time for implementation, economic and social implications and other relevant factors; and
3. To prioritize the new air quality improvement measures based on the practicability of implementation.

Membership

Chairperson

Under Secretary for the Environment

Vice Chairperson

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Representatives from Government B/Ds

Transport and Housing Bureau

Marine Department

Environmental Protection Department

Members from External Stakeholders

Marine trade associations

Oil companies

Academics

Logistics and transport associations

Green groups

Tentative Meeting Schedule

1. AQO Review Working Group

Meeting	Tentative dates	Venue
1 st	25 May 2016 (Wed) 9:30am	EDB Kowloon Tong Centre
2 nd	<i>Jan 2017</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
3 rd	<i>Jun 2017</i>	
4 th	<i>Oct 2017</i>	

2. Marine transportation sub-group

Meeting	Tentative dates	Venue
1 st	<i>June 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
2 nd	22 July (Fri) 2:30pm	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
3 rd	22 Sept (Thur) 2:30pm	Conference room, 33/F, Revenue Tower
4 th	23 Nov (Wed) 9:30am	Conference room, 33/F, Revenue Tower
5 th	<i>Jan 2017</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
6 th	<i>Mar 2017</i>	

3. Road transportation sub-group

Meeting	Tentative dates	Venue
1 st	<i>June 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
2 nd	28 July (Thur) 2:30pm	Room 1523, Tamar
3 rd	29 Sept (Thur) 9:30am	Room 1523, Tamar
4 th	24 Nov (Thur) 2:30pm	Room 1523, Tamar
5 th	<i>Jan 2017</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
6 th	<i>Mar 2017</i>	

4. Energy and Power Generation sub-group

Meeting	Tentative dates	Venue
1 st	<i>June/July 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
2 nd	18 Aug (Thur) 2:30pm	Room 4690, Revenue Tower
3 rd	20 Oct (Thur) 2:30pm	Room 4690, Revenue Tower
4 th	<i>Dec 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
5 th	<i>Feb 2017</i>	
6 th	<i>Mar 2017</i>	

5. Air Science & Health sub-group

Meeting	Tentative dates	Venue
1 st	<i>June/July 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
2 nd	25 Aug (Thur) 2:30pm	Room 4690, Revenue Tower
3 rd	25 Oct (Tue) 2:30pm	Room 4690, Revenue Tower
4 th	<i>Dec 2016</i>	<i>(To be confirmed)</i>
5 th	<i>Feb 2017</i>	
6 th	<i>Apr 2017</i>	
7 th	<i>Jun 2017</i>	