



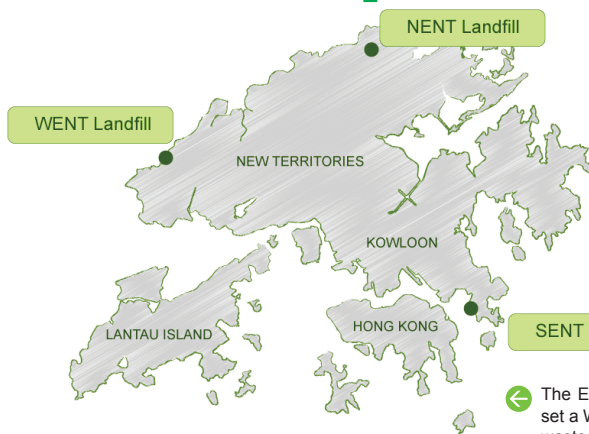
# Green Hong Kong

February 2011 ISSUE



## GREEN EVENT

# Take Action Now for Proper Waste Management



	Anticipated Year of Exhaustion
SENT Landfill	2014
NENT Landfill	2016
WENT Landfill	2018

← The Environmental Protection Department set a Waste Disposal Plan for the imminent waste problem faced by Hong Kong.

**T**he Government has rolled out a comprehensive action plan for waste management, featuring enhanced efforts to reduce and recycle, as well as the introduction of modern facilities to turn waste into energy.

Announcing the plan on January 4, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, called on the community to work together to implement the action plan to tackle the imminent waste problem.

Currently, Hong Kong relies nearly 100 per cent on landfilling. The city's recycling rate for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stands at 49 per cent, but this still means that a daily 13,300 tonnes of waste, including MSW and construction waste, etc. are disposed of at the landfills.

"With our three landfills scheduled to fill up successively in 2014, 2016 and 2018, there is an imminent need for us to identify a comprehensive solution. We cannot afford to wait and risk delaying the preparatory work," said Mr Yau.

### New Target and Efforts to Reduce Waste

The first and foremost strategy is to reduce waste at source, he said. The Government has committed to raising the city's waste recovery rate to 55 per cent by 2015.

Plans are also in hand to expand recycling through providing on-site food waste treatment facilities at residential and commercial properties, and building recycling networks

in the 18 districts.

The Government plans to begin public engagement on MSW charging in 2011 while moving forward with the next stage of the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS), including stage two of the plastic shopping bag levy scheme.

### Pressing Need to Modernise Waste Treatment Facilities

Another important arm of the waste management strategy is to bring in modern waste treatment facilities, such as a waste-incineration facility and a food-waste processing facility.

"We need to introduce modern technology to treat our waste. They will help reduce the size of waste by 90 per cent, with dry ashes as the remains. What is more important is that such technology would help turn waste into resources and generate electricity in the treatment process," said Mr Yau.

A sludge treatment facility with a daily capacity of 2,000 tonnes is currently under

construction and will come into operation by 2013.

The Government plans to build an integrated waste management facility (IWMF), which will handle 3,000 tonnes of MSW a day. Depending on the site selected, the facility is scheduled to come into operation in 2016 or 2018, just about the time when the landfills are filled up.

### Timely Extension of Landfills

The third arm of Hong Kong's waste strategy is timely extension of landfills to meet the immediate needs of waste disposal when the modern facilities are being planned and constructed, as well as cater for the long term needs for the disposal of ashes from IWMF and MSW that is not treated. Landfills will also continue to be required, for example, to dispose of construction waste which cannot be incinerated.

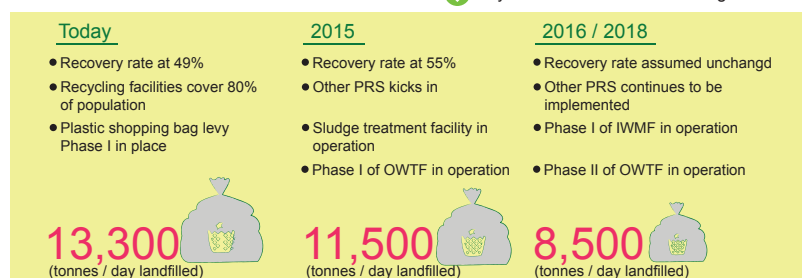
"We need landfills as part of our waste management solution. Yet with the measures we have outlined in place, the volume and nature of wastes to be disposed of at landfills will undergo substantial changes," said Mr Yau.

### Concerted Efforts Needed

Mr Yau stressed the need for concerted efforts by the community to take the initiatives forward to ensure the wastes generated by our city are properly managed.

The Government plans to submit funding applications for the IWMF, organic waste treatment facilities (OWTF) and the extension of the three landfills to the Legislative Council in the first half of 2012.

↓ Key milestones for waste management.



Green Knowledge

“ Hong Kong people produce 18,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day. With a recycling rate of 49%, the remaining 9,000 tonnes are disposed of at the three strategic landfills.”



# HK Needs New Waste Treatment Methods: Experts



↑ Environmental Education Centre of the Sludge Treatment Facility in Tuen Mun.

**I**ncineration, now a proven and environmentally acceptable technology, should be part of the solution to Hong Kong's waste problem, according to experts.

Noting that waste recovery and recycling are the key to reducing the volume of Hong Kong's waste, they added that such measures alone would not be sufficient as there would still be substantial quantities of waste which cannot be recycled and need to be properly disposed of.

The time has come to implement new solutions which take into account the limited land resources available in Hong Kong, said the experts.

"Adopting landfilling as the only waste disposal method is clearly not sustainable," says Professor Poon Chi-sun, Director of the Research Centre for Environmental Technology and Management at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, "alternative waste treatment methods have to be used to reduce the volume of waste before final disposal."

In this regard, Professor Poon recommends that the SAR should learn from the experiences of other metropolises in the region at a similar stage of economic development.

Tokyo, Taipei and Singapore, for example, have all built thermal waste treatment facilities, and Professor Poon said Hong Kong should follow the same path and introduce such technology of the highest international standard.

"The above-named cities have all adopted advanced incineration technologies as the main waste management option for non-recyclable waste," he

points out, "with the advances made in combustion and air emission control technologies, modern incinerators can now be regarded as a proven and environmentally acceptable technology that can effectively reduce the volume of waste requiring final disposal."

Professor Jonathan Wong of the Department of Biology at Hong Kong Baptist University, who is also Vice Chairman of the Environmental Campaign Committee, agrees, and says the Taipei model, in particular, would provide great insights for the SAR.

Taipei has slashed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation from 1.12 kg per capita per day in 2000 to 0.39 kg in 2010. The city is moving towards zero landfilling by 2020.

"Taipei City was the first local government in Taiwan to adopt the pay-per-bag waste charging policy," Professor Wong explains. "This together with other policies like mandatory garbage sorting

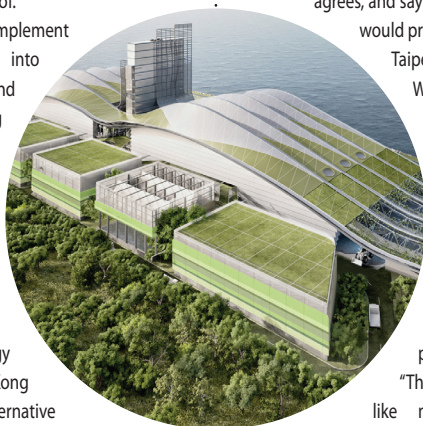
of different types of waste materials at home and kitchen-waste recycling programmes provide a great economic incentive for the residents to perform source separation at home," said Professor Wong.

He outlined the many complementary measures introduced by Taipei to underpin its polluter-pays approach. These include requiring residents to bring their refuse bags directly to garbage trucks which stop at designated points and designated times, allowing the simultaneous collection of recyclable waste and general waste.

In Hong Kong, the Environment Bureau plans to engage the public in a discussion about the feasibility of MSW charging in the city. The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, has said economic disincentives would be an effective means to reduce waste and the Government had to consult the public on the approach and details of implementation of the proposal.

Professor Poon says Hong Kong should press ahead and expand efforts to encourage waste producers to recycle and reduce. "Producer Responsibility Schemes and Municipal Solid Waste charging are two effective measures that have been practised in many different places to reduce waste generation," he says.

Action on this front may also be timely as public engagement processes have indicated that more people are becoming receptive to incentive-based policies like these, as environmental awareness increases. ■



↑ The sludge treatment facility in Tuen Mun will incorporate sustainable components to ensure the highest environmental standards.



← Hong Kong should learn from other cities at the similar stage of economic development. It is bird's eye view of the municipal waste incineration plant in Saitama, Japan.

“ **Incineration is a major measure widely adopted in many advanced countries for waste management. At present there are about 2,000 incinerators with pollution control systems all over the world. The biggest two are in Singapore and the Netherlands, both of which are capable of treating some 4,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste each day.** ”



# Progress at UN Climate Change Conference



← COP16 is the 16th Session of Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Picture show the Climate Village for COP16.



← Mr Yau shared with government and business leaders Hong Kong's efforts to meet the challenges of climate change and outlined the city's climate change strategy and action agenda for the coming decade at the Clean Revolution Ceremony.

**H**ong Kong would continue to step up efforts to combat climate change, as countries moved towards reaching an agreement on the subject during the United Nations talks in Cancun, according to the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau.

Mr Yau was a member of the Chinese delegation to the [16th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(COP16\)](#) in Cancun, Mexico held in December.

The conference was attended by nearly 200 countries and concluded with a deal.

Mr Yau said Hong Kong as part of the international community has actively sought solutions and taken action to address climate change. In the consultation document on Hong Kong's climate change strategy and action plan, the Government proposed an aggressive target to cut the city's carbon intensity by 50-60% by 2020 as compared with 2005.

This will effectively reduce Hong Kong's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 19-33%, cutting our per capita emission from 6.2 tonnes to 3.6-4.5 tonnes. By comparison, the projected per capita emission at 2020 for the United States is 14.7-17.4 tonnes, European Union 7.4-9 tonnes and Japan 7.4-7.8 tonnes.

Mr Yau said the Cancun meeting demonstrated the commitment by the international community in forging a deal on combating climate change.

At the same time, cities should spare no effort in taking practical measures

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, he said. The Government is analysing the responses to the consultation in formulating the city's way forward.

During his stay in Cancun, Mr Yau also addressed the Clean Revolution Ceremony and shared with participants Hong Kong's efforts to meet the challenges of climate change. He said that Hong Kong aimed to tackle climate change using a multi-pronged approach and that strategic measures included the promotion of energy efficiency in buildings and green transportation.

He also participated in a Climate Leaders Summit roundtable meeting to discuss the latest developments concerning electric vehicles (EVs). During the meeting, he met government officials, auto manufacturers and representatives from related sectors and discussed initiatives to promote the wider use of EVs.

"We are working to make our city EV-friendly and seek to encourage EV manufacturers to introduce new models to Hong Kong. A package of measures has already been put in place to develop an appropriate infrastructure, including the provision of EV-charging facilities, to promote the wider use of EVs. We will continue to keep our doors open to newer, cleaner vehicles to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our carbon footprint," Mr Yau said. ■

## COP16: The Outcome

**C**arbon-emission actions by developing countries are officially recognised under a UN agreement for the first time. Participants at the Cancun summit also set a target of limiting a rise in average world temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times.

The deal includes a Green Climate Fund that would raise US\$100 billion in aid to developing nations by 2020, to protect tropical forests, and adopt clean energy technologies etc.

But, there was no major progress on how to extend the Kyoto Protocol, which obliges almost 40 developed nations to cut GHG emissions and is due to expire in 2012. This, along with tough decisions on cutting GHG emissions, will be among the items on the agenda at the next U.N. Conference on Climate Change in the South African city of Durban at the end of 2011.

Still, the Cancun meeting was hailed as a major step forward in efforts to fight climate change.

"This is a new era of international co-operation on climate change," said Conference President and Mexican Foreign Minister, Patricia Espinosa. ■



# Forum for Public to Discuss Strategies to Cut Emissions

Experts, academics and participants exchange views on the development of clean energy at the Forum.



The Energy Advisory Committee recently held a forum to explore new ways to combat climate change and exchange views on how energy policy can effectively contribute to climate mitigation efforts.

The committee held two discussion sessions at the Forum on Low Carbon Energy and Climate Change on December 23. The first session examined the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through enhancing building energy efficiency and the strengths and constraints of Hong Kong's unique built environment.

The second part explored the option of importing more nuclear power in the coming decade as a way to reduce GHG emissions,

and the potential to develop renewable energy locally.

"We hope this forum will serve as a platform for exchanging views on how energy policies and measures could help combat climate change, and explore the opportunities and challenges presented by the national energy development plan of the Mainland for Hong Kong," said the Chairman of the Energy Advisory Committee, Mr Edmund Leung.

"To climate change, the Government proposed an aggressive target of reducing carbon intensity from the 2005 level by 50 to 60% by 2020. The promotion of energy efficiency and optimising fuel mix for electricity generation are key components in the

package of proposed measures. The Forum enables the public to discuss in detail our future energy-related strategy to reduce GHG emissions," said the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, at the forum.

Experts and academics expressed views on energy-related measures concerning Hong Kong's climate change strategy. All participants supported enhancing energy efficiency, and agreed that cross-sectoral co-operation and community contribution are essential in combating climate change.

In closing the forum, Mr Leung said the meeting served as a useful platform for further discussion on Hong Kong's future energy policy. ■

## Co-operation with Guangdong in Environmental Protection



The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, and the Director-General of the Department of Environmental Protection of Guangdong Province, Mr Li Qing, at the 11th meeting of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection.

A detailed work plan for 2011 was laid out as the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection (JWGSDEP) held its 11th meeting in Hong Kong on December 20.

Key areas of HK-Guangdong co-operation include:

1. Implement and strengthen the emission reduction and control measures under the PRD Regional Air Quality Management Plan to further improve regional air quality; Embark upon a final assessment on the achievement of the 2010 emission reduction targets at both sides, and strive to complete the study on the post-2010 arrangements for emission reduction in the PRD region as soon as possible;
2. Continue to carry out the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and the Hong Kong - Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners Recognition Scheme to promote energy efficiency and emission reduction;
3. Take forward the joint study on regional water quality management plan for the Pearl River Estuary;
4. Implement the water pollution abatement actions for Shenzhen Bay, and take forward the review of the regional water quality control strategy for Mirs Bay;
5. Explore co-operation opportunities on recycling and reuse of detoxified reusable materials with a view to fostering co-operation and development of recovery and recycling industries, e.g. glass containers of the both sides;
6. Continue exchanges and training on afforestation, urban greening, forest pest control as well as the protection of endangered animal and plant species; and
7. Undertake Pearl River Estuary ecological restoration, continue to enhance co-operation and exchanges on fishery resources enhancement and sustainable development of fishery, conservation and research work on Chinese white dolphins, coral reefs and sea turtles.

Looking back on 2010, both sides considered that good progress had been made on different fronts, including improving the air quality in the Pearl River Delta region, promoting cleaner production, protecting water environment, and managing the forestry and marine resources. ■





# TWGHs moves into a new green era



↑ Prof. Peter K W Mok, Chairman of Hong Kong Quality Assurance (middle), presenting ISO14001:2001 Certificate to Mr Billy Leung (left), Chairman of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, accompanied by Mrs Viola Chan, 2nd Vice-Chairman cum Chairman of Property Committee and Environmental Steering Committee, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

← A series of promotion programmes have been commenced, which include an exhibition for promoting eco-coffins and eco-incense.

In order to forge a stronger partnership with the Government to improve the environment, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' Executive Committee endorsed the "Tung Wah Group of Hospitals To Move Towards a Green Organisation" proposal in August 2008. A month later, the proposal was submitted to the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee for an application of funding to support a series of green initiatives. In January 2009, the ECF committee approved, in principle, a \$19.84 million grant for the Group to carry out a three-year environmental programme.

The Green Organisation programme has significantly progressed towards achieving its specified objectives since its launch. The TWGHs Administration Headquarters was recently awarded the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Certificate, proving that the programme has given clear and valuable guidance to the Group's environmental work.

To satisfy ISO 14001 requirements, the Group has put in place an effective environmental management system that aims to reduce carbon emissions, explore a low-carbon path such as introducing energy and carbon audits, cut greenhouse gas emissions, lower paper consumption and promote wider use of recycled paper, as well as implementing measures that support environmental friendly behaviour.

The Group is committed to pursuing a total environmental concept in operating its medical, education and community services, including the adoption of eco-coffins and eco-incense sticks. It has also incorporated environmental protection into its corporate culture and communicates its environmental policy to staff, students, service recipients and business partners to promote a high-quality and sustainable living environment for the community and future generations.

Chairman of the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency, Professor Peter Mok, was invited to attend the ISO award ceremony on January 20.

TWGHs chairman, Mr Billy Leung, said, "As a pioneer among local non-governmental organisations in environmental conservation, the Group is honoured to be awarded the ISO 14001 certification, which serves as an encouraging first step towards a new green era for TWGHs and sets a good example for others to follow and to encourage similar efforts."

TWGHs has launched a wide range of environmental measures and taken the initiative of forming a Green Working Group that comprises staff representatives from all levels as well as appointing Green Managers to help implement the Group's eco-friendly house rules in the long run. ■

## YouTube Videos Spread Green Messages

The Environment Bureau is leveraging the social media to spread its green messages with a series of videos featuring green stories in suspenseful and humorous tones. The goal is to encourage people to think about their actions in everyday life and how they can change their lifestyle behaviours in order to reduce waste at the source and protect the environment.

These videos, which have been uploaded on YouTube, can be viewed by clicking the following links.



**A Vanishing Lady**



**A Thief Story**



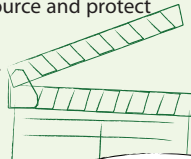
**Top Secret Overheard**



**Maid and OL**



**Kids and BYOB**



Please Click In!



Green Knowledge

“ Since its establishment in 1994, the Environment and Conservation Fund has funded more than 1,000 educational and research projects and activities in relation to environmental and conservation matters. ”



# Council for Sustainable Development announces next public engagement

The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) agreed at its meeting on January 17 to conduct the next public engagement process on climate change-related issues.

The focus of the public engagement will be on demand-side management.

The SDC's Chairman, Bernard Chan, said the objectives were to inspire core building users to reflect on their lifestyle and operation modes, to draw up carbon reduction plans, and to take actions eventually.

The SDC noted that buildings took up approximately 90% of local electricity consumption. As electricity generation accounted for 67% of Hong Kong's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in other words, energy consumption in buildings accounted for at least 60% of our GHG emissions.

It follows that targeting such building users as household, office, retail and catering would represent a major step in demand-side management of carbon emission.

The public engagement will take a bottom-up approach to engage stakeholders in discussion from various perspectives to work out carbon reduction measures that they are willing to take.

There will be an "Invitation for Response" document as the information resource for the public engagement, which will cover barriers, potential incentives or assistance for conducting carbon audit and adoption of mitigating



Mr Bernard Chan (right), Chairman of the Council for Sustainable Development and Mr K.S. Wong (left), Convenor of the Support Group for the public engagement, meeting the press.

measures; whether carbon offsetting should be promoted and if so, how; whether mandatory measures should be implemented; and Government's role, etc. The "Invitation for Response" document aims at encouraging participants to think out-of-the-box, to make use of creativity to identify new opportunities in this crisis, and to make their efforts in contributing to sustainable development of

Hong Kong and humanity as a whole.

Regarding the timeframe, the aim is to launch the public engagement process in the second quarter of 2011. The public involvement phase for collecting views will take about four to five months. The whole public engagement process will last for about one year with public education and publicity events in parallel.

## Glass bottles recycling scheme



At the launch ceremony for the Pilot Programme on Source Separation of Glass Bottles in Housing Estates, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, encouraged the public to participate in waste separation at source for the good of the environment.

A 12-month pilot programme on source separation of glass bottles was launched in January at six public rental housing estates in East Kowloon.

The Housing Authority has installed glass recycling bins in light green colour alongside the three existing coloured waste separation bins in the lobbies or near the entrances of each residential block in the participating housing estates.

The new recycling bins have a special internal design, which lessens the impact and noise generated by bottles being put into the bins. The bottles collected will be recycled into glass sand, replacing natural river sand in the production of paving blocks.

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, said some Government departments such as the Highways Department and the Housing Department would give priority to bricks that have recycled glass content when they procure bricks for their pavements.

"It is a good combination," he said. "People would think twice before they throw away a bottle, and bottles collected through this scheme would also be used to make our pavements, therefore reinforcing the idea of a green Hong Kong."

Glass bottles account for about 3 per cent of our municipal solid waste and this scheme is not just to reduce the size of the waste in our landfills, but also serves as a good reminder that we can all contribute to a green Hong Kong in our daily living.

Mr Yau said the Government will further consider arrangements to promote glass recycling in the rest of Hong Kong after reviewing the achievement of the pilot project.







# Five geologically important sites designated as special areas

To better protect and manage geological resources within the Hong Kong Geopark, the Government has designated five geologically important sites in the Northeast New Territories and Sai Kung district as special areas, effective from January 1, 2011.

The decision was made in accordance with the Double Haven and Others (Special Areas) Order 2010 under the Country Parks Ordinance, a spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said.

Although the majority of the areas of the geopark are located inside the country parks, there are a few areas outside the country parks' boundaries which have geological significance. The Order will help better preserve and manage these sites, which include Double Haven Special Area, High Island Special Area, Sharp Island Special Area, Ung Kong Group Special Area and Ninepin Group Special Area. They cover a total area of about 235 hectares.

Double Haven Special Area is located in Northeast New Territories. The geology of this area is characterised by sedimentary rocks of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The other four sites are located in Sai Kung district,



Double Haven is now designated as a special area.

and their geology is characterised by volcanic rocks of the Cretaceous period.

"After designation, the five special areas will be under the control and management of the Country and Marine Parks Authority, which means under the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, and regulated by the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations," the spokesman said.

The Hong Kong National Geopark is made

up of eight Geo-Areas located across the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region, covering a total area of about 50 square kilometers. The geopark was established in 2009 with the aim of promoting geo-conservation, geo-science and supporting public education and sustainable development of geological resources.

## Disposal criteria for construction waste revised to cut waste



Photo shows the handling of construction waste at SENT landfill.

The revised Waste Acceptance Criteria (the Criteria) for the disposal of construction waste, which will help decide whether such waste will be sent to sorting facilities or landfills, is expected to reduce waste by diverting it to the most suitable facility.

The Criteria, which come under the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) Regulation, Chapter 354L, came into effect on December 29. They were gazetted in July

2010 after consultation with relevant trades.

To encourage waste minimisation, separation of waste and reuse of recyclable inert materials such as bricks, tiles, masonry and concrete, construction waste can now be disposed of at public fill reception facilities, sorting facilities, landfills or transfer facilities at outlying islands, according to their waste content at differential charges.

Under the revised Criteria, a vehicle carrying construction waste that comprises entirely inert materials should go to a public fill reception facility so that the materials can be reused, and the charges will be \$27 per tonne. If inert materials make up more than half of the load's weight, it should go to a sorting facility that charges \$100 per tonne. The recyclables will then be sorted for reuse.

Finally, if inert materials weigh less than half the load, they should be sent to a landfill for disposal at \$125 per tonne.

"To improve the efficacy of construction waste load handling and disposal at the sorting facilities and landfills, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has introduced the revised Waste Acceptance Criteria, which also includes the waste depth in addition to the weight ratio," said a spokesman for the EPD.

If the waste depth of a vehicle load of construction waste exceeds 1 metre for demountable vehicles, or 1.5 metres for non-demountable vehicles, the vehicle is then required to deliver the construction waste to a landfill irrespective of weight ratio. If the waste depth does not exceed the defined level, then the required disposal facility will depend on the weight ratio.

In November and December, the EPD organised 12 seminars to brief key stakeholders including waste hauler associations, the construction industry and relevant government departments on the revised Criteria. More than 500 representatives from over 300 companies attended the seminars. The revised Criteria were fully endorsed by the trade in June 2010 before being gazetted.





# Community workshops to promote low-carbon diet at home

The Under Secretary for the Environment, Dr Kitty Poon, attends the first workshop of "LOWcarbonDIET@ HOME". She called on the participants to adopt a low-carbon lifestyle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is bringing unprecedented challenges to human prosperity and survival, and therefore we all need to work hand in hand across the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Every citizen can help reduce his or her carbon footprint by adopting a green lifestyle, and a low-carbon diet is a good way to start.

To raise public awareness of low-carbon living, the Environmental Protection Department, in collaboration with Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden and the Hong Kong Federation of Women, recently launched a community event entitled "LOWcarbonDIET@ HOME".

The "LOWcarbonDIET@ HOME" offers 10 training programmes, which cover the six principles of a low carbon diet, also known as LOVERS - local, organic, vegetarian, energy-saving, reduce-reuse-recycle and seasonal.

"Through cooking workshops and green tips on daily living, we hope to enhance women's understanding of climate change and encourage them to practise a low-carbon lifestyle to reduce the community's carbon footprint and make Hong Kong a greener city," said the Under Secretary for the Environment, Dr Kitty Poon, after attending the first workshop of "LOWcarbonDIET@ HOME" at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden.

At least 300 members of the Hong Kong Federation of Women are expected to take part in the workshops to learn how to prepare low-carbon food and have a try at picking fresh vegetables as ingredients.

Participants will also be provided with green housekeeping tips, including the use of natural cleaning agents, ways to reduce and treat kitchen waste, and ways to convert waste into greenery. It is hoped that after completing the workshops, the participants will serve as ambassadors to spread the green lifestyle message through community activities. Kadoorie Farm will compile the experience of organising these community activities into a book to share with other interested institutions.

## Helping domestic helpers to go green

Hong Kong has more than 220,000 households which employ domestic helpers. Encouraging them to adopt green housekeeping habits will not only bring financial benefits to their employers but also contribute to a greener living environment.

The EPD has rolled out two collaborative training projects with the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) and consulates, targeting both local and foreign domestic helpers. These programmes aim to make them more aware of their responsibilities to promote green living at home as well as equipping them with the knowledge and skills to reduce the amount of domestic waste.

Training materials cover the 3R principles (reduce, reuse and recycle), waste reduction and separation, energy saving, water conservation and green tips. These principles have been incorporated in ERB's exist-

ing training course entitled "Certificate in Domestic Helper Training", which is the largest pre-employment training programme for local domestic helpers. About 5,000 people graduate from the course each year. The EPD will also launch the Green Induction Programme for foreign domestic helpers. The consulates of the Philippines and Indonesia in Hong Kong have been asked to include this green content in their domestic helpers' induction programmes. The Consulate General of the Philippines has agreed to include a green session in their training programmes for new domestic helpers. Nearly 200 participants will attend such induction

programmes every quarter. A similar arrangement is being planned by the Consulate General of Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the EPD has developed a lively flash animation, with voice-overs in English, Indonesian and Chinese, to be used by instructors in conjunction with a detailed training manual on green facts.



Trainees are attending the domestic helper training course of the Employees Retraining Board.

Special thanks to Information Services Department for providing photographs for inclusion in this publication.