

Progress Report on Policy Objectives (2001)
An Updated Timetable on Items Reported as Behind Schedule or Under Review

Initiatives (with the original target completion date)	New Estimated Completion Date	Reasons for Revising the Original Plan
2. Promote waste reduction / recycling and improve waste treatment		
To develop a treatment facility for organic waste in Ngau Tam Mei in 2002	We are reviewing the way forward.	We carried out a tender exercise for the development of the treatment facility in 2002, but there were no valid tender submissions.
3. Improve air quality		
To formulate a proposal in 2001 to reduce the amount of fuels not meeting our standards carried by cross-boundary vehicles	The proposal is no longer required since the objective has been achieved by other measures.	The main objective to regulate the amount of fuels carried by cross-boundary vehicles is to tackle the adverse environmental impact caused by illicit transfer of Mainland diesel from cross-boundary vehicles to local vehicles. The Administration has already implemented various measures to successfully combat the illicit fuel problem. The Dutiable Commodities Ordinance was amended in 2000 to enhance the deterrent effect against illicit fuels. The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) has stepped up enforcement actions against illegal fuel activities. With these measures, the number of illicit refilling black spots dropped drastically from 110 in 1999 to around 27 in 2002. The total amount of illicit motor diesel seized by C&ED also dropped significantly from 8.27 million litres in 1999 to 1.58 million litres in 2002 (reduced by over 80%).

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		<p>Given the above developments, we consider that there is no need to further reduce the amount of fuels carried by cross-boundary vehicles that is allowable under the current Dutiable Commodities Ordinance. The Administration will continue to make sustained enforcement efforts to prevent any resurgence of the problem of illicit fuel transfers.</p>
<p>To de-register all diesel taxis over seven years old from 1 January 2004 and all remaining diesel taxis on 1 January 2006</p>	<p>We will review the need for the proposal in 2004.</p>	<p>As at 7 February 2003, 93% of the diesel taxis (16 850) have been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ones. The relevant legislation has also been changed such that registration of new diesel taxis is no longer permitted. We expect that most of the existing diesel taxis would be replaced by LPG ones upon the expiry of the LPG taxi incentive scheme by end 2003. We will review whether there is still a need to de-register diesel taxis nearer the time.</p>
<p>To make a legislative proposal to tighten the fuel standard of industrial diesel to the same level as that of motor diesel in 2000</p>	<p>The proposal is no longer required since the objective has been achieved by other measures.</p>	<p>The main objective to tighten the fuel standard of industrial diesel is to tackle the adverse environmental impact caused by the illicit use of detreated industrial diesel in motor vehicles. As explained in the first item under “Improve air quality” above, the tightening of legislation and vigorous enforcement actions taken by C&ED have successfully controlled the illicit fuel problem. As such, we do not see a need to tighten the fuel standard of industrial diesel.</p>

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To make appropriate recommendations to assess the adequacy of existing air quality objectives (AQOs) in 1999	Around 2005	We have been monitoring progress of the review of the current AQOs in the European Union and the United States. The former plans to complete its review by around end-2003, while the latter has yet to firm up the timetable. We will work out the way forward for Hong Kong's AQOs by taking into account the findings of these reviews.
5. Improve water quality		
To start the reviews of the Sewerage Master Plans (SMPs) for Hong Kong Island and North District & Tolo Harbour in early 2000 and the reviews of the SMPs for Tsuen Wan & West Kowloon and Port Shelter in 2000-2001	The reviews of the SMPs for Hong Kong Island and North District & Tolo Harbour had commenced in 2000 as scheduled. Timing for implementing a review of the SMPs for Tsuen Wan & West Kowloon is subject to review.	<p>A review of the SMP for Port Shelter is not necessary as the latest planning studies concluded that current facilities are generally considered adequate to serve existing and planned developments there.</p> <p>The need for a review of the SMPs for Tsuen Wan & West Kowloon would be evaluated pending completion of related planning studies in those areas.</p>

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To complete a review of North District SMP by end-2001	The review of the SMP for North District & Tolo Harbour is now scheduled for completion by end-2003.	The review has been extended to cover additional works.
To commission the SMP works within the High Priority Programme (HPP) before mid-1997	All the SMP works within the HPP have been completed.	-
6. Reduce noise pollution		
To introduce legislation to control the use of percussive powered mechanical equipment in domestic renovation works within the 1999-2000 legislative session	The initiative will be achieved by an administrative means that will be completed by end-2003.	Having examined various factors, we consider it more appropriate to issue guidelines on good domestic renovation/management practices to building management companies and Owners' Corporations to reduce noise from domestic renovation works. The guidelines will be issued by end-2003.

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7. Conserve natural heritage and resources		
To consult the public on the principles, objectives and mechanisms in 2001 with a view to promulgating a comprehensive nature conservation policy	Mid-2003	In exploring practicable measures to enhance conservation of ecologically important sites under private ownership, we have taken more time than expected to examine the complicated issues involved including landowners' rights, land use planning, and to develop a scoring system for assessing ecological values of different sites in a more objective way.
To introduce legislative amendments in 2001 to ensure compatibility with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	We will introduce the legislative amendments to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the 2003-04 legislative session.	We make use of the opportunity to review the existing Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, Cap. 187 in order to make it simpler and more user-friendly. More time is required to sort out the complicated drafting and technical issues involved.
To extend country parks at North Lantau in 2001	Under review	More time has been taken to examine the objections against the draft map of the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park received during the public inspection period. The proposal will also be reviewed in the light of the latest planning of Lantau as a whole and the resource implications.

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To complete a study on the methodology for wetland compensation in early 2001 and to recommend a strategy for wetland protection and compensation by 2001	2003	More time is needed to conduct field trials on ecological enhancement measures, and to develop a strategy for wetland protection and compensation as complicated issues such as land matters and assessment of ecological value of different types of wetlands are involved.
8. Enhance community education and awareness		
To open an Environmental Resource Centre in Fanling in late 2002	March 2003	More time is needed for installation of equipment and fitting-out of the Centre.
9. Increase efficiency in energy use		
To consult the community on the proposed statutory requirements for energy efficiency and conservation in 2001	To be advised	The existing voluntary energy efficiency labeling schemes and building energy codes have been running well and gaining increasing support from manufacturers/suppliers and recognition by users/consumers. We therefore consider it more appropriate to allow these schemes and codes to evolve for some more time. This would enable us to better assess the effectiveness of the voluntary approach which is critical to our formulation of the proposed way forward for public consultation.

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10. Improve waste management		
To examine different bulk waste reduction facilities and technologies that are currently available and to decide in 2001 the technology that should be adopted in Hong Kong	Late 2003	To ensure that we do not miss out any waste treatment technologies, we invited expressions of interest from waste management industry in developing such facilities. We are currently assessing the 59 proposals received.
To complete a feasibility study on waste-to-energy incinerators by March 1999	Mid-2003	The scope of the feasibility study on waste-to-energy incinerators has been enlarged, and the study is still ongoing.
To modify the incineration facilities at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre to enable it to treat clinical waste in 2001	Commissioning in 2004	According to an independent review of treatment technologies for clinical waste that LegCo requested Government to commission, treatment of clinical waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre should be adopted as a medium term solution. We have reported the review findings to LegCo and will seek funding approval in 2003 for implementing the proposal.

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To introduce legislation and promulgate the code of practice for clinical waste management for producers, collectors and disposal facilities by end-1999	We will introduce the legislative proposal into LegCo in 2003 with a view to implementing the scheme in 2004.	After consulting the trades and LegCo on the proposed control scheme and the draft Codes of Practice, we plan to regulate both major and small clinical waste producers. Drafting of the legislative proposal, which involves complex legal and operational issues, is underway.
To draw up the strategy for the disposal of clinical waste, animal carcasses and other special wastes by end-1999	We have already formulated the strategy with regard to clinical waste and are reviewing the way forward for animal carcasses and other special wastes.	The relevant feasibility study on the disposal of animal carcasses is underway. We will review the way forward after the feasibility study is completed.
To introduce legislation for a ban in 1999 on the import of hazardous waste from developed countries into or through the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in accordance with the recent decision of the Basel Convention	We will introduce the legislative proposal into LegCo in 2003.	An administrative ban was introduced in December 1998.

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To complete in early 1998 a low-level radioactive waste storage facility at Siu A Chau, and to close down existing unsatisfactory storage facilities after completion of the new facility	Commissioning in 2004	We have earlier explored the feasibility of storing low-level radioactive wastes at a Mainland facility. We have recommended to LegCo that development of a local storage facility would be more preferable. LegCo supported our proposal. We have invited tender for the construction and operation of the Siu A Chau storage facility. Tender evaluation is in progress.
To introduce a landfill charging scheme in 2000	Implementation in 2004	In view of the relevant industries' concern about the scheme, we have carried out extensive consultation and revised the proposed scheme. We plan to introduce the charge for the disposal of construction and demolition waste in landfills in the first phase. We are now working on the associated arrangements and the legislative proposal to effect the charging scheme.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
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