

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)568/12-13  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 18 December 2012, at 4:30pm**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun,  
BBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Han-pan  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon Dennis KWOK  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

**Members absent** : Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

**Public Officers  
attending** : **For item V**

Mr WONG Kam-sing  
Secretary for the Environment

Ms Christine LOH  
Under Secretary for the Environment

Mr Albert LAM, JP  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)  
Environmental Protection Department

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

Dr Alain LAM  
Principal Environmental Protection Officer  
(Waste Management Policy)  
Environmental Protection Department

**For Item VI**

Ms Christine LOH  
Under Secretary for the Environment

Miss Vivian LAU, JP  
Deputy Secretary for the Environment

Mr Donald NG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Energy)

Mr Alfred SIT, JP  
Deputy Director/Regulatory Services  
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Mr WONG Sek-cheung  
Chief Engineer/Energy Efficiency A  
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

**Clerk in Attendance** : Ms Miranda HON  
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

**Staff in attendance** : Mrs Mary TANG  
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Miss Mandy POON  
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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**I. Confirmation of minutes**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)300/12-13 — Minutes of the meeting held on  
22 October 2012)

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2012 were confirmed.

**II. Matters arising**

Consideration of whether there is a need to hold a meeting of the Panel on  
Environmental Affairs on "Provision of a public beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po"

2. The Chairman informed members that at the joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs on 30 November 2012 to discuss the "Provision of a public beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po", members had diverse views on whether another joint meeting should be held to receive deputations' views on the subject of provision of a bathing beach at Lung Mei. Subsequently, members of the two Panels were consulted and the majority of members who responded did not consider it necessary to hold a further joint meeting to pursue the matter. Hence, a further joint meeting would not be held. She invited members' view on whether the Panel on Environmental Affairs should hold a meeting to discuss the protection of endangered species at Lung Mei and to receive deputations' views on the subject.

3. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that as there would be a number of upcoming construction projects which would have an ecological impact on endangered species, there was a need to discuss the subject on a wider scale. Issues which should be dealt with would include the impact of the construction of the third runway on Chinese white dolphins and the impact of village construction works on butterflies in Fung Yuen. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Administration on the discussion of the protection of endangered species from the impact of construction works.

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**III. Information paper issued since last meeting**

4. Members noted that no information paper had been issued since last meeting.

**IV. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)301/12-13(01) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

5. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 28 January 2013, at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on the environmental initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address; and
- (b) Retrofitting franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices.

*(Post-meeting note: As requested by the Administration and agreed by the Chairman, the discussion of the item "Retrofitting franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices" was subsequently deferred.)*

**V. Waste reduction through municipal solid waste charging: way forward**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)276/12-13(01) — Administration's paper on "Waste reduction through municipal solid waste charging: way forward"

LC Paper No. CB(1)301/12-13(02) — Background brief on "Municipal solid waste charging in Hong Kong" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(1)301/12-13(03) — Submission from Friends of the Earth (HK) (Chinese version only))

6. The Secretary for the Environment ("SEN") briefed members on the outcome of the public consultation on municipal solid waste ("MSW") charging in Hong Kong. He advised that, on the basis of the feedback received, the Government proposed to affirm the direction of introducing quantity-based

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MSW charging in Hong Kong and proceed with a second-stage public engagement on the implementation details through the Council for Sustainable Development ("SDC").

Request for offsetting MSW charging by a corresponding reduction in rates

7. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that while he supported the direction of introducing quantity-based MSW charging in Hong Kong, he was concerned about its cost implications on low-income families. There was also the concern about double levy since the charges for waste collection had already been included in government rates. He would support that the levy collected from waste charging be ploughed back to assist the development of waste recycling industries. He opined that with the introduction of waste charging and the resultant reduction of waste deposited at landfills, a holistic review on the waste management strategy should be conducted to decide whether there was still a need for further expansion of landfills. Dr Helena WONG echoed the concerns about double levy as well as the cost implications of MSW charging on low-income families, amidst rising living costs associated with increased electricity tariff and transport fares.

8. Mr Vincent FANG shared the view that as charges for waste collection had already been included in government rates, consideration should be given to offsetting MSW charging by a corresponding reduction in rates. He also supported a holistic approach in waste management, instead of a piecemeal arrangement of waste charging. Sharing similar views, Mr Christopher CHUNG said that it was not necessary to impose additional waste charges as MSW collection had already been included in government rates. Besides, the introduction of a new MSW charging system would represent a major change to the waste management system and would not be welcomed by the community.

9. Mr Albert CHAN said that as the Government had been charging domestic households for MSW collection through rates, it would defy logic to charge households again for MSW collection through the introduction of the new MSW charge. Mr Gary FAN would support offsetting MSW charging by a corresponding reduction in rates as this would be more acceptable to the public. The Chairman recalled that the two former Municipal Councils had been using part of the government rates collected for waste collection and treatment.

10. In response to members' concern, SEN explained that Government would adopt an open approach on the charging arrangement. He was of the view that waste charging and government rates were separate issues. A comprehensive waste management blueprint would be worked out for discussion by members shortly. The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) ("DDEP(2)") added that government rates were part of government revenue and unrelated to the waste charging mechanism nowadays.

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11. Mr CHAN Kin-por stated that as waste charging would incentivize the community to reduce and recycle waste, he failed to see the need to offset waste charges by rates reduction as such would defeat the intended purpose of waste charging. Besides, considerable administrative costs would be incurred by the offsetting arrangements. He opined that the community should decide the appropriate level of charging and the phased implementation of the waste charging scheme. As more effective educational and publicity efforts should be made to induce behavioral changes on waste reduction, he supported that reference be made to the experience of Japan where pamphlets and publicity programmes on source separation of waste were distributed/televised to familiarize households with waste separation practices, and celebrities were invited to join waste separation programmes.

12. Mr Steven HO said that there was a need for the Government to clarify the relationship between waste charging and government rates. Mr WU Chi-wai pointed out that the offsetting of waste charges by reduction in government rates might give rise to unfairness because waste charges were paid by occupiers while rates reduction would be rebated to owners.

13. SEN agreed that the implementation of waste charging would incentivize and induce behavioral changes on waste reduction. In the second-stage public engagement, the Government would be listening to views on the phased approach as an option for implementation of the waste charging scheme. More efforts would be made to educate the public on the need for waste separation.

14. The Chairman said that with the implementation of waste charging at the rate of \$30 to \$40 per household per month, total waste charges in the range of \$1 billion to \$1.3 billion per month would be collected from the 2.7 million households in Hong Kong. She said that members who supported using waste charges for environmental purposes might wish to recommend to the Administration on the best use which could be made of the waste charges collected, including the promotion of waste recycling industries. Otherwise, consideration should be given to offsetting the waste charges by reduction in government rates.

Progressive charging approach

15. Mr CHAN Hak-kan and Mr Christopher CHUNG enquired about the feasibility of adopting a progressive charging approach such that a certain number of garbage bags (say about 30) would be provided free of charge at the initial stage. Mr Vincent FANG also supported that a progressive charging approach be adopted for the waste charging scheme such that waste collection could be free of charge at the initial stage. DDEP(2) said that the feasibility of various options could be considered, including the pre-paid designated garbage

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bag charging system adopted in Taipei City.

16. Mr CHUNG further said that as waste charging in Hong Kong did not aim at raising revenue but reducing waste, consideration should be given to adopting a progressive approach under which no waste charges would be levied at the initial stage of the charging scheme. SEN responded that the purpose of waste charging was to assist the community in reducing waste disposal, given that the average domestic waste generation in Hong Kong estimated at 1.36 kg per person per day was much higher than that of Taipei City and Seoul which averaged at 1 kg per person per day. The Administration was open about the adoption of a phased or progressive approach on waste charging.

Second-stage public engagement

17. The Chairman stated that as the Administration had already conducted a public consultation on MSW charging in early 2012, she sought explanation on the issues that needed to be further consulted on in the second round of consultation. She also said that apart from the discussion paper on the comprehensive MSW management plan, the Administration should also set out its direction on the way forward on waste charging.

18. DDEP(2) explained that the first public consultation conducted in early 2012 was intended to engage the community and relevant stakeholders to deliberate the issues pertaining to MSW charging and to explore appropriate solutions. On the whole, there was majority support within the community for the introduction of quantity-based MSW charging as a policy tool to promote waste reduction and recovery. The second-stage public engagement was meant to engage the public in working out the implementation details which were suitable for Hong Kong, given its high population density and prevalence of multi-storey buildings. While reference would be made to the successful experience of Taipei City on MSW charging, the Administration would need to assess the public's acceptability of reduced convenience in MSW disposal and the risk of degradation in environmental hygiene arising from potential increase in fly-tipping.

19. On the Chairman's enquiry on the time frame and consultation details of the second-stage public engagement, SEN said that such issues would have to be worked out with SDC. A support group to be set up by SDC early next year would extensively engage relevant stakeholders and the general public through a series of engagement activities to facilitate the community in reaching consensus on certain fundamental principles which would have a bearing on the formulation of the quantity-based charging system. It was expected that the public engagement process would be completed by late 2013, after which a report would be submitted to the Administration in a few months' time.

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20. Mr Tony TSE supported the direction of a quantity-based charging system which would assist in encouraging waste reduction at source. He hoped that the second-stage public engagement would be able to work out the level of MSW charging, the charging arrangements and the waste management options to be adopted. He considered that measures should be taken to address the potential increase in fly-tipping arising from the implementation of waste charging, particularly at old districts where owners' corporations had not been set up. SEN responded that the second-stage public engagement would aim at seeking the community's consensus on the charging principles and mechanism. The support group to be set up by SDC would comprise relevant stakeholders and district representatives and it would work out the implementation details of waste charging and the means to deter fly-tipping.

Overseas experience on waste charging

21. Dr Helena WONG said that she supported the principle of reducing waste through source separation of waste. Given that New York City, which shared similar city characteristics as those of Hong Kong in terms of population density and prevalence of multi-storey and multi-tenant buildings, had made a conscious decision of not to implement quantity-based MSW charging, she failed to see how Hong Kong could implement MSW charging. The successful experience of Taipei City might not be applicable to the Hong Kong situation where waste was often dropped down through refuse chutes, making it difficult to trace waste to its source. Besides, the reduced provision of refuse collection points ("RCPs") and public litter bins might also cause environmental hygiene and public health problems, as well as inconvenience to tourists and visitors.

22. Mr Christopher CHUNG shared the view that as the city characteristics of Taipei City were very different from those of Hong Kong, it might not be feasible to adopt the Taipei City model. He was of the view that Hong Kong was more akin to New York City. Besides, the closure of refuse chutes and the reduced provision of RCPs and public litter bins as a result of waste charging would also arouse public concern.

23. DDEP(2) responded that during the first public consultation on MSW charging, the public was made aware of the fact that Hong Kong shared fairly similar operational challenges with New York City on account of their common city characteristics, and the latter's decision of not to implement quantity-based MSW charging. However, there was majority support for the introduction of a quantity-based MSW charging as some were optimistic about adapting Taipei City's charging system in the Hong Kong context. The second-stage public engagement would aim at engaging the public in working out the implementation details of MSW charging, taking into account the experience of Taipei City. While waste charging would be an effective means to reduce waste, there was a price to be paid and the community would face the risk of



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degradation in environmental hygiene and public health arising from potential increase in fly-tipping.

Waste separation, reduction and recycling

24. Mr Albert CHAN said that as the purpose of waste charging was to deter waste generation, there was a need to provide for a waste charging mechanism and to introduce the necessary legislative framework to mandate waste separation at source. Reference should be made to the successful source separation experience in Taipei City, where recyclables were collected at designated times and venues. He added that members of the People Power would not be prepared to support waste charging unless mandatory separation at source was introduced. SEN stated that as the amount of waste generated per person per day in Hong Kong was higher than most cities, there was a need for behavioral changes to reduce waste generation. Measures to facilitate waste separation at source would be implemented. Mr CHAN however pointed out that the high waste generation in Hong Kong was attributable to the lack of efforts in source separation of waste.

25. Mr Vincent FANG supported that more efforts should be made to separate waste at source and to educate the public about the need for waste reduction. Moreover, studies should be conducted on the need for incineration and further expansion of landfills. Before implementing waste charging, measures should be introduced to facilitate waste separation and to prevent the disposal of rubbish on streets. As a start, measures should be taken to recycle waste glass bottles and food waste.

26. SEN reiterated that SDC would hold further consultation to assess whether the public would be prepared to accept the reduced convenience in MSW disposal as well as the risk of degradation in environmental hygiene and public health when charging was implemented. A comprehensive blueprint on MSW management would be made available to the public early next year, in line with the public engagement process. The Under Secretary for the Environment ("USEN") added that a paper setting out the holistic approach to MSW management was under preparation and members' requests for source separation of waste, as well as recycling of waste glass bottles and food waste would be dealt with.

27. Mr WU Chi-wai said that as the waste charging mechanism was intended to be "revenue-neutral", more should be done to incentivize the public to reduce waste. Given that the second-stage public engagement would take time to complete and it might take years before the waste charging scheme could be implemented, he enquired if incentive schemes on waste reduction could be introduced during the interim. This might be in the form of rebates to be offered to residential developments which had achieved waste reduction targets.

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28. In response, SEN said that the Administration had been providing financial support to 11 housing estates in the trial scheme on the recycling of food waste. It would be further supporting another 40 housing estates in the next phase of the food waste recycling programme. It was worthy to note that residents of Mui Wo had been actively engaged in the food waste recycling programme and one tenth of the residents had been using the compost converted from food waste for agricultural purposes.

29. Mr Gary FAN said that members of the Neo Democrats were of the view that waste reduction should be given the top priority, to be followed by waste recycling and reuse, while waste disposal at landfills and incineration would be least preferred. Residents living in the vicinity of the South East New Territories Landfill were exposed to environmental nuisances associated with the operation of the landfill. Given that the Waste Management Strategy was first formulated in 2005, the proposed implementation of MSW charging was way behind schedule. He shared other members' concern about the operational challenges in implementing MSW charging and was aware that Taipei City had encountered immense difficulties when waste charging was first introduced. SEN responded that as the community would support improving Hong Kong's waste management strategy, SDC had been tasked to conduct a second-stage public engagement to facilitate the community in reaching consensus on the fundamental principles in the formulation of the quantity-based charging system.

30. Mr KWOK Wai-keung opined that there was a need for greater efforts to recycle waste before implementing waste charging, as otherwise, waste charging would not serve any useful purpose. More assistance should be provided to the waste recycling trades and separate waste collection arrangements should be worked out for the collection of food waste. SEN said that the successful experience of waste charging in other countries had revealed that a 20% to 30% waste reduction rate by way of source separation and recycling could be achieved through waste charging.

31. Mr Steven HO enquired about the measures to monitor compliance with the waste charging scheme in different public and private housing developments. DDEP(2) replied that if the quantity-based charging system was implemented, the waste charges could be imposed by the mandatory use of pre-paid garbage bags. Households which were able to reduce/recycle their waste would use fewer pre-paid garbage bags and pay less waste charges. Although there were penalty provisions for fly-tipping and littering in Hong Kong, further views would be sought through the second-stage public engagement on the means to ensure proper waste disposal upon implementation of waste charging, taking into account the experience of Taipei City and Seoul in this respect. Meanwhile, monitoring arrangements were in place at fly-tipping black spots.

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32. Mr CHAN Han-pan was concerned that the problem of fly-tipping in old districts would aggravate following the implementation of waste charging. He enquired about the enforcement actions to be taken against fly-tipping and the means to identify waste producers. He would support that before implementing waste charging, the Administration should consider incentivizing waste recycling through offering rebates for the return of recyclables. SEN agreed on the need for effective enforcement against fly-tipping and the offer of incentives to encourage waste recycling. He informed members that a 40% recycling rate for domestic waste had been achieved in Hong Kong and continued efforts would be made to encourage waste recycling.

Motions

33. The Chairman referred members to the following three motions which were tabled at the meeting -

(a) *Motion moved by Mr Gary FAN -*

如政府推行垃圾按量徵費，本事務委員會要求政府需要同時調整差餉(即減差餉)，避免雙重徵費。

That if the Government is to introduce quantity-based waste charging, this Panel demands that the rates be adjusted (i.e. be lowered) concurrently to avoid double levy.

(b) *Motion moved by Mr Christopher CHUNG and seconded by Mr Steven HO -*

如政府推行垃圾按量徵費，本事務委員會要求政府需要採用分階段遞進式收費，並採用首階段免費政策。

That if the Government is to introduce quantity-based waste charging, this Panel demands that a phased and progressive charging approach be adopted and a "free of charge" policy be adopted in the first phase.

(c) *Motion moved by Mr WU Chi-wai -*

如政府推行垃圾按量徵費，本事務委員會要求政府需要以收入中立的原則將收費所得回贈與減廢有成的用戶。

That if the Government is to introduce quantity-based waste charging, this Panel demands that on the basis of the "revenue-

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neutral" principle, the charges so collected be rebated to those users who have succeeded in reducing waste.

34. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that as the three motions were not in conflict with each other, he suggested and members agreed that the motions could be moved and voted on separately.

35. The Chairman put the motions to vote. On the motion moved by Mr Gary FAN, six members voted for the motion, two members voted against it and one abstained. On the motion moved by Mr Christopher CHUNG, all nine members present voted for the motion, and no one voted against it or abstained. On the motion moved by Mr WU Chi-wai, eight members voted for the motion, no one voted against it and one member abstained. The Chairman declared that all three motions were carried.

**VI. Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs – Outcome of public consultation and way forward**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)301/12-13(04) — Administration's paper on "Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs - Outcome of public consultation and way forward"

LC Paper No. CB(1)301/12-13(05) — Background brief on "Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

LC Paper No. CB(1)330/12-13(01) — Submission from Friends of the Earth (HK) (Chinese version only))

36. USEN briefly took members through the discussion paper on "Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs - Outcome of public consultation and way forward". The Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Energy) ("PAS(EG)") briefed members on the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to restrict the sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs ("ILB") and the Government's efforts in promoting the collection and treatment of spent Compact Fluorescent Lamps ("CFL") as well as in promoting the development and application of Light Emitting Diode.

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Charter Scheme

37. Noting that the Administration would be launching a Charter Scheme with suppliers and retailers to reduce the supply of ILB, Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired about the number of suppliers and retailers who would participate in the Scheme and whether a target was set on the rate of participation. He also enquired if the Administration would be prepared to adopt a mandatory approach if the voluntary approach turned out to be ineffective for phasing out ILB and if so, whether preparatory work for the mandatory approach could start in parallel with the launching of the Charter Scheme.

38. PAS(EG) responded that there were 27 suppliers of ILB in Hong Kong and the Administration had tried to approach all of them to invite them to participate in the Charter Scheme. Except one or two suppliers who might have gone out of business and could not be reached, about half of the suppliers had agreed to participate in the Charter Scheme and the remaining ones were actively considering their participation. Participants in the Scheme would be asked to submit sales data to the Government on a quarterly basis for monitoring purposes. A review would be conducted on the effectiveness of the Charter Scheme for phasing out ILB. If it turned out that the Scheme was not successful, the Administration would not rule out the possibility of introducing a mandatory scheme. As to whether preparatory work for the mandatory scheme should be undertaken in parallel with the Charter Scheme, he said that the trades would need to be clear about whether a mandatory or voluntary approach would be adopted as a mixed approach might cause confusion. USEN emphasized that the need for legislation would be reviewed after the Charter Scheme had been implemented.

39. Mr Charles Peter MOK asked about the measures to be taken against participating suppliers and retailers of ILB who failed to comply with requirements of the Charter Scheme. PAS(EG) said that under the Charter Scheme, participating suppliers and retailers would be asked to sign a charter to stop replenishing stock of targeted ILB from the first quarter of 2013, and stop selling the targeted ILB by the end of 2013. Sales data would need to be provided to the Government for monitoring purposes on a quarterly basis, and the relevant data would be uploaded to a dedicated website. The overall effectiveness of the scheme in achieving the intended objective of phasing out ILB would be further reviewed.

40. Mr Christopher CHUNG stated that he would support a voluntary approach to phase out ILB through the Charter Scheme rather than resorting to a legislative approach, given that ILB was not a harmful substance which would justify mandatory restriction. He enquired whether the special ILB for use in audio systems would be exempted from the phasing out plan for ILB as he was concerned that its replacement would affect the sound quality. PAS(EG) said

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that the proposed restriction would only apply to those ILB which had adequate supply of more energy-efficient replacement options. The Deputy Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services/Regulatory Services ("DDEMS/RS") said that under the proposed Charter Scheme, the restriction of sales would apply to 25 watt or above non-reflector type ILB for general lighting purposes, which operated at a single phase electricity supply of 220 volts, and would not cover the special ILB used in audio systems.

41. Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether the restriction on ILB would apply to spot lights and whether measures were in place to reduce the lighting intensity of government buildings and to improve the energy efficiency of street lighting in an attempt to conserve energy. DDEMS/RS responded that the lighting intensity of government buildings would be adjusted in accordance with user requirements. For example, the lighting in offices and conference rooms should be sufficient to enable the conduct of office work and meetings. While suitable lighting lamps would be used to meet different lighting requirements, T5 fluorescent lamps were commonly used as they were more energy-efficient. The Charter Scheme would only cover ILB for general lighting purposes, but not reflector type spot lights.

Mandatory approach for phasing out ILB

42. Mr SIN Chung-kai said that members of the Democratic Party ("DP") supported a mandatory approach to phase out ILB as this would give a clear message to the public about the need to replace the energy-inefficient ILB with more energy-efficient lighting. A time frame should be set for phasing out ILB by banning the import of ILB and exhausting the existing stock of ILB. He was aware that the mandatory approach for phasing out ILB was supported by green groups. If the Administration was not prepared to adopt the mandatory approach, DP would consider introducing a Private Member's Bill on the mandatory approach.

43. USEN responded that public consultation had been conducted and there were divergent views on whether a legislative approach should be adopted to phase out ILB. At a consultation forum held with green groups, one green group supported a legislative approach, while other groups present supported a voluntary approach. The effectiveness of the Charter Scheme would be monitored by the Administration and interested parties and if the Scheme was found ineffective, the Administration would not rule out the possibility of introducing legislation to phase out ILB. The current proposed approach was considered appropriate as it could achieve the objective of phasing out ILB in a shorter period of time.

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Usage of ILB

44. Mr CHAN Hak-kan noted that the sales of ILB had dropped from 20 million in 2008 to 13.5 million in 2011, representing a drop of some 33%. He enquired if an estimate could be made on the percentage shrinkage in the sales of ILB following the launch of the Charter Scheme. PAS(EG) said that the overall sales of ILB had already been decreasing. The general lighting ILB covered by the Charter Scheme, particularly those which had adequate supply of replacement options, had dropped by some 60% during the period from 2008 to 2011. The sales of ILB were expected to drop further with the launch of the Charter Scheme, the extent of which would depend on the overall participation rate. Apart from suppliers and retailers, the Government also planned to invite major lamp users such as shopping malls to participate in the Charter Scheme and to step up public education, which could help expedite the phasing out of ILB.

45. Mr Charles Peter MOK enquired whether the Government was still using ILB. DDEMS/RS said that according to a survey conducted in 2007, government buildings had been using about 43 000 ILB. He advised that the Government had no longer purchased ILB for general lighting purposes since 2009, except under special circumstances.

Collection of spent CFL

46. Mr WU Chi-wai pointed out that although ILB was energy-inefficient, it did not contain the harmful substances as in CFL, which required special collection and treatment. He noted that the Mercury Waste Treatment Facility ("MWTF") at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre for the proper treatment of the mercury-containing waste was being expanded and upgraded for completion in March 2013, and would by then be able to handle up to 3.5 million equivalent number of mercury-containing lamps per annum. He enquired about the percentage of spent CFL treated at MWTF as against the number of spent CFL disposed of at landfills.

47. PAS(EG) replied that there were about 850 000 mercury-containing lamps received at MWTF in 2008, and the number had increased to 1.66 million in 2011. After the expansion and upgrading of MWTF in March 2013, the treatment capacity would be increased to 3.5 million mercury-containing lamps per annum. The treatment capacity would be further adjusted to meet the demand following the increased usage of CFL. As for the statistics on the disposal of untreated spent CFL at landfills, PAS(EG) advised that the Administration did not have the information in hand. Mr WU was concerned about the increasing number of untreated spent CFL being disposed of at landfills as a result of their increased usage. He considered it necessary that efforts should be stepped up to recover spent CFL.

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**VII. Any other business**

48. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:20 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
22 February 2013