

Written submission for the EA panel meeting on 28 Oct 2013 on light pollution

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Even electric vehicles and the cleanest public transport will generate air pollution via power plants, as we need to commute goods and passengers, so we cannot get rid of all vehicles but our government has tried to keep the vehicular pollution to a minimum via policies and legislation.

We don't need excessive lights, wrong-focusing lights, and late-night-still-on lights to keep our city going, but why our government still allows these ridiculous lights to keep on shining harshly via blinds and curtains into our bedrooms, which create light nuisance and energy wastage.

Our government officials have expressed that they don't have any preference on how to control the light pollution problems, it is just an excuse. When our government realized the serve waste problems, they came out to tell us that they are prepared to legislate for waste charging, expand the landfills and build an incinerator. Have they told the public that government has no preference on charging or not and let the public to choose, of course NOT.

As a taskforce member, I have spent my time with other appointed members and government officials over the last two years debating the issues, but many workable solutions e.g. setting a maximum luminous level for signboards, were not accepted as the officials claimed no other city has done that before and it is technically hard to implement!

Well it is unfortunate that, our government officials prefer Hong Kong to be a follower rather than a leader in environmental sustainability. The previous administration has appointed only two persons from green NGOs to join the taskforce among a total of 18 members to show the public that they have taken the ideas of green groups throughout the process, clever tactics!

There is general misunderstanding from the commercial sector that if the government goes for mandatory control for light pollution, businesses will be seriously affected, and Hong Kong will become a dark city at night.

The noble name - "The Pearl of the Orient" was given to Hong Kong at least half a

century ago. You can tell our city at that time was very dim compared to the city's brightness of today. Our city of that time applied lights in a well-controlled manner, but today, the ridiculous lights have tarnished this once was beautiful "Pearl".

I urge the government to control light pollution via legislation, not voluntary approaches anymore. The curfew hour should be no later than 11pm and set maximum luminous level for various signboards.

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