

From Dr Robert Hanson, C02 Feeds The World

FAO: The Bills Committee on Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal (Electrical Equipment and Electronic Equipment) (Amendment) Bill 2015 ("the Bills Committee")

### **Recommendations by Dr Robert Hanson**

Future Electronic Waste needs reducing at source not at point of disposal. Legislation needs a huge shift to address the real causes of electronic waste which we identify as a serious misunderstanding by government as to what is 'green'. This is because government has been all too gullible to follow the policies of self-titled green groups receiving sponsorship from industries to promote electronic products as 'green'.

Accordingly we want any legislation and advertising campaigns to the public to incorporate the following:

**1 All computers, telephones etc to be required to allow their batteries to be replaced – no product to be sold where batteries cannot be replaced.** Having fixed batteries is all about limiting life so that when the battery fails people will buy a new phone or computer – great for Apple et al revenues – but it generates electronic waste – do not buy the hype!!!

Additionally phones need to be phones not portable computers left on all day wasting energy and shortening their life leading to more waste – my Nokia is 12 years old – the battery lasts a week – a so called Apple environmentally friendly phone will last 2 years and the battery just one day – you are kidding yourself if you think the electronic way of doing things is environmentally friendly.

**2 Removal of electronic screens in taxis and buses** – customers don't want to be trapped into having to watch an advert as they pay for it via their taxi fair – these screens create waste – mandate to remove them from all taxis and public transport and buildings.

**3 Built in obsolescence for electronic products** is a disturbing trend from half- full printer cartridges to new fridges, washing machines and just about every household product -all claim to be 'green' – THESE ARE THE ENERGY EFFICIENT ONES – THEY DESIGNED TO BEAK, FAIL AND PRODUCE WASTE – energy saving products are all designed to fail within a limited period of time – i.e .not environmentally friendly at all. The first product to have built in obsolescence was the lightbulb. The incandescent lightbulb can last forever – literally – but under the Phoebus cartel – Osram, Philips and General Electric limited the life of a bulb to 1000 Hours. The same group have sponsored Green groups to ban the incandescent bulb and promote LED and CFL bulbs – which also have a limited life.

My Hi-Fi is 21 years old – never broken – still works and sounds better than anything new. My wife's hi-fi made by so called environmentally friendly

Philips lasts 2-3 years. We need to understand much more before policy making based on fake science by companies like Philips who sponsor the WWF to promote their products in Hong Kong

4 **CFL and LEDS lights contain over 30 electronic components, rare earth metals and many cancer causing toxins.** They use significantly more energy to make and dispose of than the incandescent bulb and come with built in obsolescence – no LED or CFL will last their claimed life – but they will generate very highly toxic electronic waste.

5 **Governments need to ban LED and CFL lighting and mandate for incandescent lighting lasting 20,000 hours because this produces no electronic waste.** Governments should stop lying about CFL and LEDs being good for the environment. CFL and LED lightbulbs, are bad for the environment (and human health). Philips sponsor the WWF and other 'Green' groups (not) to promote their patented LEDs and ban competition from low cost incandescent bulbs. Hong Kong tried banning the wrong bulb – the incandescent – when Donald Tsang's relative was in a senior position at Philips. Philips own revenue generating patents for LEDs – it does not matter which LED you buy – Philips still receive revenue from IP rights. The ban on healthy incandescents was rejected in HK because of Donald Tsang's relative working for Philips. Although the rejecting of the ban was the right decision – no LegCo member knew the differences between LED CFL and incandescent lighting – this is the problem – **the sheer incompetence of the environmental committee to understand basics** of lighting and electronic waste – this was not discussed and still does not form part of government advertising campaigns – consumers when buying a bulb are just told energy saving good for environment – **YOU HAVE FAILED IN YOUR DUTY TO INFORM PEOPLE OF THE DIFFERENCES IN BULBS AND OF THE ELECTRONIC WASTE YOU ARE PROMOTING WHEN YOU PROMOTE LED LIGHTING** – this is your big problem – you use the language of Philips, WWF and PROMOTE ELECTRONIC WASTE. YOU NEED TO BE HONEST – **YOU REPRESENT THE PEOPLE NOT PHILIPS** EVEN IF YOU DO OUT OF IGNORANCE – YOU NEED TO STAND UP AND TELL PEOPLE **LEDs CREATE ELECTRONIC WASTE AND HARM HUMANS – INCAndescent BULBS PRODUCE NO ELECTRONIC WASTE AND ARE HELATHY** – QUIT THE LIES ABOUT LEDS 'SAVING ENERGY – THEY WASTE ENERGY – USE 1000+ MORE ENERGY TO MAKE AND HAVE BUILT IN OBSolescence – THEY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO FAIL – WHICH MEANS ELEctrical WASTE.

6 **On line banking needs to be banned** – it means more computer use and more electronic waste. Most Banks also send out electronic log on devices – more electronic waste. Paper statements should be mandated free of charge so that consumers can follow their financial affairs and electronic banking should be banned or the bank required to pay an annual levy of 20,000 HKD (indexed to the real rate of inflation which needs to include house prices and other fixed assets) for each on line account to cover the waste generated by electronic banking -personal devices, personal computers + all the extra electronic junk it generates for the banks.

**7 Ban LED lighting on buildings** – it produces electronic waste and creates light pollution – an LED contains over 30+ electronic components, rare earth metals and toxins – LED lighting on buildings and tube lighting – to be banned. LEDs also dazzle.

**8. Ban LED lighting on cars – electronic waste.** Dazzling LEDs are dangerous on cars and emergency vehicles – they cause temporary blindness that has led to pedestrians, other drivers and cyclists being killed – stop the political correctness and get back to incandescent/ halogen lights that produce no electrical waste and do not dazzle. LEDs are a laser light – they are not suited for road use.

**9 Mandate to remove electronic touch screens from cars** and all their other unnecessary electronic gear in cars – not needed – act as a distraction and contribute to road accidents.

**10 Design buildings to produce less or no electrical waste – ignore BREEAM standards – they are set by the building industry to mandate the use of their products**

Take a top rated BREEAM rated building in Central compare with a BREEM fail in Tseung Kwan O. The Central building loaded for toxic CFL and LED lighting, sealed windows consumes more energy and produces electronic waste – just like the LEGCO building which has sealed window toxic bulbs and – meaning lights and air con on all day even if a cool bright day – and people are so brain washed they believe this is environmentally friendly and generates no electronic waste - as a committee you have got the whole equation on electrical waste completely wrong – and need to get back to basics – and stop hiding behind 'international standards'

**11 MICROSOFT CEATE ELECTRICAL WASTE – MANDATE TO STOP PREINSTALLATION OF WINDOWS ON COMPUTERS**

Computer companies and software companies need regular cash flow/ income. Therefore their products are designed to fail – to generate regular replacement or 'upgrades' Yet for many people XP is that is needed – it also allows for computers to use less memory than current systems. Yet because of this weak government you allow Microsoft to preinstall on computers systems that require larger memories and the need for upgrades which require new computers – this is a con – people are cheated into buying regular computer replacements – thus generating more electrical waste.

You have to deal with electronic waste at the manufacturing and sale stages and mandate for products with electronic components to guarantee at least a 10 year life and make for sale all replacement parts for 10 years after that – this will allow repairs to take place rather than replacement – and disposal of the old product.

You have to ensure that every retailer of lighting has a huge display poster spelling out the differences in electronic components and toxins for each lightbulb type and that any claims about life time are fully guaranteed. Consumers with REAL INFORMED CHOICE will not produce electronic waste. You have failed to facilitate this with all crap propaganda you put out on even a simple product like a light bulb. Ensure that people are fully aware that incandescent bulbs contain no waste no toxins whereas LEDs and CFL have over 30 electronic components, rare earth metals and cancer causing toxins – that generate electronic and waste linked to cancer.

Dr Robert Hanson  
C02 FEEDS THE WORLD  
23RD MARCH 2015