

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)894/20-21  
(These meeting notes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Notes of informal meeting for policy briefing by videoconferencing  
held on Monday, 28 December 2020, at 2:30 pm**

- Members participating** : Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP
- Public Officers attending** : Mr WONG Kam-sing, GBS, JP  
Secretary for the Environment
- Ms Maisie CHENG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of  
Environmental Protection
- Ms Irene YOUNG, JP  
Deputy Secretary for the Environment
- Dr Samuel CHUI, JP  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)  
Environmental Protection Department

Mrs Millie NG, JP  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)  
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Owin FUNG, JP  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)  
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Bruno LUK  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection  
(Special Projects)  
Environmental Protection Department

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Angel SHEK  
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Anita SIT  
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Jason KONG  
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

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**Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address**

(LC Paper No. — Administration's paper on "2020 Policy  
CB(1)358/20-21(03) Address — Policy initiatives of  
Environment Bureau: Environmental  
protection"

LC Paper Nos. — Submissions from The Hong Kong  
CB(1)358/20-21(04) and Institute of Qualified Environmental  
CB(1)380/20-21(01) Professionals Limited (English version  
only))

(Index of proceedings of the meeting is attached at the **Appendix**.)

The Chairman reminded members that as this meeting was an informal meeting, the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") would not apply and the privileges and immunities provided by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382) would not be available to the participants.

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2. At the invitation of the Chairman and with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Administration briefed members on three major areas of the environmental initiatives, namely decarbonization, emission reduction and waste reduction, in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address ("2020 Policy Address") and its Supplement.

*(Post-meeting note: The PowerPoint presentation materials were circulated to members on 28 December 2020, vide LC Paper No. CB(1)424/20-21(01).)*

Air quality

*Vehicular emissions*

3. Members noted that the Administration would formulate Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularization of electric vehicles ("EVs") ("the EV roadmap") to set forth long-term policy objectives and plans to promote the use of EVs and development of associated supporting facilities. They asked what further measures would be implemented for promoting the adoption of EVs, including whether there was a preliminary timetable for banning the sale of conventional fuel-propelled vehicles.

4. The Administration responded that it would make reference to the experiences of other places when formulating the EV roadmap, in particular the timeline for banning the sale of conventional fuel-propelled vehicles. The EV roadmap would cover measures targeted at private cars and commercial vehicles respectively, and address issues relating to the development of EV charging facilities, talent development in the vehicle repair trade, recycling of retired EV batteries, etc. Recently, the Administration had launched the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme, which subsidized eligible car parks of existing private residential buildings to install EV charging-enabling infrastructure, with a view to facilitating the installation of individual EV chargers by EV owners and encouraging private car owners to switch to EVs.

5. Members noted that the Administration had launched in 2020 an incentive-cum-regulatory programme to phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles ("DCVs") (while tightening in phases the emission standards for specified first registered vehicles to Euro VI starting from 1 July 2017). As the transport trades were facing difficulties in obtaining loans for replacing their vehicles amid the economic downturn, members called on the Administration to exercise flexibility in the implementation of the programme.

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6. The Administration advised that under the said programme, the deadline for cancelling the vehicle registrations of the first batch of Euro IV DCVs would be 31 December 2021. Since the launch of the programme in October 2020, over 2 000 applications for ex-gratia payments for scrapping Euro IV DCVs had been received. The Administration assured members that it would keep a close eye on Hong Kong's economic conditions and the business environment, maintain close communication with the transport trades, and exercise flexibility when implementing the programme.

7. As some vehicle manufacturers in the Mainland were supplying liquefied natural gas ("LNG") heavy-duty vehicles at reasonable prices, members enquired whether the Administration would consider developing a retail market for LNG and promoting the introduction of LNG vehicles into Hong Kong, upon completion of the offshore LNG terminal being built by the two power companies.

8. The Administration responded that the offshore LNG terminal was expected to be completed in 2022. The Administration adopted an open attitude towards potential applications of LNG in Hong Kong, and would keep close dialogues with the relevant trades in this regard.

9. Members asked how the Administration would assist vehicle repair workshops in acquiring the vehicle maintenance information and/or repair techniques of Euro VI vehicle models from vehicle manufacturers/suppliers, given that some operators of vehicle repair workshops could hardly afford the software and hardware required.

10. The Administration responded that under the relevant regulations made by the European Union, vehicle manufacturers/suppliers were required to make available maintenance information of Euro VI vehicles to the public at a reasonable cost. The Administration maintained an open attitude towards suggestions on how to better ensure a level playing field in the vehicle repair market, and would study the feasibility of introducing practices adopted by other jurisdictions, such as requiring vehicle manufacturers/suppliers to open up repair techniques through legislation.

*Marine emissions*

11. Members remarked that the Mainland had been progressively mandating the use of marine fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.1% by weight. As Hong Kong's statutory cap for sulphur content of marine fuel was 0.5% currently, they asked whether the Administration had plans to tighten the cap, and if so, whether financial assistance would be provided to the trade to mitigate

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the financial impact of the initiative.

12. The Administration advised that the general direction of its policy was to gradually tighten the marine fuel standards with a view to reducing air pollution. When formulating any proposal for tightening the fuel standards, the Administration would take into account the economic impact of the proposal. The Administration had been in discussion with relevant stakeholders since early 2020 on potential tightening of the sulphur content limit of marine fuel, but an implementation timetable had yet to be drawn up given the current economic downturn under the COVID-19 epidemic.

*Volatile organic compound content limits of products*

13. Noting that the Administration planned to tighten the volatile organic compound ("VOC") content limits of regulated architectural paints and was considering expanding the VOC control regime to cover household cleaning products, members asked about the public consultation process of the initiatives and urged the Administration to provide relevant information to the trade as early as possible.

14. The Administration advised that VOC contents of 51 types of architectural paints were currently regulated by the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation (Cap. 311W). Since early 2020, the Administration had been consulting stakeholders informally to gather information on the supply situation of regulated architectural paints and stakeholders' views on the plan to tighten the VOC content limits. The Administration would formulate a proposal having regard to the trade's views and local circumstances, and conduct a formal public consultation on the proposal in 2021. The feasibility of regulating the VOC contents of household cleaning products was also being explored.

Water quality

15. Members expressed concern about occasional or seasonal odour problems at some waterfronts of Victoria Harbour, and considered that the Administration should publish relevant performance indicators and data for public monitoring of the effectiveness of its work in improving the water quality of Victoria Harbour. The Administration responded that it would consider members' suggestion. It was expected that the water quality of Victoria Harbour would further improve with the implementation of various sewerage projects approved by LegCo in recent years.

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16. In response to members' concern about water pollution caused by a concrete batching plant in eastern Kowloon, the Administration said that the pollution incidents concerned were usually caused by the dropping of sand/aggregates into the sea during barging activities. The Administration was discussing with the plant's operator how to improve its operation to prevent water pollution.

Waste reduction and recycling

*Waste management strategies*

17. Members opined that the Administrate should more clearly explain to the public its waste management strategies and measures as well as the relevant performance indicators, and in particular the following aspects: the plan for the development of waste-to-energy facilities, implementation progress of various producer responsibility schemes ("PRs"), and how the Administration would support recyclers amid the downturn in the external recycling market. Members also suggested that the Administration should consider providing incentives for the construction industry to adopt greener construction methods, such as Modular Integrated Construction, with a view to reducing construction waste.

18. The Administration responded that the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" set out a multipronged approach to tackling Hong Kong's waste problems. Relevant measures included driving behavioural change through policies and legislation, mobilizing the community through waste reduction and recycling campaigns, and allocating resources to enhance waste management infrastructure. All such measures had been largely implemented in the past years, and the legislative proposal for establishing a municipal solid waste ("MSW") charging scheme was under LegCo's scrutiny. As announced in 2020 Policy Address, the Environment Bureau ("ENB") would launch a new long-term strategy blueprint on waste management. Issues relating to the sustainable development of the local recycling industry would be addressed in the new blueprint.

*Single-use plastic waste and packaging waste*

19. Members pointed out that the increased popularity of takeaway orders and online shopping amid the COVID-19 epidemic had resulted in the increased use of disposable plastic tableware and packaging materials. They enquired how the Administration would reduce the disposal of single-use plastic waste and packaging waste, and whether it would support the research and development ("R&D") as well as commercialization of innovative materials and alternative

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products that were more environmentally friendly than disposable plastic tableware.

20. The Administration replied that it was discussing with some major operators in the catering trade how to systematically reduce the provision of disposable tableware to customers. The Administration would step up efforts to promote waste reduction and recycling, and was expanding the community recycling network (i.e. Recycling Stations (formerly known as Community Green Stations), Recycling Stores (formerly known as Community Recycling Centres) and Recycling Spots) for the purpose. The community recycling network would collect more types of recyclables, including disposable plastic tableware that was properly cleaned. A Reverse Vending Machine ("RVM") Pilot Scheme would be launched to test out the use of RVMs for recovery of used plastic beverage containers. One of the tenants of EcoPark would be recycling plastic bottles into raw materials, which could be used for re-manufacturing of plastic bottles. The Green Tech Fund provided funding support for R&D and application of decarbonization and green technologies, including those for reducing waste. While some innovative materials were naturally degradable and were more environmentally friendly than plastics when disposed of, those materials might not be recyclable with the existing technologies, and hence they might not be suitable alternatives to existing plastic products from the perspective of waste reduction and recycling.

*E-waste*

21. Members sought an update of the implementation progress of the PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, including the quantity of e-waste treated by WEEE•PARK (an e-waste treatment and recycling facility in EcoPark) and the number of waste disposal licence issued so far for e-waste handling.

22. The Administration responded that WEEE•PARK had treated 22 500 tonnes of e-waste in 2020, and over 50 000 tonnes since it commenced operation in 2018. At present, there were 14 licensees for the handling of different types of regulated e-waste. To encourage market participation in the recycling of e-waste, the Administration had been inviting contractors with a waste disposal licence for e-waste to carry out the treatment and recycling of washing machines that were collected outside the statutory removal services.

*Waste paper*

23. Member sought justifications for the planned development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark instead of a manufacturing plant for recycled paper

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products at the higher end of the value chain.

24. The Administration explained that compared with the paper production process, the advanced waste paper pulping technology was more land-efficient and consumed less electricity. As Hong Kong had tight land supply and relatively high electricity cost, the production of pulp was more suitable for Hong Kong. There was high global demand for pulp and free trading was normally allowed for the material. Therefore, there should be ample export outlets for the pulp produced by the proposed facility.

*Collection of recyclables*

25. Members urged the Administration to expand the geographical coverage and enhance the publicity of the community recycling network, and review the management of recycling bins in public places, with a view to promoting resource recovery in the community. The Administration was also requested to strengthen monitoring of the operations of street corner recycling shops, as some of them had frequently caused street obstruction and environmental nuisance to nearby residents.

26. The Administration responded that it endeavoured to strike a balance between promoting recycling and maintaining environmental hygiene. It would continue to set up more collection points under the community recycling network.

Combating climate change

27. Members enquired about the Administration's strategies for achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 (a target announced in 2020 Policy Address), and whether Hong Kong was on the right track for achieving the carbon intensity reduction target by 2030 in "Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+".

28. The Administration responded that given the current progress of decarbonization measures, the carbon intensity reduction target by 2030 was likely to be achievable. The target of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 was challenging. The Council for Sustainable Development had recently submitted the Report on Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy to the Administration. The Administration would make reference to the recommendations made in the report and discuss with stakeholders the strategies for achieving the carbon neutrality target.



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Development of green industries and creation of job opportunities

29. Members noted that ENB had launched the Green Employment Scheme, which was supported by the Anti-epidemic Fund, to promote the employment of fresh graduates amid the economic downturn, and a monthly salary subsidy of \$5,610 was provided to each eligible fresh graduate for 18 months under the scheme. Members asked about the potential career paths of graduates benefited from the scheme, and whether the Administration would consider continued provision of the salary subsidy after the expiry of the 18-month period. They also sought more details on ENB's role in supporting Hong Kong's "green recovery".

30. The Administration responded that it endeavoured to promote the development of green industries and creation of job opportunities for young people. The Green Employment Scheme could support talent development in environment-related fields for meeting Hong Kong's manpower needs on various environmental fronts. The Administration would study the way forward of the scheme in due course having regard to the economic conditions, the youth employment situation, stakeholders' views, etc. Some other measures implemented by ENB/the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"), such as the Feed-in Tariff ("FiT") Scheme, also helped create job and business opportunities.

31. Members said that some members of the public had complained about the lengthy approval process of some applications for FiT and cases of fraud involving suppliers of renewable energy equipment. The Administration advised that ENB/EPD would relay the concerns to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, which would monitor the development of distributed renewable energy in Hong Kong.

Traffic noise mitigation

32. Members sought details on the "thin surfacing low noise material" being used on some road sections for traffic noise mitigation, including the material's performance compared with conventional low noise surfacing materials.

33. The Administration explained that open-textured low noise surfacing materials were conventionally used on high-speed roads to reduce traffic noise. Since 2019, the Administration had been conducting a trial of the thin surfacing material at 27 road sections. Preliminary results revealed that the thin surfacing material was more effective in noise reduction compared with the open-textured materials. The Administration expected that more concrete results of the trial would be available in mid-2021.

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Enhancing country parks' facilities

34. Members expressed concern that some facilities and hiking trails in country parks were overcrowded due to the influx of visitors following the COVID-19 outbreak. They suggested that the Administration should provide more facilities in country parks, especially those catering for the whole family, so that country parks could become more enjoyable for people in different age groups and with different needs, and a diversion of visitors could be achieved to tackle the overcrowding problem. To increase public involvement in country park enhancements, the Administration should also consider organizing design competitions, from which selected design proposals would be adopted for the development of new facilities in country parks.

35. The Administration advised that based on the results of a consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas commissioned by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD"), the consultant formulated several enhancement proposals for country parks, including the provision of new facilities to offer more diversified experience for visitors. An example of the proposed new facilities was glamping sites, which would be suitable for the whole family. AFCD would implement the enhancement proposals in stages, and the Administration would consider members' suggestion on organizing design competitions for country parks' facilities. In addition to the above, the Administration was providing support for the implementation of revitalization projects in remote countryside through the Countryside Conservation Office ("CCO"). To support eco-tourism, CCO would work with relevant bureaux/departments to jointly develop a set of licensing requirements and procedural guidelines for guesthouses and catering business in the countryside.

Prevention of COVID-19

36. Members asked about the details of the sewage surveillance conducted at some housing estates for prevention of COVID-19, and urged ENB/EPD to strengthen coordination with other relevant bureaux/departments in implementing disease prevention measures and improving the hygiene conditions of the environment and building drainage system.

37. The Administration explained that it had sponsored a multi-disciplinary team of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a preliminary study on the monitoring of the COVID-19 virus level in sewage. The purpose of the study was to provide data to facilitate the implementation of virus prevention measures, and there was no direct relationship between the study and the

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management of building drainage systems. The Administration took note of members' view about enhancing interdepartmental coordination, and advised that ENB/EPD had been working closely with the Food and Health Bureau and the Home Affairs Bureau on the provision of mobile COVID-19 testing services. It was also expected that interdepartmental efforts to promote recycling, such as the collection of source-separated household food waste under a pilot scheme, could help improve environmental hygiene conditions in general through reducing waste.

38. Members enquired whether the Administration would enhance enforcement of anti-epidemic regulations in country parks, given that some country park visitors were seen to have violated the regulations, such as the requirement on the wearing of masks.

39. The Administration replied that it would continue to strengthen public education on and enforcement of anti-epidemic and social distancing measures. AFCD had taken enforcement actions in country parks against people suspected to have breached relevant regulations.

40. The meeting ended at 4:02 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
11 May 2021

**Proceedings of the informal meeting for policy briefing  
by videoconferencing of the Panel on Environmental Affairs  
on Monday, 28 December 2020, at 2:30 pm**

<b>Time Marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
<b>Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address</b>			
000305 – 000524	Chairman	Meeting arrangements	
000525 – 001539	Administration Chairman	Briefing by the Administration	
001540 – 002557	Chairman Mr Wilson OR Administration	Monitoring of the COVID-19 virus level in sewage  Water pollution caused by a concrete batching plant in eastern Kowloon	
002558 – 003301	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Administration	Phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles  Introduction of liquefied natural gas vehicles  Sulphur content limit of marine fuel  Vehicle repair information of Euro VI vehicles	
003302 – 003956	Chairman Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok Administration	Green Employment Scheme  Combating climate change  Single-use plastic waste	
003957 – 004626	Chairman Ms Elizabeth QUAT Administration	Single-use plastic waste and packaging waste	
004627 – 005242	Chairman Mr KWOK Wai-keung Administration	Environmental nuisances caused by street corner recycling shops  Promoting the adoption of electric vehicles	
005243 – 005842	Chairman Mr SHIU Ka-fai Administration	Volatile organic compound limits of products  Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment	
005843 – 010609	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Administration	Water quality of Victoria Harbour  Waste management strategies	

<b>Time Marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
010610 – 011316	Chairman Mr Steven HO Administration	Supporting Hong Kong's "green recovery"  Enforcement of anti-epidemic regulations in country parks	
011317 – 012016	Chairman Administration	Single-use plastic waste  Enhancing collection of recyclables  Green Employment Scheme  Improving environment hygiene for disease prevention	
012017 – 012637	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Administration	Recycling of waste paper  Traffic noise mitigation	
012638 – 013530	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Administration	Enhancing country parks' facilities	