

**Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the  
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee  
held on 25 September 2014 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Present**

Dr Joseph LEE, GBS, JP	(Chairman)
Mr CHAN Jor-kin, Kenneth	
Ms FUNG Dun-mi, Amy	
Mr LAM Chiu-ying, SBS	
Mr LEUNG Wai-kuen, Edward, JP	
Mr TSE Chin-wan, JP	DDEP(1), EPD
Dr CHUI Ho-Kwong, Samuel	P(CR), EPD
Mr KWAN Pak-keong	Chief Curriculum Development Officer, EDB
Dr Jackie YIP	Senior Conservation Officer, AFCD

**In Attendance**

Ms Anita SW TSUI	CEO(CR)1, EPD (Secretary)
Mr TSOI Kwan-sang, Steve	SEO(CR)1, EPD
Mr KAM Ka-lung, Simon	EM(CR), EPD

**Absent with Apologies**

Ms CHAN Sui-kuen, Agnes	
Professor LO Man-chi, Irene	
Ms WONG Wai-ching, Connie, SBS, JP	
Mr Douglas WOO	

**In Attendance for Item 3**

Mr AU Wai-kwong, Elvis, JP	AD(CI), EPD
Mr LAU Chi-fai, Stanley	S(FWM)2, EPD

**In Attendance for Item 5**

Mr Alfred WONG	Chief Executive of Yan Chai Hospital (YCH)
Ms Lillian FOK	Admin. & HR Manager of YCH
Ms Sasa LEE	Manager (Youth and Childcare Services) of YCH

**In Attendance for Item 6**

Ms AU Wing-tsz, Michelle	PA/SEN, ENB
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**In Attendance for Item 7**

Miss Elaine CHUNG	E(CR)1, EPD
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## **Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all Members attending the eighth meeting of the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Committee.

### **Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 26.6.2014**

2. The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 June 2014 were circulated to Members on 29 July 2014. The meeting confirmed the draft minutes without amendment.

### **Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

#### Para. 3 Financial Position of the ECF

3. Ms Anita SW TSUI reported that the ECF's balance in bank as of end of August 2014 was \$1,012.57 million whereas the uncommitted balance, with amounts for approved projects deducted, was \$102.48 million. The investment return of \$98 million generated from the seed money of \$4.7 billion in 2013 was kept at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and would be retrieved for use depending on ECF's balance in bank and anticipated cash flow in subsequent years.

### **Agenda Item 3: Further Funding Support for Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates (ECF Paper 24/2014-15)**

4. Mr Elvis AU briefed Members about the proposals for further funding support for food waste recycling projects in housing estates set out in ECF Paper 24/2014-15. He recapitulated that in February 2011, the ECF Committee endorsed the provision of funding support to the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates (FWR Scheme) with an earmarked amount of \$50 million. The objectives of the Scheme were to promote food waste reduction and source separation and recycling at the domestic sector, to try out the logistics in the collection and recycling of food waste for future reference and to engender behavioral change of the participating households. In November 2011, the Waste Reduction Projects Vetting Subcommittee (WRPVSC) approved the applications of 11 housing estates for Phase I of the Scheme (Phase 1 Projects) with grants totalling \$9 million. The two-year funding support for the 11 Phase 1 Projects would expire on different dates between August 2014 and October 2015. In October 2012, noting the generally positive results and the public's expectation to fast-track food waste recycling projects in Hong Kong, the WRPVSC approved the rolling out of Phase 2 of the Scheme. So far 28 projects with grants totalling about \$30 million were approved under Phase 2 and the first Phase 2 project was expected to start operation in September 2014. The two-year funding support for these Phase 2 projects would expire between 2016 and 2017.

5. Mr Elvis AU further said that given the significant upfront capital cost in buying a food waste composter, an applicant housing estate would be given funding to lease a food waste composter for 24 months initially. After the 24-month rental period, the applicant housing estate might seek funding from the ECF to purchase the composter in order to sustain the programme, and the funding implications of the purchase option would be separately worked out. An assessment was conducted in mid-2014 to ascertain the interest of participating housing estates in exercising the purchase or buy-back option. The findings revealed that some estates would have difficulties to finance the full operation cost with their own resources as those households not participating in the Scheme might not be willing to pay for the project. In the lack of further funding support, these estates would most likely discontinue the food waste recycling programme. In light of the above and the strategy for tackling food waste as stated in the “A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022” promulgated by the Environment Bureau (ENB) in February 2014, the Environment Protection Department (EPD) therefore proposed (i) to provide further funding support up to a maximum of 50% of the actual operation costs for another two years to those estates approved under the FWR Scheme that were ready to continue with food waste recycling but needed funding assistance for the time being; and (ii) to extend the FWR Scheme by earmarking a further \$10 million after the depletion of the earmarked funding of \$50 million to allow more housing estates to participate in food waste recycling. The WPRVSC discussed the proposals at its meeting on 10 September 2014 and recommended the ECF Committee to approve the proposals.

6. In response to a Member’s enquiry, Mr Elvis AU replied that with a maximum of 50% of the actual operation costs to be supported by ECF for another two years and EPD’s continued provision of technical support and help-desk service on the implementation of the programme, it was estimated that about six out of the 11 participating estates in Phase 1 of the Scheme would be interested in continuing the operation of the programme.

7. Replying to the Chairman’s enquiry about the achievements of the FWR Scheme, Mr Elvis AU advised that to tackle the food waste problem, the Government had put enormous efforts to promote avoidance and minimization of food waste generation at source, and recycling of inevitable food waste to useful resources. While the current participation of households in food waste collection and recycling had room for further improvement, the introduction of the FWR Scheme had created sound impacts on inducing attitudinal and behavioural changes, and raising awareness of the participating residents on reduction and source separation of food waste. As reflected from the findings of surveys conducted, the amount of food waste generated by participating estates in general had decreased. The feedbacks and achievements of the Scheme were positive and encouraging.

8. A Member enquired how to measure the deliverables of the approved projects and to ensure that the participating estates would maintain the momentum to sustain the education elements of the projects. Mr Elvis AU replied that to measure the project achievements, surveys on behavioral changes in supporting source separation and waste recycling of the participating households would be conducted

in the participating estates before and after project implementation. In addition, NGOs would be engaged to organize relevant educational activities to the households. Moreover, education pamphlets were prepared in five different languages to facilitate education to different households including their domestic helpers. EPD would also carry out site inspections to the participating estates to evaluate the effectiveness of the projects and provide necessary technical support as appropriate.

9. After deliberation, the Chairman concluded the meeting's views that the proposals for further funding support for food waste recycling projects in housing estates should be approved.

**Agenda Item 4: Sik Sik Yuen – Incense Smoke & Odour Collection & Filtering System and Incense Ash Regeneration  
(ECF Paper 25/2014-15)**

10. Ms Anita SW TSUI briefed Members about the funding application proposed by Sik Sik Yuen (SSY) as set out in ECF Paper 25/2014-15. The project, which was part of SSY's greening programme under the Green Non-government Organization Scheme, aimed to demonstrate the technology for improving the air quality in the Wong Tai Sin Temple through reducing air pollutants and odour from incense burning, and to recycle the ashes generated from incense burning for useful purposes. The ECF Committee had earmarked a budget of \$4,344,000 for this project. The Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee (RPVSC) initially examined SSY's application at its meeting held on 29 May 2014, and considered that the project proponent should improve the proposal in various aspects. To address the requests of the RPVSC, SSY had modified the project with a revised budget of \$5,258,000, which necessitated a reallocation of \$914,000 from the surplus funds in other projects under the greening programme to meet the shortfall in this project. RPVSC considered at its meeting held on 25 August 2014 that the revised project proposal was worthy of support and recommended the application to ECF Committee for approval.

11. Note

12. After deliberation, the Chairman concluded the meeting's views that the proposed budgetary reallocation should be accepted and the application should be approved with a grant of \$5,258,000.

**Agenda Item 5: Yan Chai Hospital – Proposed Programme Revision and Extension of Greening Programme and Consultancy Services  
(ECF Paper 26/2014-15)**

13. Ms Anita SW TSUI briefed the meeting about Yan Chai Hospital (YCH)'s three-year greening programme which was originally scheduled to end in July 2014. She said that YCH had recently reviewed the progress of projects under the greening programme in conjunction with the consultant, the Hong Kong

Productivity Council (HKPC). Based on YCH's assessment on the progress of the programme, YCH sought the approval of the ECF Committee for the following requests –

- (a) to extend the duration of the greening programme by 30 months up to 31 December 2016;
- (b) to implement three new green initiatives and enhance the scope of an existing project through the deployment of surplus funds from other projects; and
- (c) to extend the consultancy agreement with HKPC by 30 months with an additional budget of \$480,000 to be met by surplus funds derived from other projects.

14. Mr Alfred WONG, Ms Lillian FOK and Ms Sasa LEE of YCH were invited to join the meeting at this juncture to brief Members about YCH's proposals.

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22. Representatives of YCH were discharged from the meeting at this juncture.

23. After deliberation, The Chairman concluded the meeting's views that YCH's proposed programme revision, extension of the greening programme and consultancy services (with an additional funding of \$480,000) by 30 months up to 31 December 2016 as set out in ECF Paper 26/2014-15 should be approved in-principle.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Presentation on the Government's Publicity on Waste Issue**

24. The Chairman briefed Members that at the ECF Committee meeting convened on 5 March 2014, Members suggested that a briefing on the Government's efforts and plans on publicity for waste management / waste reduction matters could be arranged to facilitate the ECF Committee and its Vetting Subcommittees in selecting waste-related projects for funding support.

25. Ms Michelle AU of ENB was invited to join the meeting at this juncture and to provide a briefing to Members.

26. Ms Michelle AU informed the meeting that she would like to take the opportunity to brief Members about the Government's efforts on publicity for waste-related issues. She said that a three streams approach was adopted in tackling waste problems in Hong Kong, viz. "Use Less, Waste Less", clean recycling and the needs of waste treatment facilities.

27. Ms Michelle AU said that on "Use Less, Waste Less", the Government had launched the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) under which a series of activities were organized to promote awareness of the community on the waste management problems facing Hong Kong. The design and use of 'Big Waster' in the publicity materials had attracted much public attention on the food waste issues whereas the development of a mobile app titled "Waste Less" provided the public with information on nearby recyclable collection points. Leveraging the extensive network of the participating organizations of the Campaign, the good practices on food waste reduction were widely promoted. In addition, the Government issued "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" (the Blueprint) in 2013, which analysed the challenges and opportunities of waste management in Hong Kong, and mapped out a comprehensive strategy, targets, policies and action plans for waste management for the coming ten years with a view to tackling the waste crisis in Hong Kong. With effect from 1 April 2015, the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags would be fully implemented which would help further reduce the use of plastic bags in retail outlets.

28. Ms Michelle AU further said that on clean recycling, ENB had launched massive publicity in housing estates and television channels on how to recycle glass bottles, rechargeable batteries and energy-saving devices in a proper way. Newly designed recycling bins would be launched and placed in streets soon. As for waste treatment facilities, ENB had invited several reputable professionals to record a series of announcements in public interests for television broadcasting with a view to promoting the imminent needs for such facilities in Hong Kong for waste treatment. Promotional advertisements were also placed on newspapers, MTR stations and billboards at Tseung Kwan O and Tai Lam Tunnels. Ms AU added that a Facebook account had also been created to provide a platform for communicating the environmental issues with the young generation. She stressed said that the participation of the whole community was of utmost importance for the smooth implementation of the waste policies.

29. Mr C W TSE supplemented that ECF had been supporting various projects to demonstrate and promote technologies and practices for reduction, recycling, reuse and management of wastes. Apart from supporting various educational programmes, the ECF had also been working with various partners such as Green NGOs to assist in the promotion of green messages to the community. The Chairman said that ECF could join hands in promoting environmental protection through granting funding support for those projects which could help sustain, among the community, the momentum of the Government's policy initiatives

in waste management. Green NGOs could be invited to assist in the promotion of waste reduction. A Member shared the Chairman's view and considered that the promotion strategy at the community and district level was also important.

30. Replying to the Chairman, Ms Michelle AU said that considering the present progress, the Government had confidence that the targets stated in the Blueprint could be achieved. A Member supplemented that the Environmental Campaign Committee also supported promotional activities carried out at community level. The Member said that communication with stakeholders through multiple channels was essential, and that new promotion channels had been developing rapidly in recent years.

31. A Member opined that there were needs for introducing legislations for waste charging and producer responsibility schemes with a view to solving the waste problems facing Hong Kong. Another Member said that public relation strategy and environment education were equally important. The Chairman suggested that estate management companies and restaurants could be invited to participate in the promotion campaigns, and share their experiences and achievements in waste separation, reduction and recycling.

32. The Chairman thanked Ms Michelle AU for the briefing before Ms AU left the meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Funding Applications recommended by the Waste Reduction Projects Vetting Subcommittee**

33. Dr Samuel CHUI briefed Members about the following proposals considered by the WRPVSC at its meeting held on 10 September 2014 and recommended to the ECF Committee for approval -

- (i) 2Gather – Glass Recycling for a Greener Tomorrow  
(ECF Paper 27/2014-15)

This project was an extension of a current 24-month project, which would end in March 2015. The project aimed to promote glass bottle recycling in bars and restaurants, housing estates and schools in Central and Western District. The WRPVSC supported this application with the recommended budget of \$4,943,850.26.

- (ii) The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong – Hung Hom District Waste Recovery Scheme  
(ECF Paper 28/2014-15)

This project aimed to promote source separation of waste to residents of Hung Hom and to provide collection service for plastic recyclables to participating buildings. The WRPVSC supported this application with the recommended budget of \$2,978,520.

- (iii) United Labour Chi Hong Association Limited – Ho Man Tin, North To Kwa Wan and Kowloon City Household Waste Recovery Scheme (ECF Paper 29/2014-15)

This project was an extension of a current 18-month project, which would end on 31 December 2014. The project aimed to promote source separation of waste to residents of Ho Man Tin, North To Kwa Wan and Kowloon City, and to provide collection service of plastic recyclables for participating buildings. The WRPVSC supported this application with the recommended budget of \$3,342,095.20.

- (iv) Environmental Association Limited – Ways for Plastic Recycling (ECF Paper 30/2014-15)

This project was an extension of a current 12-month project, which would end on 30 June 2015. The project aimed to promote source separation of waste to residents of Tai Po and to provide collection service of plastic recyclables for participating buildings. The WRPVSC supported this application with the recommended budget of \$3,152,760.

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37. After deliberation, the Chairman concluded the meeting's views that the four applications set out in ECF Papers 27 – 30/2014-15 should be approved at the funding amounts recommended by the WRPVSC at its meeting on 10 September 2014.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business**

“Public Education Programme for the ‘Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)’ (Policy Framework)” (PEP)

38. Ms Anita SW TSUI updated the meeting about the latest position of the PEP funding scheme. She recapitulated that in 2006, the ECF Committee set aside \$10 million to support the PEP funding scheme with a view to encouraging NGOs to organize public education campaigns to support and complement the policy initiatives set out in the Policy Framework. As the Blueprint was put up in 2013, the PEP funding scheme had come to a close and no new application would be accepted. The last project approved under the PEP was already completed in February 2014. Waste-related applications with worthwhile educational value could continue to be submitted to the ECF under the Environmental Education and Community Action Projects Funding Scheme for consideration.

Update on the Task Force on the Review of the Performance of the ECF  
(ECF Paper 31/2014-15)

39. Dr Samuel CHUI said that according to the decision of the ECF Committee reached at its meeting held on 26 June 2014, a Task Force chaired by the Chairman of the RPVSC and comprising Members from the ECF Committee and various Vetting Subcommittees was formed to review the performance of the ECF. At its first meeting on 11 September 2014, the Task Force discussed the scope of the review exercise and agreed that a study should be conducted to map out the footprint, performance and sustainability of the ECF-funded projects. The meeting agreed to proceed with the review along the following broad principles –

- (a) The fundamental principles of the ECF should be adhered to, i.e. projects to be funded should be able to contribute to the overall environment of Hong Kong, or raise environmental awareness of the local community; the benefits to be derived from a project must accrue to the local community as a whole and not just to individuals or a single organization; and projects must be non-profit-making in nature;
- (b) The review should evaluate the macroscopic / collective impacts of ECF-funded projects, based on the microscopic impacts of individual projects. Aspects to be covered in the review might include the raising of environmental awareness and knowledge building, inducing attitudinal or behavioural changes, sustainability of the projects and their impacts, and implementation for future development and directions; and
- (c) The outputs and deliverables of ECF-funded projects should be mapped out geographically to provide information on the footprints and cumulative impacts of the ECF.

The meeting decided that the ECF Secretariat should draw up a proposal based on the above principles, which should include other operational details such as the timeframe for the study, resources required, and who should carry out the study, etc. for further consideration by the Task Force Members.

40. Dr Samuel CHUI further said that to take forward the recommendations of the Task Force, the ECF Secretariat suggested reserving \$1 million of the ECF funding for carrying out the study in the form of a research project, which will cover the following tasks -

- (a) Geographical and functional mapping of the projects
- (b) Sustainability of the individual projects
- (c) Outcome review

The ECF Secretariat would prepare a brief on the study and related invitation documents, and would seek the Task Force's comments. Local universities would

be invited to apply for the project on a competition basis under the Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects funding scheme. The Task Force would assess applications received and select the most meritorious project, and would steer the implementation of the selected projects. On the timeframe, it was anticipated that the findings and recommendations would be available in 18 months.

41. The Chairman supported the approach suggested by the ECF Secretariat in taking forth the study. A Member opined that the study findings should provide recommendations on how to make the operation of ECF more efficient and assessments on the effectiveness of various ECF funding schemes.

42. After deliberation, the meeting agreed to the arrangement of the proposed review study as set out in ECF Paper 31/2014-15.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Date of Next Meeting**

43. As the current term of the ECF Committee would expire on 15 October 2014, the Chairman thanked all Members for their contributions in the past two years.

44. The meeting ended at 11:35 a.m.

#### **Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee October 2014**

Note: The paragraph will not be included in the version of notes to be uploaded to the webpage of ECF according to the standing practice of not disclosing the detailed reasons for supporting or rejecting an application. The ECF webpage contains a general disclaimer that “Reasons for supporting/rejecting an application had been made known to the project proponents concerned, and the public could ask the project proponents direct for such information.”