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Minutes of 20th Meeting of ECF Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-Committee

Date : 15 July 2008 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Rm 2825 Conference Room, 28/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai

Present

The Honourable CHOY So-yuk, JP (Chairperson)
Mr Ricky FAN
Mr Barry KWONG
Dr Arthur LAU
Mr LEUNG Wai-on
Mr LUI Tung-ming
Ms LEUNG Oi-mui, Amy
Professor Jonathan WONG
Mr CHUNG Kong-mo
Ms Goretti LAU
Mr LAM Kwok-hing, Wilfred, JP
Mr Francis WONG Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Elaine CHUNG EPD (Secretary)
Ms Angie WAN EPD (Assistant Secretary)

Absent with apologies

Dr TSANG Po-keung, Eric
Mr HO Siu-ping, Peter
Ms Edith NGAN
Dr YAU Wing-kwong
Professor POON Chi-sun

In attendance

Dr Ellen CHAN EPD
Mr C S LAI EPD
Ms Sonia LO EPD

Welcoming Remark

The Chairperson welcomed all Members and representatives of the EPD.

I. Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the 19th meeting held on 25 March 2008 were confirmed without amendment.

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II. Progress report on Source Separation of Waste (SSW) Programme

(a) Progress review on SSW Programme in housing estates

3. Mr C S LAI reported that since 2005, the EPD had paid more than 4,500 recruitment visits to about 1,800 housing estates/buildings to appeal for their participation in the SSW programme. As at 30 June 2008, 922 housing estates/buildings covering some 3.4 million population had signed up to join the SSW programme. Out of these 922 housing estates/buildings, 98 had received ECF's subsidy amounting to \$4.1 million.

4. The Chairperson asked and Mr C S LAI replied that currently 6 pairs of EPD contract staff had been involved in the SSW recruitment work. Apart from visiting the housing estates/buildings, the contract staff had to monitor the implementation progress of the estates/buildings and help out in other waste reduction and recovery activities. The Chairperson requested Mr C S LAI to provide more information about the working schedule and manpower involved in reaching out to the housing estates/buildings at the next meeting.

5. In response to Ms Amy LEUNG's question about whether there was any analysis on the low recruitment rate, Mr C S LAI explained that the housing estates/buildings had different reasons for not joining the SSW programme such as inadequate space on each building floor for setting up waste separation facilities, insufficient funding and failure to gain support from owners' or incorporated owners' committees. The recruitment teams would re-visit housing estates at certain intervals.

6. The Chairperson was pleased to inform Members that under the Buildings (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) Regulation just approved by the LegCo, a mandatory requirement for provision of a refuse storage and material recovery room on every floor of new domestic buildings would be imposed with effective from 1 December 2008.

(b) Way forward for extending SSW Programme to Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Buildings

7. Dr Ellen CHAN briefed Members on the WPR Paper 01/2008-09. C&I buildings, in a broader sense, also covered non-residential buildings of non-profit-making nature such as tertiary institutes, hospitals, community facilities and premises. Of 5,000 C&I buildings in Hong Kong, 396 had signed up for the SSW programme and 334 had gone through EPD's assessment and received certificates of recognition. To encourage more C&I buildings to join the SSW programme, two proposals were suggested for Members' consideration :

- (a) To extend the scope of the on-going ECC's "Campaign on Promoting Domestic Waste Recycling" to cover C&I buildings. Each C&I building could apply for at most 5 free sets of recycling bins on the basis of one set per common accessible floor ; and
- (b) To extend the scope of the on-going ECF's subsidy scheme for SSW programme to cover C&I buildings, targeting buildings which would require more than 5 sets of recycling bins or tailor-made facilities. Such applications would be submitted to this Sub-committee for approval.

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8. After discussion, the Chairperson summed up Members' views as follows :
- (a) The SSW programme should be extended to C&I buildings and the two proposals as set out in the WPR Paper 01/2008-09 were agreeable ;
 - (b) EPD should accord higher priority to recruiting those smaller-scale C&I buildings (i.e. those without owners' or incorporated owners' committees which make up around 70% of the total number of C&I buildings in Hong Kong) ; and
 - (c) All C&I buildings, regardless of whether it was profit-making or non-profit-making, should be eligible to apply for free distribution of recycling bins or funding support.

9. Dr Ellen CHAN advised that the \$5 million set aside for the SSW subsidy programme for housing estates was almost used up with a balance of about \$0.9 million. With Members' support for extending the programme to C&I buildings, the Secretariat would proceed to seek ECF Committee's agreement to inject additional funding for the extended subsidy programme.

(Post-meeting notes : The ECF Committee approved the allocation of an additional \$5M from ECF to support on-going SSW programme, and the extension of the SSW programme to cover also C&I buildings by circulation on 7 August 2008.)

10. Mr Francis WONG added that the ECF had allocated another \$5 million for ECC's "Campaign on Promoting Domestic Waste Recycling" to procure waste recycling bins for free distribution to housing estates. With Members' consent, he would proceed to seek ECC's agreement to extend the campaign to cover also C&I buildings.

(Post-meeting notes : The ECC endorsed the proposal of extending the scope of its "Campaign on Promoting Domestic Waste Recycling" to cover C&I buildings by circulation on 18 August 2008.)

III. Vetting of Applications

11. Ms Sonia LO and Ms Elaine CHUNG briefed Members on the 3 new CWR applications, i.e. project nos. 139 & 141 and 142 respectively. After discussion, the Meeting rejected project nos. 139 and 141 and supported project no. 142. Details of the decision were given at the *Appendix*.

IV. Any Other Business

12. There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The date and venue for the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-Committee Secretariat
September 2008

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Appendix

**Summary on New Applications Vetted at 20th Meeting
of Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-Committee on 15 July 2008**

No.	Organization	Project	Applied Amount (\$)	Approved Amount (\$)	Decision	Remarks
139	Tai Po Environmental Association	Electronic Recycle Integration in Community (ERIC)	\$ 499,930	-	Rejected	<p>The Meeting rejected the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) As an extension of the existing project – WRP 118 “Advanced Collection Machine for Recyclable Materials at a Local Community – Tai Po District & Kornhill”, the proposal does not show any significant enhancement, and therefore the recovery rate and cost effectiveness of the project are expected to remain low; ii) As an extension project, the project fails to prove its self-sustainability; and iii) The supplier of the vending machine should be responsible for promoting the machine, the cost of which should not be further subsidized by ECF.
141	The White Wing Conservation Association	Carbon Power Case and Printer Ink Case Recycling Plan	\$547,844	-	Rejected	<p>The Meeting did not support the application because -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Similar recovery programmes have been organized by other organizations and private recyclers; ii) The applicant’s role in the project mainly involves coordination work but not waste recovery; iii) The project is considered not cost-effective as staff cost makes up a large proportion of the budget; and iv) It may not be necessary for ECF to fund similar project, especially the recovery is potentially viable in private market.

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No.	Organization	Project	Applied Amount (\$)	Approved Amount (\$)	Decision	Remarks
142	Central & Western Mid-Levels Owners Association	中西區及半山居民樓層分類及廢料回收計劃	\$495,200	\$469,200	Supported	<p>The Meeting supported the application taking into consideration of the following -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) As the applicant has direct connection with the owners or residents' organisations of the single-block buildings in the districts, which the EPD often has difficulty to reach, the recruitment work of SSW programme can be carried out more effectively; and ii) The project will serve as a trial to test the effectiveness of running similar district-based programmes; <p>The budget item for website design has been trimmed down from \$40,000 to \$20,000, and the item for website maintenance has been trimmed down from \$12,000 to \$6,000 since the project will be running for 18 months instead of 3 years.</p> <p>The project will be reviewed after 6 months' operation.</p>