



Environmental Policy Monthly

Environmental Protection Administration, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

Feature Column

Green Living Information Platform

With the ultimate aim to guide citizens toward green consumerism and green lifestyles, the EPA has streamlined four existing websites related to Green Mark ecolabeling information into a single website. This provides a single window through which citizens, enterprises and government agencies can receive information on green consumption, the Green Mark and related products.

As far as Taiwan's efforts to promote the Green Mark ecolabel, the government has made great achievements in terms of green procurement, but there is still room for improvement among citizens and corporations. Wielding the Internet to market green consumption and green lifestyles to citizens, the EPA has reintegrated existing Green Mark websites and added new functions to create a single portal website - the Green Living Information Website (<http://greenliving.epa.gov.tw/>). This new website was officially launched on 1 January 2008.

Four Websites Merged into One to Promote Green Consumption

The EPA has spared no effort in promoting green consumption and setting up the Green Mark system in recent years. From 1996, the EPA successively established the Green Mark Information Website, the Government Green Procurement Report Website, the

Green Mark Digital Document System and the Buy Green online store.

The Green Mark Information Website was the first website of its kind, providing instant information on the implementation status of Green Mark plans, the promotion of Green Mark plans, and other online services. The EPA further established the "Buy Green" shopping website in May 2007 to make it more convenient for citizens and corporations to purchase green products.

In the past, Green Mark information was not systematized, making it hard to promote green lifestyles among the citizenry. There was a demand to not only spread knowledge and information but also provide services to companies and government agencies. The former Buy Green online store failed to effectively promote voluntary citizenry green consumption and form connections with the information on the website.

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The Green Living Information Website was established to reduce redundancy of information, enhance the efficiency and quality of system maintenance and management, as well as provide citizens a single window to obtain information on green consumption and the Green Mark.

The EPA combined these four first generation website systems - Green Mark Information Website, Buy Green, Government Green Procurement Report Website, and the Green Mark Digital Document System - into one integrated portal website. Apart from Buy Green, which in the short term is maintained as a link due to cash flow problems, the other three website systems required substantial integration to make a new second generation system that could completely replace the old systems. Thus in the future all information about green products and green actions can all be integrated into this single portal website to satisfy consumers' desire for one-stop shopping.

The second generation system has two main objectives: 1) Complement the promotion of Green Mark and private sector green consumption plans by maintaining an integrated website for citizens with information on green living; 2) Establish a citizens' green living information database, using the Internet to market green living and green consumption concepts. Serving as a single window with diverse information on green consumption, the Green Mark, and products, the website has special areas

for children and English speakers in the interest of providing considerate services to all citizens, environmental product manufacturers, retailers and government agencies. signed a mutual declaration with seven ally nations' environmental ministers and senior officials. The nations are Columbia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. The crux of the agreement stressed progress on greenhouse gas reductions and adjustments, improved environmental quality and sustainable management of the environment.

User-Friendly Interface to Strengthen Interaction and Feedback Mechanisms

The newly integrated website has the following advantages:

1. More integrated functions and content: Compared to the first generation systems, the system is more extensive with nearly twice the amount of functions and content.
2. Friendlier system with more comprehensive categories: Most information first passes through preliminary categorization before appearing on the website. Increased search functions within individual categories provide a more user-friendly system.
3. Emphasis on interaction: Users' views are integral to improving the system. Both open and closed

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Green Living Information Website. The header includes the EPA logo and the title '行政院環境保護署 綠色生活資訊網'. The navigation bar has tabs for '製造廠商', '銷售廠商', '一般民眾', '民間企業', and '政府機關'. The main content area is divided into sections for '最新消息', '環保標章', '產品查詢', and '全民綠色採購'. A central news section highlights '環保旅館' (Green Hotels) with a list of articles and dates. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

 The home page of the Green Living Information Website

forums let users express their views; no matter whether using private or open channels they are encouraged to speak their mind. Users' views and feedback can quickly improve the system according to users' needs, and changes can be quickly reaffirmed by the users.

The Green Living Information Website interface also been redesigned with different features for each area of the website, including:

1. Information Announcement Board
2. Users' Center
3. Basic Information Center

4. Shopping Mall

5. Information Synthesizer

6. Other functions

The Green Living Information Website aims to integrate green living information, promote marketing activities, strengthen promotion over the Internet and expand the website's functions and services in the future. Further education and promotion will help citizens adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles and make residential environments more sustainable.

Climate Change

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Management Office Opens Its Doors

The EPA formally inaugurated its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Management Office. The office is promoting a national greenhouse gas registration platform and conducting a comprehensive inventory of domestic emissions from each sector to serve as a reference for future reductions.

The combined effects of the greenhouse effect and climate change have indeed induced a fever on Earth. While Taiwan's population accounts for only 0.3% of world population, it is responsible for nearly 1% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the face of daily calls for reductions in the international arena, the inauguration of the GHG Reduction Management Office on 10 January 2008 marked an important milestone for the EPA. The primary objective of this office is to promote a national GHG registration platform and provide a comprehensive inventory of domestic emissions from each sector. This information will serve as a reference for future reductions and will facilitate an early response to international trends.

The establishment of this office complements Taiwan's prior initiatives to legislate the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (draft) (溫室氣體減量法(草案)), by creating a specialized government organization to show the world Taiwan's determination to reduce greenhouse gases.

The Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the UN FCCC and the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP13/MOP3) recently confirmed the Bali Roadmap, which asks developing countries to adopt measurable, reportable and verifiable GHG reduction measures.

Although Taiwan is neither a member of the UN nor a

party to the Kyoto Protocol, it is an emerging industrial nation and a primary supplier of global electronics components. Failure to come up with relative reduction strategies will inevitably intensify the impacts of other countries' regulations and trade controls in the future. The GHG Reduction Management Office will therefore coordinate each department to build a GHG inspection system and voluntary reduction management mechanisms.

The GHG Reduction Management Office contains three divisions to handle strategic planning



▶ EPA Minister Winston Dang (left) and MOEA Bureau of Energy Director-General Yeh Huey-ching (葉惠青) preside over the inauguration ceremony

and evaluation, inventory registration and trade management, and international cooperation. The most important task at the preliminary stage is to promote the establishment of a national GHG registration platform. In the future the office will continue to

promote the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (draft) and legislation of related bylaws. The office will work to strengthen interaction with related government departments and organizations, and stay abreast of international developments.

Waste Management

Taiwan Steps Up Zero Waste Initiatives

To expedite the promotion of Zero Waste initiatives, starting this year the EPA will adopt measures to ensure no raw waste enters landfills and plan the establishment of resource storage and recycling plants.

Taiwan began promoting waste management work in 1985. By 2006, the implementation of four long-term waste management plans have been completed, greatly increasing the proper treatment rate of garbage. To complement current world trends in environmental protection, the EPA has formulated the "Regular Waste Resource Cycling Promotion Plan," which was approved by the Executive Yuan on 1 March 2007. The EPA is currently promoting the "Garbage Zero Waste Initiatives," slated to lead waste management into a new era.

The early days of garbage management in Taiwan began with open dumps along riversides, which were later relocated to sanitary landfills. The system gradually evolved into sorting of recyclable resources and incineration of refuse to raise the quality of living environments. Since then the EPA has worked hard to clean up open dumps along riversides and remove most of the waste unless doing so would affect the safety of river water quality or flow along rivers. Affected rivers have since been rehabilitated to their original appearance.

To ensure appropriate treatment of waste, the EPA has adopted the following measures promoting zero waste:

1. From 2007, raw refuse is no longer landfilled except remote areas.
2. Former sanitary landfills now undergo inspection; based on inspection results, the EPA has planned the "Garbage Zero Waste Initiatives," including rehabilitation, removal and reuse, leachate treatment, and improvement of environmental facilities. These measures minimize the environmental impact of former landfills or transform them into green areas, parks, or public sports facilities such as croquet or baseball fields.
3. Continue promoting private contracting of refuse clearance and treatment, resource sorting and recycling; and transfer of garbage from counties and municipalities without incineration plants or with incineration plants under repair
4. Plan to establish resource storage and recycling plants to solve the problem of reusing incinerator ash. Resource recycling plants and facilities can be sustainably designed for repeated use by integrating landscaping and green buildings to replace traditional environmental facilities (landfills, incinerators, etc.). This also helps in gaining citizen support.

Toxic Substance Management

Plasticizers Regulated to Help Consumers Choose Products Wisely

The EPA has reinforced controls on the use of plasticizing agents by listing dioctyl phthalate (DOP) as a Class I toxic chemical substance, and banning its use in the manufacture of toys for children under three.

Working to strengthen controls on plasticizers, on 29 December 2007 the EPA listed dioctyl phthalate (DOP) as a regulated Class I toxic chemical substance specifically banned from the manufacture of toys for children under three. In 1999 the EPA had

already regulated (DEHP), (DMP), and (DBP) under the Toxic Chemical Substance Control Act (毒性化學物質管理法), requiring related businesses to conduct reports and install related equipment. Reinforcement of inspections ensured adequate management of

these substances.

The EPA is currently paying close attention to the development of international controls on other types of plasticizers. Plasticizers with known toxicological qualities will be added to the list of toxic chemical substances to be screened for further assessment.

Foreign research indicates that phthalates are released into the environment not only during manufacture processes, but during the lifetime of products that contain phthalates, including PVC products. Phthalates are also released from plastic waste in landfills and spread into the environment by binding to benthic substrate or organic matter, from where they can enter the human body through food and air pathways. The results of domestic scholars' research on Taiwan's rivers are comparative to other countries. While this substance does not harm human health at current levels, such plasticizers are currently used in large quantities, and therefore a close watch should be kept on the status of phthalates entering the

environment. The international community, including the US, Canada, the EU, and Japan, is already enacting controls on phthalates.

Phthalates harm human health by disrupting the endocrine system. Some ways to reduce risk of exposure include maintaining a balanced, diverse and low-fat diet and avoiding use of plastic containers when eating out or holding hot foods.

The EPA emphasizes that there are over a hundred different kinds of plasticizing agents with a wide price range. Moreover, as more research focuses on nanocomposites and environmentally-preferable plastics, the search for alternative products is deemed necessary. The EPA calls on domestic industries to switch to alternative products wherever possible, and reminds consumers to choose brands with good reputations over obscure products, unclearly labeled goods, or inferior quality products. This is the best way to prevent health risks.

Water Quality

Waste to Wealth: Renewable Energy from Pig Farm Effluent

Pig farm effluent could become the next solution to the global energy crisis. With the EPA's support, the Pingtung County government is strongly promoting the Organic Waste Bioenergy Demonstration Plan. Pingtung County's pig farm effluent is channeled into wastewater treatment plants to reduce its polluting effects and derive methane to generate electricity.

Pingtung County has over 1.7 million pigs. Although pollution prevention equipment has already been installed, pig farms generate a large amount of effluent and sludge, for which appropriate treatment channels are lacking, giving rise to worries of river pollution.

The Pingtung County government has made plans to make use of the sludge digestion tanks of the Liukuaicuo (Lakdeitsu) Wastewater Treatment Plant, which have a daily extra capacity of 235 cubic meters for the purpose of treating pig farm effluent. Methane is captured from the sludge and used to generate electricity, reducing their pollution potential and improving river water quality.

EPA Minister Winston Dang recently went south to personally inspect Pingtung's environmental facilities. Food waste and pig farm sludge both have high organic matter content. European states including Denmark and Germany have found biological organic waste to be an excellent source of bioenergy. Taiwan's

prolific agricultural and livestock industry makes it appropriate for similar initiatives. The development of appropriate plans to use food waste and pig farm sludge for anaerobic digestion into methane has great implications for Taiwan's push to promote a green energy policy.

The purpose of pollution prevention is not to punish polluters, emphasizes Minister Dang, but rather to assist and educate the livestock industry. Once seemingly useless livestock excrement can now be transferred to composting and reuse channels and turned into a source of bioenergy. The EPA's ultimate aim is for this energy to be a new source of power for Taiwan's environmental industries.

The Pingtung County government points out that Pingtung County is endowed with ample sunlight, making it rich in a wide variety of agricultural products and their leftover organic materials from butchering, fruit and vegetable processing, and other food processing operations. Every year around 40,000

tonnes of organic waste is produced, including livestock effluent and food waste, all of which can be gathered to provide a source of renewable energy.

Water Quality

EPA Allocates NT\$200mn to Protect Drinking Water

Starting this year (2008), the EPA will allocate over NT\$200 million over the next four years to protect drinking water sources at Tsengwen Reservoir, Shihmen Reservoir, Feitsui Reservoir and Kinmen Reservoir. This project will integrate with the Water Resources Agency's Watershed Conservation Guidelines to protect the water quality of reservoir watersheds.

Just four reservoirs provide drinking water for 9.5 million people, three-sevenths of Taiwan's population. Pollution sources that could degrade reservoir water quality include point-source pollution from residential kitchen and toilet effluent, and wastewater from restaurants and hotels. Planar-source pollution includes runoff from farmland, cities and roads. When these sources of pollution enter reservoirs without undergoing treatment, they can increase the amount of nutrients and salts that enter reservoirs, resulting in the proliferation of algae.

ed to provide a source of renewable energy. Taking Feitsui Reservoir as an example, 28% of pollution is from point-source residential effluent, while 72% of pollution is non-point source pollution. Sewer systems in that area treat 39% of pollution. Although the water quality of many rivers feeding into the reservoir is not polluted, it still does not reach targeted water quality standards for Class I surface water bodies. According to monitoring data gathered in 2007 in a project commissioned by the EPA, at the outset of rainstorms, nitrogen and phosphorus in the Beishih River Pinglin drainage, the drainage near the Pinglin Gong Bridge, drainage near the First Bridge on Jingualiao River, and the drainage near the Dalin

Bridge on the Yuku River is higher than water quality standards allow. Therefore the EPA and the Taipei Water Source Special Area Management Bureau of the Water Resources Agency, Ministry of Economic Affairs, have cooperated to install holding ponds, buffer belts and artificial wetlands in areas without sewer systems to reduce pollution from non-point sources along those rivers.

Doing its part to protect the water quality of the Feistui Reservoir and reduce non-point sources of pollution, the EPA has completed publication of the "Agricultural Non-point Source Pollution Control Technology Implementation Manual," as well as held three educational workshops for farmers upstream of the Hsindian River to disseminate nine of the best management and control practices, including refraining from fertilizing during periods of heavy rain, applying adequate amounts of fertilizer, refraining from tossing empty pesticide containers on the ground, planting swales, vegetation belts, and runoff retention ditches. About 140 farmers participated in these workshops. The EPA also subsidized local governments to complete buffer belts and wetlands in three areas covering 2.67 hectares to reduce pollution from adjacent tea plantations and residential areas.

Waste Management

Local Governments Subsidized to Purchase 2,800 Garbage Trucks

In consideration of the safety of sanitation crews and the fact that 60% of the nation's garbage trucks are nearing retirement, the EPA will allocate NT\$4.85 billion over the next five years toward the replacement of 2,800 garbage trucks.

Over sixty percent of Taiwan's garbage trucks are beyond their years and experience frequent failure. Expenses for repairs are high and this situation represents a potential safety hazard for the sanitation crews that are shuttled around every day. The EPA is expediting the replacement of these

aging vehicles by subsidizing all 25 counties and municipalities to replace 2,800 garbage trucks over the next five years. This measure, the largest subsidy from the central government toward local garbage trucks, will ensure that all aging garbage trucks in every township are replaced.

According to the Executive Yuan's "Property Classification Standards," garbage trucks can be replaced after six years on the road, however the EPA statistics show that over 60% of the nation's 4,600 garbage trucks throughout Taiwan's 319 townships and 25 counties and municipalities are already over six years old. With local governments unable to finance replacements, constant repairs are the only way to keep their aging fleets in use. Not only do these vehicles frequently malfunction, but each year a great deal of money is spent on repairs and maintenance. Neither economical nor safe, this sometimes means living with odors, leakage of garbage effluent and even the proliferation of disease vectors that could affect the appearance of localities. The EPA will allocate NT\$4.85 billion over six years from 2007 to 2012 to subsidize the replacement of 2,800 aged vehicles. The new vehicles will have the latest sealed compression system which guarantees optimal sealing to ensure garbage effluent does not leak out or release odors during transport.

The reinforced compression function is capable of reducing the volume of loose garbage by a third and increasing the amount of space available for transporting garbage each trip.

This is the first time the central government has provided contracts for procurement subsidies. Last year the EPA allocated NT\$240 million to subsidize the purchase of 86 trucks, and this year will set aside NT\$1.22 billion for the purchase of 500 trucks. At this rate, over the next five years, the EPA will achieve its goal to replace all aged garbage trucks throughout the nation's townships and cities.

The EPA emphasizes that local governments need only select appropriate vehicles from among 30 supplying companies and do not have to enter a bidding process. This saves costs on procurement administration and raises procurement efficiency. As for the replaced aging vehicles, the EPA will consider donating them to ally countries or regions to ensure sustainable use of resources and maintain friendly diplomatic relations.

Environmental Inspection

Reinforced Inspection of Precast Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Buildings

To ensure greywater from new buildings undergoes adequate treatment, the EPA has reinforced onsite inspections of applicants wishing to register prefabricated wastewater treatment facilities for buildings. Applicants that fail to conform to regulations will be required to make improvements before a certain deadline. If facilities do not conform to standards upon re-inspection the persons in charge will be subject to penalties according to the "Building Act."

The EPA indicates that in order to complement the Ministry of the Interior's "Building Technical Codes," new buildings must install in-situ structures or prefabricated wastewater treatment facilities for buildings that are jointly inspected, certified and registered by the Ministry of the Interior and the EPA. From January 1999, the EPA began receiving manufacturers' applications to certify prefabricated wastewater treatment facilities for buildings. So far, 637 models have been inspected and approved for certification registration. Related certification information and verification numbers were announced on the EPA's website.

Since the beginning of this measure from 1999 until the end of October 2007, nearly 540,000 buildings have already installed wastewater treatment facilities, accounting for 9.36% of hookups to the public sewer system (the current national public sewer system hookup rate is about 17.04%). This is a great

contribution in terms of increased rates of wastewater treatment and improved environmental quality.

The focus of the EPA's work this year is to inspect manufacturers or contractors with respect to product quality control management, manufacturing specifications, production records, marketing figures, and user and installation sites. After carrying out 141 inspections, 29 models were found in noncompliance with measurement standards, with most of these being treatment units. Of these, there were still six models found noncompliant with standards upon re-inspection after the deadline for making corrections. Building management organizations were notified of related information to serve as a reference for approving and issuing miscellaneous building licenses and user licenses.

The EPA will continue to strengthen inspection and management to ensure the industry is manufacturing their products according to registered information.

This will protect consumer rights and maintain wastewater treatment functions of new buildings.

Waste Management

Hospitals Reminded to Respond to Industrial Waste Regulation Deadline

On 14 December 2006, the EPA announced revisions to the Standards for Defining Hazardous Waste and the Methods and Facilities Standards for the Storage, Clearance and Disposal of Industrial Waste, allowing a year's grace period in which to make corrections. With the grace period ending on 13 December 2007, the EPA reminds hospitals to make sure corrections are made according to the revised articles in order to avoid penalties.

The EPA revised the Standards for Defining Hazardous Waste (有害事業廢棄物認定標準) redefining infectious industrial waste as biomedical waste. According to the new definition, discarded sharp instruments and infectious waste are separated into two categories based on their differing degrees of harmfulness. In addition, a new category was created for genetic waste. The EPA also made complementary revisions to the Methods and Facilities Standards for the Storage, Clearance and Disposal of Industrial Waste (事業廢棄物貯存清除處理方法及設施標準), designating methods and standards on labeling, storage, clearance and treatment of different kinds of biological waste according to their characteristics. Furthermore, on 11 May 2007, the EPA announced revisions to the "Differentiation of Hazardous Industrial Waste Characteristics Symbols," to revise biomedical waste symbols according to the international labeling regulations on the transboundary movement of hazardous substances. The new symbols adopt a unified diamond shape with description in Chinese and English to ensure international consistency. Some enterprises have responded that they still have garbage bags in storage printed with the old symbols for infectious waste, and were unable to use them all before the 13 December 2007 deadline. They

expressed hope that the restriction can be relaxed to allow them to continue using these bags. In response to this request, the EPA agreed that it would be wasteful to discard these bags already in storage, and has therefore notified all local environmental protection bureaus that the former bags used for infectious waste can still be used until 10 May 2008. However, the EPA emphasized that apart from garbage bags, which are consumables, other waste equipment or storage facilities are still subject to the 13 December 2007 deadline for changing over to the new symbols.

As for the revision of related regulations, the EPA and the Department of Health have already held over ten briefings to reinforce the changes hospitals need to make. To further understand hospitals' current status in responding to the revisions, from September 2007 the EPA has commissioned a consulting agency to call on small clinics, observe the problems faced at this level, and provide advice and guidance. The EPA calls on hospitals to take advantage of these briefings and consultation visits in order to stay abreast of revised regulations and make a timely response. If further consultation is necessary, hospitals are invited to contact the EPA via phone or the environmental Internet forum.

Waste Management

ESTP Plan Wins National Sustainable Development Award

The Environmental Science and Technology Park Promotion Plan submitted by the EPA in 2007 entered the Executive Yuan's 2007 National Sustainable Development Award contest. After undergoing a three-stage evaluation process, the plan was awarded for outstanding implementation of action plans.

To actively promote eco-industry, strengthen resource cycling and reuse, and upgrade environmental technology, the EPA has established four Environmental Science and Technology Parks

(ESTPs) in the Kaohsiung County Benjhou Industrial Park, Hualien County Fenglin Integrated Industrial Park, Taoyuan County Taoyuan Technology Industry Park, and Tainan County Liuying Industrial Park.

Currently the four parks' management and research buildings and experimental factories have been designed according to green building guidelines. Space inside the park provides a high ratio of green belts, parks and setback buildings. Each park's management and research building has obtained candidacy certification to show compliance with the nine qualifying green building indicators. Of these Hualien and Taoyuan ESTP management and research buildings have already obtained green building certification. The Kaohsiung ESTP management and research building has established the Green Environment Hall-the first museum on environmental protection in Taiwan, holding great implications for environmental education.

The promotion of ESTPs primarily lies in strengthening the integration of foreign and domestic production technology, advancing green production, spurring international green competition, creating global environmental markets, and leading society toward sustainable development.

The EPA indicates that a combined total of 55 firms are currently set up in the four ESTPs and many companies have already applied to enter, including many foreign firms and companies, complementing technical cooperation between Taiwan and other countries. These firms are expected to greatly boost the status of Taiwan's environmental technology.

Several companies have already completed setting up their factories and are beginning to cycle materials and energy in their production chains, gradually forming the first strands of the ecological webs envisioned for production within the ESTPs. In the future apart from solving Taiwan's industrial and environmental problems and upgrading environmental technology, the ESTPs can become models for new industrial parks.

The award is an encouragement and an honor for the EPA in its years of efforts to promote ESTPs. It shows that the EPA is capable of keeping up with the trends of the new era and attests to the importance of using resources sustainably. The ESTP plan is an example of using innovative concepts and methods to promote ecological industry and sustainable rural and urban development.

The EPA indicates that the ESTP's special benefits and good administrative efficiency are highly attractive to firms, and foreign firms are choosing ESTPs as their base for the Asia-Pacific region. When energy prices begin to inflate in the near future, a greater urgency to reuse wasted resources will put environmental protection and renewable energy in the spotlight. With limited space and vacancies in the ESTPs, the EPA calls on all interested enterprises to get their applications in early. Inquiries are welcome at the firm recruitment hotline: 886-2-2381-5784

EIA

EIA Standards Revised for Development Activities

The EPA has promulgated revisions to standards regarding development activities that require environmental impact assessments, after referring to views from all sides and considering the practical needs of implementation. Added to the list of development activities requiring EIA are electric arc furnaces for steelmaking and all new or additional production lines.

The EPA promulgated revisions to six articles of the Standards for Determining Specific Items and Scope of Environmental Impact Assessments for Development Activities (開發行為應實施環境影響評估細目及範圍認定標準). The Standards have undergone seven revisions since first promulgated on 18 October 1995.

The focus of revisions includes:

1. Electric arc furnaces for steelmaking and all new or additional production lines were added to the list of development activities requiring EIA
2. Brick and tile kilns engaging in extraction of earth in environmentally sensitive areas should conduct an EIA when applying for or expanding extraction activities. The former wording, "Shall simultaneously apply for..." has been revised to explain that applications to extract earth in merged land areas that conform to regulations on scale shall be preceded by conducting an EIA for the new land areas.
3. Except where stated in writing, EIA is not required for felling trees as an emergency measure in forest management in the event of natural disasters or biological hazards in forest areas.
4. Article 28 complements the Waste Disposal Act (廢棄物清理法) and related regulations by revising "average daily treatment volume" to "average monthly treatment volume." Considering a 10%

- inaccuracy in treatment volumes, the article has been revised to "maximum monthly treatment volume," and related figures have been revised.
5. Article 29 has added offshore wind power generators to the list of development activities requiring EIA.
 6. Article 31 has added the building or expansion of tourist or recreation hotels (motels) located at existing golf courses to the list of development activities requiring EIA. Rezoning of urban land or zone expropriation development activities have also been added to the list of development activities requiring EIA.

Noise Control

Construction Equipment Likely to Produce Noise Regulated

The EPA made a preannouncement of the First Batch of Equipment Likely to Produce Noise. Users of loud construction equipment of a certain scale and above, including pile drivers and shredders, must adopt noise prevention measures and obtain a permit before using.

Loud noises emitted by housing construction, road deconstruction, and other large construction projects are frequently the source of frustration for neighboring residents. Fortunately, such noise will not be a problem in the future. The EPA has issued a preannouncement of the First Batch of Equipment Likely to Produce Noise (第一批易發生噪音設施). Noisy construction equipment of a specified range or greater, including pile drivers and shredders will not be permitted unless the user adopts noise prevention measures and obtains a permit before beginning construction.

According to Article 8~1 of the Noise Pollution Control Act (噪音管制法), within designated control zones, users of equipment likely to produce noise as announced by the EPA should first apply for a permit with the local competent authority before installing

such equipment. After installation of such equipment, they must again apply for an operating permit. The announcement of the First Batch of Equipment Likely to Produce Noise primarily includes noisy construction equipment that have received the most frequent complaints in the past and are of a certain scale or greater, such as pile drivers or pile extractors.

In the future, before starting construction the construction company owner must apply for installation and operating permits for all equipment announced likely to produce noise. An evaluation must first be made of possible noises that will arise during the course of construction and necessary measures must be implemented along with operating plans to reduce construction noise or adopt low noise equipment.

Recycling

Minister Dang Listens to Front Line Recyclers

The EPA has been carrying out a plan to reform the image of recycling over the last three years – a plan that has been applauded in the international arena. EPA Minister Winston Dang visited with individual recyclers and community recycling volunteers to get a better understanding of their working conditions, praise their hard work, and listen to their concerns. Dang visited two groups of front line recyclers in Kaohsiung County and Tainan City from 8~9 January 2008.

Since the promotion of the Four-in-One Recycling System, individual recyclers and recycling stations at the bottom tier of the recycling system sometimes let recyclables pile up along the borders of their property for convenience sake or to reduce costs. This situation can spoil the community atmosphere and cause environmental sanitation issues. Just to stay in business, some recyclers

frequently scavenge for resources at night or early hours of the day, making them a high risk group prone to traffic accidents. The EPA began promoting the Resource Recycling Image Reformation plan in 2005 to improve the environment around recycling stations and prevent accidents. The plan takes steps to improve the visual appearance of recycling stations, reinforce public safety, establish a good image and

create a pleasant environment that blends in with the local atmosphere. Most importantly, the plan outlines substantial actions to care for this minority group of individual recyclers.

The EPA works through local sanitation crews to



▶ Individual recycler before and after improvements

survey the status of individual recyclers in each jurisdiction. The EPA has compiled a manual and gives training to these recyclers, as well as provides them with necessities such as tricycles and carts. Corporations provide reflective vests, signs and accident insurance to keep their equipment safe. It is hoped that these provisions will reduce the occurrence of accidents.

In addition, the EPA provides educational training on environmental protection, safety and sanitation as a substantial action toward caring for individual recyclers and improving their image in society. In line with the mandatory garbage sorting policy, scavengers are given guidance on how to help communities sort their refuse. Sorted resources can be collected and sold by individual recyclers. By establishing stationary recycling stations, recyclers no longer need to comb the streets, and this group of anonymous heroes can safely make their living as a new force for environmental protection.

EIA

EIA Modifications No Longer Free of Charge

The EPA has promulgated revisions to Articles 1, 2, and 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report Review Fee Regulations. In the future, developers will no longer enjoy gratis service and must pay to make modifications to their Environmental Impact Assessment documents.

The EPA indicates that due to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (環境影響評估法) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Act Enforcement Rules, the review of EIA related documents are a special service conducted by environmental protection agencies for the rights and interests of developers. In light of this, regulations have been added regarding the collection of fees for the review of EIA documents. To complement revisions to articles within the Developer Respond to Implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment Detailed Items and Scope Definition Standards (開發行為應實施環境影響評估細目及範圍認定標準), review fees have been newly added for biotechnology

parcs, crematories, rezoning or zone expropriation, and cableway construction projects. The EPA has also modified the wording of certain development projects in the revisions.

To convenience developers inquiring about the cost of reviewing EIA documents, fee rates will be unified for all EIA documents in the future. Additionally, existing articles state that EIA review fees are to be used toward the verification of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. As this is easily confused with Environmental Impact Assessment Report preliminary review fees, the wording in this article has been changed to specify Environmental Impact Assessment Report verification.

News Briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

Information Management System Successfully Integrated

The EPA launched its integrated air, water, waste and toxics information management system on 1 August 2007. The system meets its objective to simplify administrative affairs by providing a single website where

companies can confirm and enter permit baseline data, and handle extensions and applications for all kinds of permits. Of Taiwan's 7,916 companies regulated for two or more pollution sources, already 7,532 have confirmed their baseline data online (<http://ems.epa.gov.tw>). Already 96.5% of companies have confirmed changes of their air,

water, waste and toxics permits according to schedule, attesting to the success of this system.

Noise Maps Completed for Four Kaohsiung Districts

Following the drafting of a 25 square kilometer noise map for Taipei City in the first half of 2007, the EPA used the latter half of that year to draw up noise maps for the southern districts of Kaohsiung City. The scope of this pilot project included four administrative districts: Lingya, Cianjhen, Cijin and Siaogang. This urban noise map accounts for noise sources from air traffic, roadways, railways and factories, and covers a total area of 122 square kilometers. The map is useful in predicting and evaluating the impacts of foreign noise sources, and greatly facilitates noise control and improvement work. The EPA indicates that once this mapping technology is mature, it will coordinate with each local environmental protection bureau to promote the development of noise maps for high population density areas. This will help with prompt management of sudden noises to make sure no disruptive noises are overlooked.

Spend the New Year in Taiwan's Artificial Wetlands

No plans for this Chinese New Year? Rather than brave the shoulder-to-shoulder crowds at the typical scenic areas, why not bring the family to one of the EPA's 20 constructed wetlands throughout the island? Here you can observe firsthand the river, birds and fish for both a relaxing and ecologically educational outing. On 21 January 2008, the EPA launched the River Water Quality Purification In-Situ Treatment Website (<http://wqp.epa.gov.tw/wgp/ecological/>), featuring all 20 of Taiwan's river water quality purification constructed wetlands and onsite treatment facilities. Aiming to make it more convenient for people to visit these wetlands, the website displays high-altitude photographs as well as close-up photos, and introduces the highlights of each site, water quality treatment results and ecological benefits created. For example, the Old Iron Bridge Constructed Wetland along the Kaoping River is Taiwan's largest artificial wetland, covering nearly 120 hectares. The wetland is a result of EPA subsidies to the Kaohsiung County Water Management Bureau and the Seventh River Administration of the Water Resources Agency, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Taiwan-UK Soil Pollution Remediation Experience Exchange Forum

Since the promulgation of the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act (土壤及地下水污染整治法) on 2 February 2000 up to the end of 2007, already 1,200 control sites have completed remediation and have been removed from regulatory control. With still over 600 control sites and 15 remediation sites, in order to upgrade and accelerate soil and groundwater remediation experience and technology, the Taiwan Soil and Groundwater Protection Association and the British Trade and Cultural Office have invited British soil pollution remediation scholars and experts to the Taiwan-UK Soil Pollution Remediation Experience Exchange Forum on 15 and 17 January 2008, held in Taipei and Kaohsiung, respectively. The forum provided a model and reference for domestic management and remediation technology of contaminated soil. United Kingdom Trade and Investment's (UKTI) Environmental Industries Sector Unit (EISU) Asia-Pacific Regional Project Manager Ms. Louise Colwell led the delegation of British soil pollution remediation experts. The experts held discussions and exchanged views with Taiwan's industrial, government and academic sectors regarding soil pollution management policies, site rehabilitation, pollution risk assessment, inspections and monitoring and analysis technology.

Minister Dang Leads Community to Clean Up Environment

Tying in with the official launching of National Cleanup Week activities, the EPA led Community Volunteer Environment Cleanup Day, asking businesses to clean up the area around their workplaces on 29 January 2008. EPA Minister Dang led a cleanup crew, inviting the neighborhood chief, volunteer groups, Soochow University, and the Supreme Court to roll up their sleeves and pitch in to clean up their neighborhood environment. This year, National Cleanup Week took place from 30 January 2008 to 5 February 2008, and the EPA planned a special series of events throughout the week. This year the EPA not only cleaned up its own block but integrated its efforts with the entire community including the borough chief, neighborhood chief, volunteer groups, nearby schools, the Supreme Court, and Soochow University to clean up the environment and unkempt spots in their neighborhood.

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