

Major Environmental Policies

July 2022

1. EPA Implements the National Environmental Protection Plan

The EPA-revised *National Environmental Protection Plan* was approved by the Executive Yuan on 24 February 2020. Since the Plan's enactment in 2008, there have been major environmental changes in Taiwan and new environmental trends in the world and, accordingly, the Plan has gone through many reviews, revisions and renewals. Throughout these years, the Plan has aligned with the principles of its 2008 version in its efforts to reach the original goals. The latest version came to fruition after numerous discussions among experts, scholars, local governments, and civil organizations. Closely linked to the UN's Agenda 2030, the revision designates 2030 as the next stage for long-term goals and sets clear and meaningful goals.

Background

The following are the major points of the *National Environmental Protection Plan's* origins:

1. Realizing the protection of national environments, ensured by the *Constitution*, and implementing the *Basic Environment Act* (環境基本法) to achieve environmental protections and facilitate welfare for all civilians

The *Additional Articles of the Constitution of the Republic of China* (憲法增修條文) mentions that "environmental and ecological protection shall be given equal consideration with economic and technological development." And Article 7 of the *Basic Environmental Act* states that "the central competent authority shall draft environmental protection laws and regulations, draw up national environmental protection plans, establish sustainable development indicators and promote and implement such laws and regulations, plans and indicators." Accordingly, the EPA aims to follow the core of the *Basic Environmental Act* so that the full effects of the Act can be realized. Under the framework of the *Basic Environmental Act*, the *National Environmental Protection Plan* is an upper-tier plan in the national environmental governance, serving as the basis for the formation of all regulations regarding environmental protection as well as all relevant plans at the local level.

2. Reviewing Taiwan's key environmental issues, designing national environmental visions setting goals, and planning environmental strategies

Key environmental challenges confronting Taiwan include impacts from climate change, loss of water and soil resources, deterioration of ecological environments, and environmental risks to human health. The EPA has been planning national strategies in environmental protection with an approach that encompasses climate change, ecological environments, natural resources, environmental quality, development of green industries and technologies, and environment-friendly lifestyles. The ultimate goal is to create a healthy, beautiful and prosperous living environment that is full of innovations and coexists harmoniously with nature.

3. Strengthening connection to the international community and pursuing sustainable development

In the international community, the concepts of "sustainable development" and "think globally, act locally" were elaborated in *Agenda 21* and the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, both of which fully display new ways of thinking and new directions for humankind in terms of sustainable development. In 2015, the UN announced the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*

Development, evaluating the results of global efforts in sustainable development as well as bringing forth goals for the coming 15 years. The 2030 Agenda expanded the previous three aspects of environment, economy, and society to what is called the 5Ps, which are planet, people, prosperity, peace, and partnership. It strives to protect the Earth’s resources, eradicate poverty, facilitate prosperous and co-existing development, build a peaceful society, and establish global partnership. Meanwhile, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were proposed at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Develop, also called Rio+20. The SDGs present a thinking of sustainable economy, advocating collaborations across different countries and ministries and responses adaptive to environmental changes. As a member of the global community, Taiwan endeavors to achieve sustainable development in order to adapt to the global environmental problems and keep up with international environmental strategies in a new era.

In conclusion, the *National Environmental Protection Plan* has been put in place because of the ideas above and as required by the *Additional Articles of the Constitution of the Republic of China* and the *Basic Environment Act*, and now serves as reference for all local governments in the formulation of their respective local environmental protection plans.

Strategies and goals

The *National Environmental Protection Plan*, approved by the Executive Yuan on 14 February 2020, centers around environmental resources and aligns with the United Nation's *2030 Agenda*. The formulation of the Plan took into consideration of both domestic and international trends and critical issues in environmental protection and then set up short-, mid-, and long-term strategies and goals. It covers 13 key environmental issues and five categories, which are climate actions, environmental quality, nature conservation, green economy, and sustainable partnership.

Each department proposes measures based on the Plan's strategies. There is a total of 374 measures in 2020, 343 in 2021, and 287 for the year 2022.

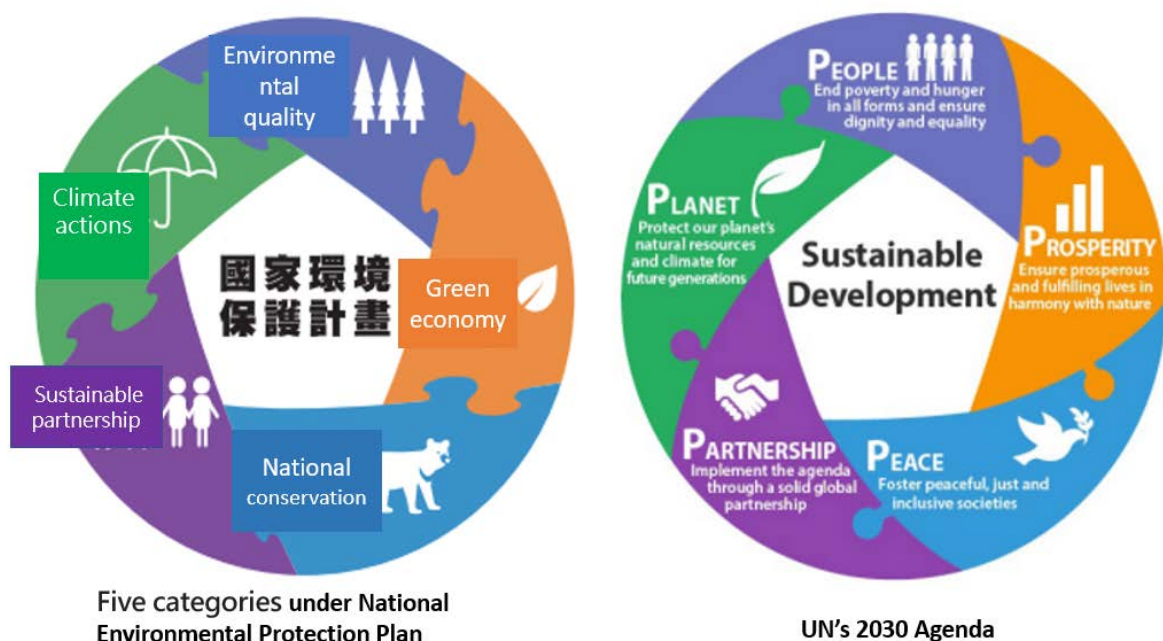


Image 1: Five categories under the National Environmental Protection Plan and their correlation to the SDGs under the UN's 2030 Agenda



Image 2: The five categories and 13 key environmental issues under the National Environmental Protection Plan

Compilation of environmental white papers and disclosure of implementation results

1. Collection of background baseline information about environmental issues

The implementation of the *National Environmental Protection Plan* is set from 2020 to 2030. To establish a database on environmental background information before the Plan took off, budget, key performance indices, and other data related to the chosen environmental issues in the previous four years (from 2016 to 2019) were compiled as benchmarks for the future evaluations of result changes and trends.

2. Implementation results disclosed in environmental white paper

The EPA conducts annual evaluations and compiles results of the *National Environmental Protection Plan* in its environmental white papers, which are published regularly to disclose the current status of each environmental indicator. The papers show that, by the end of 2021, the work on the environmental issues had reached the respective short-term goals and is now heading toward the mid-term ones. All current results will be the basis for building momentum to carry out the rest of the Plan.

Future task: Combining diversified forces toward environmental goals

The EPA has been endeavoring to bring government agencies, enterprises, organizations, and citizens together. Local governments are also urged to propose their environmental protection plans for all to jointly realize the vision of carbon and disaster reduction, clean air for easy breathing, public-friendly water environments, waste used as resources, zero forest loss, and coexistence with nature by 2030.

2. Guidelines Announced to Assist Enterprises in Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Recently, the EPA announced the *Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory* (溫室氣體排放量盤查作業指引). The purpose is to help enterprises cope with future regulations regarding emissions by properly carrying out the most basic task in this field, which is to take inventory of their own carbon emissions. Based on different needs, enterprises are provided necessary measures to understand their own emissions and obtain data as reference to reducing emissions.

To date, 5,200 enterprises in over 130 countries have proposed goals and timetables to achieve net-zero emissions in response to climate change. As a result, the Guidelines were revised by the EPA to assist domestic industries to cope with requirements from global supply chains. While the version enacted in 2015 targeted large-scale emission sources, the latest version adds measures that aim to assist small and middle-sized enterprises to conduct inventory on their own.

Since July, the EPA began to work with local governments and held many meetings in different regions to explain the Guidelines. Ministry of Economic Affairs statistics show that over 100,000 small and middle-sized manufacturing enterprises in Taiwan will be required by both domestic and foreign supply chains to conduct inventory of their emissions. Meanwhile, residential, commercial, and service industries account for 10% of domestic carbon emission. As a result, the EPA will help large-scale department stores and retailers take inventory of their emissions in areas like power usage, shipping and logistics, waste disposal, etc, so that inventory data can be used as reference for carbon reduction and power conservation.

In response to growing needs for diverse audits of more emission sources, revision is currently underway to categorize audit organizations into different levels. It is expected to be completed within this year. After the sub-laws are formulated next year, audit organizations will be ready to provide audit services and help small and middle-sized enterprises take emission inventory. The following are major points concerning the latest Guidelines:

Chapter 1: Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions

Introducing emission inventory, the reasons for inventory, targets required to undertake inventory, relevant regulations, the basic procedures, and the audit results that are required to be verified, registered or disclosed.

Chapter 2: How inventory is conducted

Users can begin to conduct inventory based on individual needs. Since needed data and information are provided by different departments in a company, enterprises are recommended to hold a commencement meeting first led by senior management to ensure a smooth operation. Targeting small and medium-sized enterprises, this chapter introduces setting inventory scales, emission sources (the scope) that are to be included, and how to utilize tools on the EPA or MOEA's websites to calculate emission volumes. Since small and medium-sized enterprises required to take emission inventory are mostly in manufacturing and service industries, the examples in the chapter come from manufacturing, financial, and chain retail industries.

Chapter 3: EPA-announced inventory procedures for large-scale emission sources required to undergo inventory and registration

Enterprises of this type have been conducting inventories of carbon emissions for years and hence are familiar with the procedures.

The EPA noted that enterprises could reference the *Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory* when conducting inventories themselves. For those required to conduct inventories by the EPA, by the Financial Supervisory Commission (under the Sustainable Development Pathway), or by their supply chains, the investigation results have to be verified by audit organizations. The *Guidelines* are now on the EPA's Industrial Greenhouse Gas Emission Information Platform, and the EPA will soon hold meetings to explain everything about the inventory in order to assist manufacturers as well as residential, commercial, and service industries.

3. Increase of Discount to NT\$5 for Bringing Own Beverage Cups Effective in July

The EPA has been working on reducing waste generation at source and increasing people's willingness to comply with waste-reduction policies so as to facilitate a net-zero, environment-friendly lifestyle. As a result, preannouncements were put out in 2021 that, as of 1 July 2022, a minimum discount of NT\$5 is to be offered by chain beverage shops, chain convenience stores, chain fast-food restaurants and chain supermarkets to consumers who bring their own cups when purchasing beverages.

Taiwan is a country of major consumption of all beverages imaginable, where up to four billion single-use beverage cups are used annually. To cut down waste, the EPA has been promoting reduced use of single-use cups along with green consumption for a zero-waste and environmentally-friendly lifestyle. Targets and measures for restriction of single-use cups were first preannounced on 23 December 2021 and formally announced on 28 April 2022, before coming into effect on 1 July.

Many enterprises had already voluntarily cut use of single-use cups as they have always practiced zero-waste and a green lifestyle through at-source reduction of waste and carbon reduction measures. They either provided discounts in advance of the measure or increased discounts in order to encourage people to bring their own cups and practice a green lifestyle. Since 1 July, consumers who bring non-disposable cups themselves will be charged at least NT\$5 less than those who do not when purchasing beverages in chain beverage shops, chain convenience stores, chain fast-food restaurants, and chain supermarkets. To help consumers easily spot such enterprises, they are required to display clearly visible signs on their premises showing the discounts for customers who bring their own cups.

The EPA pointed out that the older regulations mandated enterprises to provide a discount of NT\$1-\$2, resulting in 6% of consumers bringing their own cups. Survey results show that willingness to bring one's own cup should increase if the discount is increased to NT\$5. Those bringing cups themselves can enjoy lower prices and improved sanitation and safety. Meanwhile, this is expected to lower annual use of single-use cups by 580 million, which amounts to waste weighing 7,000 metric tons that would release 33,000 metric tons of carbon—and require 87 Daan Forest Parks to absorb in one year. Benefits for enterprises include lower expenses for cups and related materials, lower environmental costs, and increased popularity and profits.

Actively complying with the policy, many industry-leading enterprises have already either offered discounts in advance of the measure or offered better discounts. Some reported that the number of customers bringing their own cups grew fivefold during the trial period.

Take the 7-11 chain store for example. The NT\$5 discount has been available since 15 June at over 7,000 branches and affiliated restaurant groups, increased to NT\$7 for the first day of every month. Moreover, the corporation is now planning on installing equipment for cup circulation. A similar discount of NT\$7 is offered at Starbucks, another chain beverage shop under the same parent company, Uni-President, which emphasizes that for the past 24 years it has been rewarding the act of bringing one's own cups with discounts.

In addition, Family Mart has initiated a cup rental service this March on top of implementing the discount policy. Installation of rental equipment is estimated to be complete in 400 branches, roughly 10% of Family Mart stores in Taiwan, by the end of this year.

For the fast-food industry, a NT\$5 discount has been available one month in advance at McDonald's and KFC. In the past, these two leading corporations had long had relevant measures in place, such as designing packaging that uses fewer lids and straws as well as encouraging customers to bring their cups with point-collection schemes. Last year McDonald's began to voluntarily set up cup rental stations, while KFC reported five times more customers bringing their own cups since their discount took effect a month ago.



A minimum discount of NT\$5 were offered to consumers who bring their own cups when purchasing beverages from July 2022.

4. Guidelines Set to Justify Penalties and Monitor Enterprises Prone to Pollute the Environment

On 1 July 2022, the *Guidelines for Implementation of Environmental Standards* (環保標準執法應注意原則) was announced by the EPA, with two focuses: enhancing the credibility of proof of pollution for determining violations and issuing penalties, and; monitoring enterprises prone to violate standards. The *Guidelines* will serve as reference for environmental authorities when inspection results turn out closely above or below legal limits. After enactment, it is estimated that approximately 45,000 enterprises will be subject to close supervision, which will effectively lead to reduced pollution.

According to the *Administrative Procedure Act* (行政程序法), eight sets of guidelines are proposed regarding environmental regulations spanning air, water, waste, soil and groundwater, to help environmental authorities perform their control tasks and handle follow-up work. When inspection and test results exceed set limits, and meet criteria for closer monitoring, penalties are to be issued, and sampling and tests are to be conducted again within 30 days as per the *Guidelines*. In the case of the *Water Pollution Act* (水污染防治法), if the follow-up test results from the same violators are worse, then penalties are to be issued based on the test results showing more concentrated pollution. Enterprises are deemed as prone to violating environmental regulations if their test results fall within a range designated as requiring close attention, even if they do not exceed regulated limits. Authorities are to notify these enterprises to voluntarily examine their pollution control installations and, if necessary, intensify inspection efforts so that they are more accountable for their environmental impacts. In this way, the alert scale for pollution controls is expanded in practice.

For repeat offenders, the *Guidelines* strive to enhance the credibility of proof of violations in order to determine more suitable penalties, while for enterprises with test results close to exceeding legal limits, the *Guidelines* intensify monitoring. The EPA mentioned that such practices not only more actively protect the environment, but also safeguard the rights of parties involved. The newly announced eight sets of guidelines have specified ranges of test results that will lead to closer monitoring of enterprises. Other regulations remain the same, but environmental authorities will be able to strengthen law enforcement efforts concerning enterprises whose environmental test results fall within such ranges. Enterprises that exceed limits will face penalties based on the more severe results, and then be monitored for continuing violations so as to enhance the credibility of proof of pollution. Besides being advised to voluntarily examine their own pollution control installations, enterprises whose results do not exceed limits but are close to doing so will be marked for authorities to follow up with intensified inspections. Approximately 45,000 enterprises listed for control are subject to the *Guidelines*, which are expected to effectively lower pollution.

Based on inspection and testing data from recent years, there is now a higher potential of enterprises that are normally compliant with regulations but prone to exceed pollution limits, than enterprises that are not compliant with regulations but only slightly exceed pollution limits. The *Guidelines* should be very helpful in controlling enterprises prone to violating environmental regulations. Taking water pollution controls as an example, inspection and tests on dedicated sewage systems in industrial parks between 2017 and 2021 have led to 6,813 sets of test results for chemical oxygen demand (COD), with a 95% compliance rate. There were 149 sets of test results that fell in the category of compliant enterprises prone to exceed pollution limits, while 79 sets fell in the category of enterprises slightly exceeding limits. From 1 July, environmental authorities will notify enterprises in these categories to examine their pollution control installations, reminding them to comply with regulations as well as urging them to take needed measures when they are on the verge of exceeding pollution limits.

From 1 July, enterprises will be closely monitored when results from inspections and tests fall within 10% above or below the pollution limits. Based on the *Guidelines*, environmental authorities will conduct follow-up sampling and tests in order to better justify penalties, or remind enterprises to voluntarily check on their pollution control installations. The goal is to further

monitor enterprises prone to violating pollution standards and effectively improve environmental quality.

5. Winners Announced for National Environmental Education Awards

The National Environmental Education Award is the most esteemed recognition of the grandest scale in the field of environmental education. On 28 June, winners of the Eighth National Environmental Education Awards were announced, which included the Pingtung Forest District Office under the Forest Bureau of the Council of Agriculture; Window on World Limited in the category of private enterprises; Stella Matutina Girls' High School; Tu-Shui Wang, Director of Luanshan Forest Culture Museum; the Society of Wilderness (SOW); and Cishan Sugar Factory Community Development Association in Cishan, Kaohsiung. All of them received the award from the EPA Minister Tzi-Chin Chang in person.

In his speech at the award ceremony, Minister Chang noted that the Award is like an Oscar in the field of environmental education before acknowledging the winners for their efforts and persistence with a “thumbs up” gesture. A wonderful living environment enjoyed by everyone today would not have been possible without the endeavors and selfless contributions of the nominees, who are the best of the best. They had to first pass a preliminary screening by county and city governments, then a second screening by the central government, to reach the final competition. Their accomplishments in environmental education are wonderful for all to learn from and model.

In recent years, the EPA has put tremendous efforts into environmental education and has held the National Environmental Education Award eight times. The purpose is not only to encourage all citizens to participate but also to award organizations and individuals for excellent performance in environmental education, with an award that is greatly recognized across the field. This year there were six nominees in the category of government agencies. Five of these have already been certified as environmental education facilities and venues whose focuses include frontline military culture on offshore islands, preservation of Hakka culture, disaster prevention and rescue, and natural resource management.

For the private sector category, nominees work in the field of children's education, underwater diving, agricultural technology, tourism, while one is a company that operates incinerators on behalf of others. They are all elites in their respective industries, using their skills to advocate for environmental causes. For instance, the linguistic expressions and limitless imagination of children are put to use in environmental education for children. Green tours are designed with economic development in mind by incorporating ideas of green energy, agriculture, and education and utilizing digital media and landscape models as tools, all helping reinforce knowledge of cultural preservation. There are corporations that turn NIMBY facilities into friendly service providers and divers that make innovations in conventional fishing to promote protection of the marine environment through eco-tourism.



The winners from private sectors were awarded by EPA Minister Tzi-Chin Chang (fourth from the right)

The school category is centered around student learning, accompanied by teachers. Several schools helped guide students to establish a total of 47 school clubs that assisted students to explore their own actions and engage in self-learning. One nominee provided classes on campus energy, designing innovative teaching modules, sustainable campus maps, and specific action plans. Another nominee strove to nurture environmental and cultural awareness for indigenous children by developing creative teaching materials based on indigenous culture. The school even organized international environmental forums and lessons on culture and care for people to show the world the mindset concerning the environment innate in Taiwan's aboriginal cultures.

Those in the individual category include school teachers, organization founders, museum directors, and land conservationists, all of them displaying profound care for the environment and taking action in their respective fields. One nominee participates in environmental protection, having begun to learn all about environmental education, and one nominee has become a community leader in environmental education after years of protesting for environmental protection on the street. Another nominee spent up all savings to purchase mountain properties so that the dream of building a beautiful environment can come true. One nominee took on massive debts just to preserve the traditions of his own tribe and in the end successfully established an area in the mountains evocative of the movie, Avatar. Another nominee has promoted environmental education for years, never quitting despite accidents such as lightning strikes and teaching setbacks. Yet another has used expertise gained in natural environments to set up a team of eco-guides, design digital systems for eco-guides with video and audio clips, and produced programs on the National Radio Station in order to reach a wider audience. The selfless and persistent dedication of these nominees to environmental education are truly admirable.

Nominees in the group category have all spent years advocating for local environmental causes. They incorporated local resources, brought in young people to utilize their energy and networking strengths, and tackled environmental issues linked to everyone's living environment from the

perspective of family and small acts of environmental protection in daily life. Their efforts have resulted in exciting illustration books, training courses, tours to offshore islands with tags of carbon footprints, an interactive system with digital technology and even a gaming and learning platform on environmental disaster prevention. The innovative promotion of environmental education uses social media, marketing, and creative ideas to enhance environmental protection awareness in adults and children. Another nominee is a group of people dedicated to wetland restoration, habitat preservation, and research of local species. They have set up environmental education bases across Taiwan and served as a bridge between humans and nature. They continue to nurture the next generation in habitat and wetland conservation and encourage more citizens to safeguard the environment together.

In Taiwan, communities consist of the immediate neighborhood of every person residing in them and therefore are usually the first organizations to take action in environmental protection and education. For instance, some ensure safe drinking water sources for residents by voluntarily developing environment-friendly, toxic-free agriculture and bee farms. One farming community has worked tirelessly to assist pig farmers in the reutilization of wastewater and manure, eventually leading to voluntarily setting up the first social enterprise in a rural village in Taiwan. Some communities have voluntarily developed environment-friendly agriculture and bee farms. Other communities have transformed their villages into fenceless communities and brought in economic profits by designing eco-tours featuring local resources and regionally marketing their environment-friendly, high-quality agricultural products.

With thanks to all winners for their efforts and contributions infused with full dedication to environmental education, the EPA urges all to do their part in encouraging and facilitating others to actively join in to build better living environments and a Taiwan sustainable both in terms of the economy and environmental protection.

6. VOC Emission Standards for Adhesive Tape Industry Amended

The EPA revised and announced the *Volatile Organic Pollutants Control and Emission Standards for Adhesive Tape Manufacturers* (膠帶製造業揮發性有機物空氣污染管制及排放標準; hereinafter referred to as the Standards) on 22 June 2022, which was then enacted on 1 July 2022. The measures are expected to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 523 metric tons per year, which is equivalent to reducing the annual VOC emissions of an average oil refinery (821 metric tons) by over 60%.

VOCs are the precursors of ozone and fine particulate matter and one of the main causes of odor pollution. Some VOCs are also hazardous air pollutants that may cause human health impacts after long exposure. To encourage the adhesive tape industry to adopt water-based processes and to strengthen the overall control of VOCs, the EPA has revised the Standards.

The three focuses of the amendment encourage source reduction, strengthen gas collection, and tighten emission standards. More details are as follows:

1. A stipulation was added to exempt adhesive tape manufacturers that adopt water-based or solvent-free processes from these regulations once they submit supporting documents and have them approved by local competent authorities. To more clearly regulate the amount of VOCs used, the VOC content of raw materials has been included as a control threshold consideration.

Manufacturers that use less than 25 metric tons of VOC-containing raw materials are also exempt from these regulations.

2. Regulations on gas collection installations were integrated. Additionally, if raw materials stored in storage tanks are on control lists, a closed gas collection installation connected to pollution control equipment shall be installed.

3. To strengthen control of VOC emissions, regulations were tightened concerning the treatment efficiency of pollution control equipment and emissions through single emission pipelines.

The EPA stressed that in addition to directly exempting water-based and solvent-free processes from the new regulations, the Standards also give adequate buffer periods to manufacturers to improve existing processes, to respond to the tightening of gas collection regulations and emission standards.

7. Enterprises Invited to Participate in Expanded Smart Management of Wastewater Treatment Trial Project

To encourage enterprises to manage and operate their wastewater treatment facilities appropriately on their own as part of fulfilling their corporate social responsibilities, this year the EPA will continue to conduct and expand the Smart Management of Wastewater Treatment Trial Project, first implemented in 2021. Interested finishing and electroplating enterprises located in central Taiwan are openly invited to participate.

The EPA pointed out that many enterprises have invested substantially in installing wastewater treatment facilities and commissioned other enterprises or put employees in charge of operations to achieve compliance with wastewater treatment regulations. However, environmental law enforcement commonly found many cases in which enterprises were fined because poor wastewater treatment efficiency or improper operation of treatment installations led to effluent that did not meet standards. Statistics show that over the last five years (2017 to 2021), there was a total of 905 cases where the metal finishing and electroplating industry violated Article 7 of the *Water Pollution Control Act* (水污染防治法). The total amount of fines imposed exceeded NT\$462.36 million.

Enterprises often reported that they accidentally violated the regulations without knowing it. They did not know why they spent money on equipment and specialized manpower and were still unable to meet the standards. The EPA investigated the main causes and found that most of the enterprises were unable to detect equipment abnormalities in time. Most operators relied on past experience to operate, for example the usage of chemical agents, and could not ascertain wastewater treatment effectiveness in real-time. Once an abnormality occurs, it often leads to a discharge of water with pollutants that exceed standards, contaminating water bodies without being detected by the operators, who are then penalized.

To assist enterprises in ascertaining wastewater treatment effectiveness in real-time, last year the EPA began to implement a trial project on two electroplating enterprises that were willing to install smart monitoring equipment. When an abnormality in water quality was detected, the equipment would send an early warning notification (through Line, SMS, or email) to the operating personnel in the factory. The head of the enterprise would also simultaneously receive the notification as he/she could instruct the on-site personnel to take corrective action and remove the abnormality in time,

and thus avoid being penalized. The set-up also came with the benefit of saving operating costs by adjusting the amount of chemical agents added.

The EPA emphasized that the main purpose of promoting the Smart Management of Wastewater Treatment Trial Project was not to monitor industries but to better enable enterprises to self-manage and detect changes in water quality, thus building a trend within the private sector of fulfilling the responsibility to protect the environment. The technology not only protects water environments but also prevents enterprises from being penalized, saving money and the Earth at the same time. This year, the EPA will expand the project to five enterprises to have them try the technology for free (including equipment installation, trials, and maintenance). Thus interested metal finishing and electroplating industries in Taiwan’s central region are encouraged to register quickly in order to participate in the project.



When an abnormality in water quality was detected, the equipment would send an early warning notification (through Line, SMS, or email)

8. Regulations Governing EIA Document Review Fees Revised and Announced

To reflect the cost of environmental impact assessment (EIA) reviews, to examine and adjust the fees for the review of the first-phase environmental impact statements of development activities that are listed or are willing to enter second-phase EIAs voluntarily, and to clearly define the categories of development activities, the EPA revised the *Regulations Governing Environmental Impact Assessment Document Review Fees* (環境影響評估書件審查收費辦法).

The major revisions to the *Regulations Governing Environmental Impact Assessment Document Review Fees* are as follows:

1. For development activities required to go through second-phase EIAs due to the circumstances listed in Article 19, paragraph 1, subparagraphs 1 and 2 of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Enforcement Rules* (環境影響評估法施行細則), although the review procedure of the first-phase environmental impact statements submitted by the developers are simplified by competent authorities, they still incur related administrative costs. Therefore, the reviewing fees were revised.

2. The category of super large-scale development activities such as industrial parks and the categories of large-scale development activities such as industrial parks, roads, airports, and environmental protection projects were clearly defined.

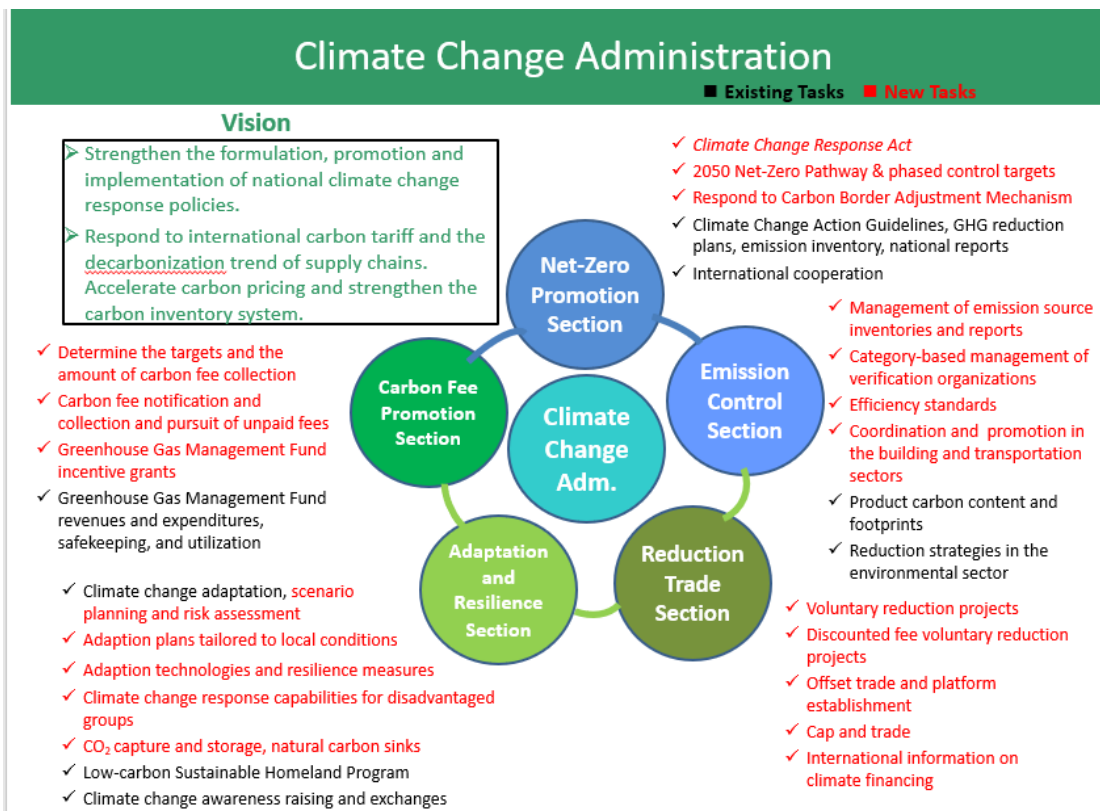
9. **Ministry of Environment to Be Established with Expanded Duties to Take Full Responsibility for Environmental Governance**

The EPA stated that the purpose of the organizational adjustment planned by the Executive Yuan to establish the Ministry of Environment is to expand the scope of duties, change the concept of environmental quality management from pollution control to prevention management, and plan overall environmental improvement strategies with forward-thinking, align with environmental scientific research, and turn passivity into activeness to systematically deal with environmental problems.

The EPA has listed the added duties planned for the future Ministry of Environment (added duties are shown in red in the image) and plans to integrate the management of chemical substances, industry waste reuse, and other powers in order to improve management efficiencies. The integration will also solve the problem of dividing management powers and responsibilities among different ministries, which can lead to problems integrating and coordinating scattered expertise and information. It is hoped that the future Ministry of Environment will operate with higher overall organizational efficiency and comprehensively take on the responsibilities of environmental governance.

The EPA explained that the planned establishment of the Ministry of Environment involves establishing four level-3 administrative agencies (including the Climate Change Administration, Resource Circulation Administration, Chemical Substance Management Administration, and Environmental Management Administration) and a level-3 institute (National Environmental Research Institute). Through the expansion and coordination of duties, the Ministry is expected to achieve the following five grand visions:

1. Actively respond to climate change by strengthening the formulation, promotion, and implementation of national policies; implement the supervision and evaluation of the phased control targets; respond to international carbon tariff and the decarbonization trend of supply chains; accelerate carbon pricing, strengthen the carbon inventory system, and seek decarbonization technologies and strategies; mitigate international pressure and assist domestic industrial transformation



The framework of Climate Change Administration under the future Ministry of Environment (added duties are shown in red)

2. Implement circular economy, waste reduction, and reuse through coordinating reuse management powers and responsibilities of all ministries and collecting funds for the promotion of resource circulation, renewable energy from waste, and inventory and analysis of waste resources. Promote new measures such as circular procurement, sustainable consumption, and environment-friendly design of products to achieve the reduced use of primary raw materials and improve resource use efficiencies so as to reduce environmental load and gradually advance towards the goals of sustainable resource circulation and zero waste.

3. Expand the scope of chemical substance management to cover all chemical substances handled in Taiwan to achieve the goals of “extending source management to borders and reducing breakpoints to deter violation,” “integrating disaster prevention resources and strengthening responses to reduce disaster losses,” “fully conveying hazard information to reduce exposure to health risks,” and “transforming to sustainable and non-toxic use of resources to align management with international conventions.”

4. Strengthen environmental law enforcement with digital technologies; use smart technologies and the internet to handle general waste in diverse ways; and improve environmental cleanliness and sanitation management. Sustainably manage soil and groundwater resources through improving the certification system of surveying and remediation technologies and increasing soil and groundwater regeneration and carbon sink capacities. Strengthen pollution source control to build low-risk living environments and develop healthy and sustainable communities.

5. Promote research for climate change and resource circulation, improve environmental risk assessment and management technologies, facilitate net zero transformation and cultivate

professional talents, and work with research resources nationwide to establish an environmental think tank to provide long-term and stable support for overall national environmental policies.

10. Regulations Governing Indoor Air Quality Testing Revised to Provide More Flexibility for Announced Premises

On 24 June 2022, the EPA has revised Articles 10 and 18 of the *Regulations Governing Indoor Air Quality Testing and Analysis of Announced Premises* (公告場所室內空氣品質檢驗測定辦法), which was enacted on 1 July 2022. For any periodic testing runs except the initial testing run, the announced premises may commission a testing organization to conduct testing within three months before or after the scheduled periodic testing run in order to give adequate buffer time. The revision also clearly specifies the starting point of the intervals between testing runs.

To improve indoor air quality and protect public health, the EPA revised and promulgated the *Regulations Governing Indoor Air Quality Testing and Analysis of Announced Premises* on 1 July 2021. The regulations established the self-management option and introduced the application of automated and continuous monitoring equipment. This time, to give announced premises ample flexibility to schedule periodic testing of indoor air quality and also meet their management needs, Articles 10 and 18 of the regulations have been revised.

The focus of the revision has taken into consideration the fact that announced premises need to coordinate with testing organizations for periodic testing. In addition, if the premises voluntarily add more than one run of periodic testing between the required testing runs, and if the testing results meet the *Indoor Air Quality Standards* (室內空氣品質標準) and are provided to the county or city competent authorities for approval, the interval before the next testing run will start from the completion date of the latest periodic testing run. Moreover, if an announced premise suspends operation during a periodic testing run, it shall complete a run of indoor air quality periodic testing within three months after the resumption of operations to meet practical needs and complete subsequent management work.

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