



Environmental Policy Monthly

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

Feature Column

County and City Sustainable Development

Local action is the foundation of sustainable development. Taiwan began promoting local sustainable development in 1990 with the drafting of Agenda 21. This plan promoted local implementation and set short-, mid-, and long-range goals to help attain comprehensive results.

In 2002 the United Nations held the 2nd World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, and announced the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. The declaration proclaimed that the focus of sustainable development had moved from international issues to local implementation, heralding an era of local action toward sustainable development.

County/City Sustainable Development Action Plans

Domestic promotion originally began in May 1990 when the National Council for Sustainable Development, Executive Yuan, completed the "Agenda 21--National Sustainable Development Vision and Strategy Guidelines." The "National Sustainable Development Action Plan" was later completed in December 2002. This served as

the nation's mid- to long-range action plan for implementing sustainable development. The "Taiwan Sustainable Development Indicator System" has been published annually since 2003, providing annual statistics to help monitor outcomes of domestic efforts toward sustainable development.

Local government promotion of sustainable development work plays an integral function. In 2003, the Executive Yuan assisted local governments in drafting and implementing County/City Sustainable Development Promotion Plans. By 2004, the Committee for Economic Development had already selected 10 localities: Taipei City, Kaohsiung City, Yilan County, Changhua County, Tainan County, Kaohsiung County, Pingtung County, Hualien County, Taichung City, and Kinmen County. In 2005, the Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission, Executive Yuan, selected Chiayi City to receive subsidies for its local sustainable development plan.

In This Issue

Feature Column: County and City Sustainable Development	1
President Signs Declaration on Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction.....	4
Waste Import, Export and Transit Regulations Under Revision.....	4
Marine Incineration Banned to Strengthen Ocean Dumping Management.....	5
Air Pollution Permit Application Process Goes Online from 1 September 2008.....	6
Reservoir Eutrophication Reaches Record Low.....	7
EPA Asks Convenience Stores Not to Give Away Disposable Chopsticks.....	7
River Water Quality Meets Standards Since Pig Farms Removed	8
Corporations Rated for Efforts to Promote Green Consumption.....	8
Green Store Online Registration and Review System Kicks Off	9
Legislative Yuan and EPA Survey Industry Carbon Reductions	10
EOL Vehicles Must Be Recycled before Deregistering.....	10
Seven Tap Water Treatment Plants Awarded.....	11
Briefs.....	12

Taoyuan County and Tainan City raised funds for sustainable development on their own. This adds up to a total of 13 local sustainable development plans that have been completed.

The EPA continued working on this initiative in 2006 by providing subsidies of NT\$5 million to four local governments (Taipei County, Taichung County, Yunlin County and Chiayi County) to assist them implement local sustainable development plans. Also, in 2007 an additional NT\$8.5 million was provided to eight more local governments (Hsinchu City, Hsinchu County, Miaoli County, Nantou County, Keelung City, Taitung County, Penghu County, and Lianchiang County) to assist in their efforts to implement the local sustainable development promotion plans.

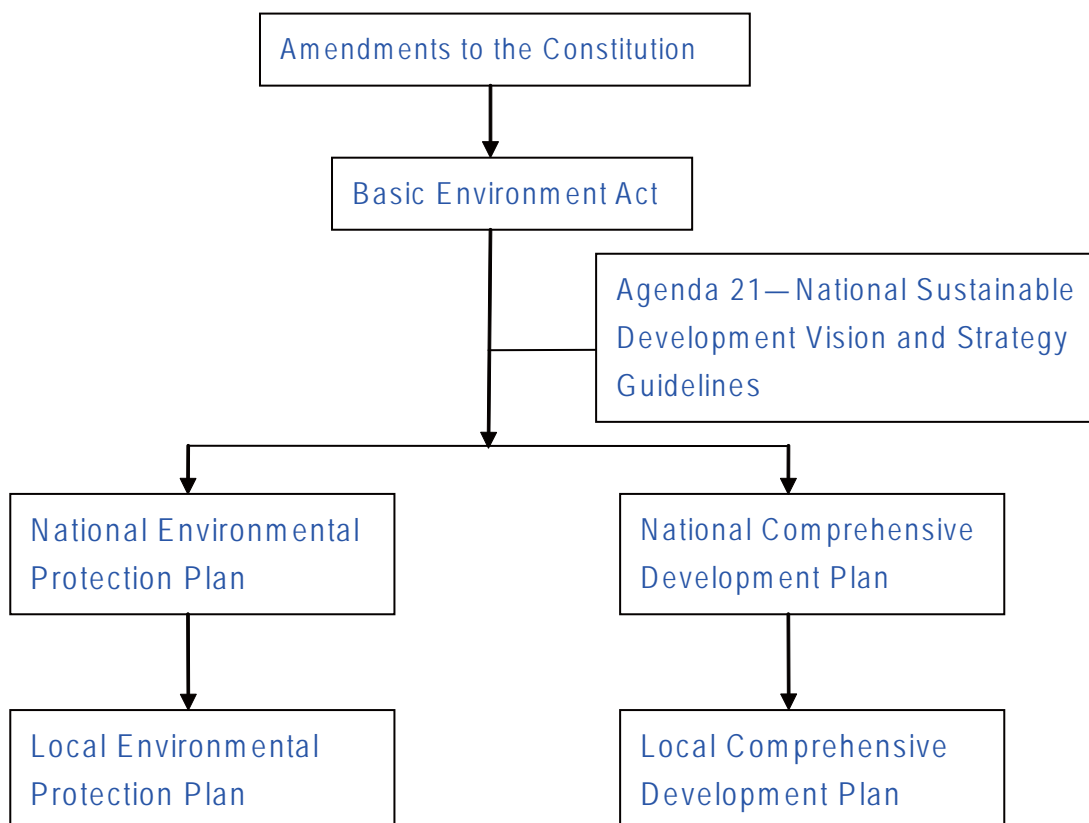
EPA Subsidizes Cities/Counties to Implement Sustainable Development Plans

To ensure continuity in promoting sustainable development, the EPA has proactively subsidized 12 cities and counties to carry out local sustainable development plans. This includes establishing local

sustainable development committees, clarifying objectives, analyzing the issues at hand, mapping out strategies, setting up execution and tracking mechanisms, establishing review and revision mechanisms, and devising methods to evaluate results. With these measures firmly in place, newly appointed officials are better equipped to follow through with related plans.

When local governments formulate their local sustainable development promotion plans, the next step is to establish a sustainable development committee, which is convened by the leading official of the local government. However, quite often busy work schedules inhibit leading officials of these localities to fulfill their roles in presiding over committees in person and promoting local sustainable development plans. This situation results in a lack of focused initiative and integrated impetus, having a debilitating effect on the local promotion of sustainable development efforts. In view of this matter, every two years the Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission, Executive Yuan, evaluates local sustainable development promotional mechanisms. This year the EPA has

▶ *Figure: Taiwan Agenda 21 and Environmental Protection Plans*



specially drawn up plans for the establishment of a series of local sustainable development operational mechanisms and local sustainable development common indicators that are specifically relevant to the nation. This will enable the local promotion of sustainable development to continue progressing along the path towards achievement.

Implementing Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability

Short term: Establish local sustainable development operational mechanisms and draft local sustainable development white papers

For the short-term promotional objectives, this year the EPA has specially commissioned Chia Nan University of Pharmacy & Science to work on the "Local Sustainable Development Operational Mechanism Work Plan." The primary objective is to study and analyze the present status and problems of local promotion of sustainable development. Operational mechanisms of local government level promotion of sustainable development in advanced nations (Europe, the US, and Japan), will be referenced with the goal of devising the most suitable local sustainable development operational mechanism for our nation. This will work to ensure the successful implementation of local sustainable development plans.

Next, local sustainable development plans that have already been implemented will be chosen for conducting a simulated analysis. This will offer an understanding of that mechanism's feasibility, and allow for review and revisions to be made so that the mechanism is better suitable for application in cities and counties across the nation. Also, a set of the nation's local sustainable development common indicators will be established to provide a basis for comparing the work done by various cities and counties in promoting sustainable development. This will instill a sense of competitiveness among the localities in their efforts to promote local sustainable development.

To help the general public better understand the results of efforts and future plans made by the local governments' promotion of sustainable development, unify consensus among the general public about sustainable development, and provide the

government with a reference regarding sustainable development policies, this year the EPA has allocated NT\$900,000 to assist Pingtung County and Kinmen County draft local sustainable development white papers. The results of these two white papers will be used as models for other cities and counties. In the future, cities and counties will receive greater encouragement to draft local sustainable development white papers, thus allowing for more transparency and openness in the local promotion of sustainable development efforts.

Mid-term: Preliminary Plans for Establishing Model Regions of Local Sustainable Development

By the end of 2008, the EPA estimates that 25 cities and counties will complete sustainable development plans. For the focus of future promotion, the EPA will continue encouraging localities to draft local sustainable development white papers and help the general public better understand the results of efforts and future plans of the local governments' promotion of sustainable development. In 2009, the EPA will work on Preliminary Plans for Establishing Model Regions of Local Sustainable Development. The plan will survey the human resources, equipment, and facilities being utilized for sustainable development efforts across the nation, integrate local existing sustainable development resources, and draw up a plan for sustainable development models that display the special qualities of the five regions (north, central, south, east, and outlying islands). These regions will be used as a reference in future efforts to establish sustainable development model regions.

Long term: Establish sustainable development model regions and hold local sustainable development fairs as a means of implementing economic, social, and environmental sustainability policy objectives

Local sustainable development is a new environmental model and development method being promoted worldwide. Many issues require innovative thinking and scientific integration to carry out the task. Thus each area's unique local assets will be included in the planning of local sustainable development model regions in these five regions (north, central, south, east, and outlying islands). The EPA will integrate the unique local qualities of each region when establishing sustainable development model regions.

In addition, local sustainable development fairs and forums will be held to share ideas about preserving the unique local qualities of these sustainable development regions. Thus, referencing other countries' experiences and inviting local government officials and grassroots organizations to publicly announce and display successful cases will expedite the transfer and promotion of successful

achievements. This will enable local governments and grassroots organizations involved in the promotion of local sustainable development work to interact face-to-face, mutually sharing information and learning from each others experiences while implementing economic, social, and environmental sustainability policy objectives.

Climate Change

President Signs Declaration on Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction

On World Environment Day, June 5, President Ma Ying-jeou signed the Ten-Step Presidential Declaration on Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction. Example actions include encouraging employees to wear simple lightweight work attire, turn off lights and unplug appliances. It is hoped that citizens can put these actions to practice in their own lives.

For this year's World Environment Day, President Ma held an energy conservation and carbon reduction declaration ceremony for all colleagues at the Office of the President to sign. President Ma, Vice President Vincent Siew, and Presidential Secretary-General Chan Chun-po attended the ceremony.

The Ten-Step Presidential Declaration on Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction entails actions such as wearing simple lightweight attire, opening windows to cool off, turning off lights, unplugging appliances, driving less, walking more, buying local products, eating as much as you can finish, refusing to buy overpackaged products, recycling, reusing, and bringing your own cup, bowl, chopsticks, handkerchief, and shopping bag.

At the ceremony, President Ma set the example by taking out his handkerchief, chopsticks, fork and spoon that he always carries. Ma said the ten-step

plan will reduce energy consumption if everyone adopts these habits in daily life.

President Ma said that by strongly promoting energy-saving and carbon-reduction practices at the Office of the President, these habits are more likely to spread to the people. While it is not easy for everyone to adopt energy-saving practices, taking it one step at a time will improve the environment.

The Office of the President launched the 123 Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction Plan with targets to save 10% of electricity, 20% of water and 30% of paper. In the future, Office of the President colleagues have agreed to turn off all lights during breaks or after work, set the air conditioner at 26 degrees Celsius, and not wear suits to informal meetings. The Office of the President has set up a rainwater harvesting system and a water recycling and purification system.

Waste Management

Waste Import, Export and Transit Regulations Under Revision

The EPA will revise regulations to ensure appropriate treatment of exported and imported waste materials. For example, waste exporters will be required to compile a report about their onsite visit of the recipient country's treatment plants to oversee treatment capacity and management operations. Also, enterprises may not import waste for two years after their import permit has been revoked.

Responsible for the management of waste imports and exports, the EPA made a preannouncement of revisions to the Waste Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment Management Regulations (廢棄物輸入輸出過境轉口管理辦法) on 26 June 2008. The revisions are posted online under the preannouncement section of the EPA website (<http://w3.epa.gov.tw/epalaw/index.aspx>).

The EPA promulgated the Waste Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment Management Regulations (廢棄物輸入輸出過境轉口管理辦法) on 2 January 2003 to ensure appropriate treatment of imported and exported waste. Although this was revised in 2005, some disputed parts concerning actual management still required further clarification. The focus of this round of revision includes the following:

1. It is clarified that waste transported from bonded warehouses, logistics centers, bonded factories, agricultural technology park industries, free port industries and domestic taxation zones is not considered import or export waste (Article 3).
2. To ensure exported waste undergo appropriate treatment abroad, it has been added that applicants must prepare a report of their onsite visit to the recipient country's treatment plant to inspect treatment capacity and operations within five years of applying, and verify accuracy of their report (Article 12).
3. Clarification is given to waste import and export permit inspection deadlines, dubious treatment, and the definition and restrictions of first-time applications (Articles 6 and 14).
4. Separate regulations have been drafted for illegal import/export of general industrial waste and hazardous waste (Articles 7 and 16).
5. A clause has been added specifying that the EPA may not issue an import permit to those who have had their import permits revoked within two years (Articles 7 and 16).
6. It has been specified that those importing waste without a permit will without exception be required to send the waste back within a given deadline; customs officials may not confiscate or dispose of such waste. Punishment for those who refuse to send back waste will follow penalties for dumping waste (Article 11).
7. For cases of waste import/export with countries that have signed bilateral agreements with Taiwan, it is specified that priority shall rest with the content of agreements (Article 33).
8. It is specified that the import/export of waste samples can be provided to academic research organizations to develop treatment technology; special cases can apply for an import/export permit from the EPA (Article 38).

For more information, please call 02-23117722 ext. 2600.

Water Quality

Marine Incineration Banned to Strengthen Ocean Dumping Management

The EPA has referred to international conventions in its revision of the Marine Dumping and Marine Incineration Management Regulations to effectively manage ocean dumping and stay in accordance with international trends to prohibit marine incineration. The revisions strengthen application permit inspections and include new regulations on ocean dumping technology standards and review permits. The original clause requiring application for marine incineration has been deleted to prevent pollution from the treatment of waste at sea.

The EPA emphasizes that the purpose of this revision of ocean dumping permit management regulations is to comply with trends of the international convention on ocean dumping. It also encourages ocean dumping policy to prioritize the reuse of resources and requests manufacturers to plan for reductions and recycling to reduce the

impacts of ocean dumping on the ocean ecology.

In 1972, the UN mandated the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, known as the London Convention. The purpose of this convention is to regulate the world's nations that use the ocean to dispose of

waste. In 1996, this was further developed into the 1996 Protocol to the London Dumping Convention (the London Protocol), which listed seven types of substances that can be considered for dumping at sea. All other substances are not allowed for dumping at sea, and the protocol banned the export of waste or other substances to other countries for the purpose of ocean dumping or marine incineration.

On 2 November 2006, the Taiwan EPA revised the "Types of Substances for Marine Dumping" to accord with the London Protocol. The original list specified that ocean dumping may only be considered for the following substances: dredged sludge, wastewater sludge, seafood processing waste, vessels, docks or other artificial marine structures, inorganic geological matter, natural organic matter and bulky items primarily comprising iron, steel and concrete or other harmless materials.

Ocean dumping may be carried out only after

passing inspection by the EPA. However, there were formerly no application or documents required for marine incineration. To effectively manage and prevent pollution from ocean dumping, this round of revisions prohibits marine incineration and draws on the UN International Maritime Organization ocean dumping permit application filing standards. Also added to the regulations include an explanation of the content of ocean dumping plans, regulations and penalties regarding equipment and structure of ocean dumping vessels or facilities, items to consider regarding recycling feasibility, and a clause requiring online reporting of ocean dumping after leaving ports.

The EPA hopes this round of revisions facilitates the management of businesses applying for ocean dumping permits and maintains effective command over ocean dumping methods to minimize the impact of pollutants. For more information please call 02-23117722 ext. 2800

Air Quality

Air Pollution Permit Application Process Goes Online from 1 September 2008

Applications with the EPA for installation, modification or operation of air pollution sources can be handled online from 1 September 2008. At this time enterprises can use the Internet to process applications, modification or extensions of stationary pollution source installation and operating permits. Over 8,000 public and private enterprises are expected to benefit from this measure.

To achieve pollution prevention, the EPA has announced targeted enterprises that must apply for installation, modification and operation of air pollution sources. These enterprises are required to submit relevant documents to their local environmental protection bureau (EPB) and receive approval before installing, modifying or operating air pollution sources.

After the application of permits for installations, modifications, and operating air pollution sources goes online, enterprises can check or add information to their application at any time and need not go through the entire application process all over again. This saves time required for filing applications. The system also provides preliminary checks of data and assists in keeping up with the review process. The system links with the EPA's air, water, waste, and toxics information management system to provide

enterprises more channels for information and increase convenience.

This measure will be implemented in two stages with the first stage applicable to the first group of stationary pollution sources listed in Article 24-1 of the Air Pollution Control Act (空氣污染防治法). From 1 September 2008, an expected 1,126 permits will be applied for in the first stage. The second class of stationary pollution sources will be subject to this measure from 1 January 2009, including applications for an estimated 10,116 permits. The application categories include applications, modification, or extensions for stationary pollution source installation and operation permits.

For more information, please call 02-23117722 ext. 2750

Reservoir Eutrophication Reaches Record Low

Taiwan's water quality is getting better. After monitoring the water quality of Taiwan's 20 most important reservoirs, the EPA found a record low percentage of eutrophic reservoirs (25%).

Taiwan's water quality has improved considerably in recent years. Based on the latest water quality monitoring results, there are currently 14 reservoirs with Carlson Trophic State Index (CTSI) under 50 (indicating eutrophication is not present). Among these, the Shihmen Reservoir, Liyu Lake and Nanhwa Reservoir improved by the largest margin, changing in status from eutrophic to mesotrophic.

Monitoring results show there were eight eutrophic reservoirs in 2006, decreasing to five in 2007. This is a record low percentage of eutrophic reservoirs (25%). However, there are still five reservoirs with CTSI greater than 50: Baoshan Reservoir, Baihe Reservoir, Chengching Lake, Fengshan Reservoir and Agongdian Reservoir. Water quality awaits improvement at these water bodies.

The water quality of Taiwan's rivers is also improving. Results of water quality monitoring of Taiwan's 50 major rivers showed in 2001 there were 386.2 kilometers of seriously polluted river segments (accounting for 13.6% of total river lengths); this decreased to 196.3 kilometers by 2007 and accounts for only 6.7% of the total length of rivers in Taiwan.

Improvements were made to five rivers with the most seriously polluted river segments. The best performance was achieved at Erren River, which went from 100% seriously polluted to 35.3% for an improvement of 64.5 percentage points. This is followed by the Nankan River, with seriously polluted river segments dropping from 61.2% to 19.2% for an improvement of 42.0 percentage points. The Beigang River went from 83.2% to 45.4%, for an improvement of 47.8 percentage points. The Jishui River went from 65.7% to 30.0%, for an improvement of 35.7 percentage points. The Yanshui River went from 68.5% to 34.6% for an improvement of 33.9 percentage points.

It is also worth noting that in the Tamshui River—the river with the highest population within the river basin—seriously polluted river segments decreased from 21.4% to 10.0% for an improvement of 11.4 percentage points. These figures show preliminary results of water quality remediation in Taiwan since the EPA began implementing related improvement plans in 2002.

For more information, please call 02-23117722*2800

EPA Asks Convenience Stores Not to Give Away Disposable Chopsticks

In the future, convenience stores will no longer automatically dispense disposable chopsticks for purchases of lunch boxes or instant noodles. On 6 June 2008, the EPA struck an agreement with convenience stores including 7-Eleven, Family Mart, Life, and OK. The stores were all willing to comply with this environmental measure and do their part to reduce waste, save energy and cut carbon emissions.

Statistics show that from 2001 to 2005 Taiwan used 50,000 tonnes of disposable chopsticks (about 6.2 billion pairs) per year. In 2006, the EPA promoted a ban on disposable tableware in school and government cafeterias. The amount of chopsticks dropped to 46,000 tonnes in 2006, and greatly dropped again in 2007 to 38,000 tonnes (about 5 billion pairs of chopsticks). Still each day about 1.3 million pairs of disposable chopstick are thrown away.

Convenience stores go through an estimated 1,500 tonnes of disposable chopsticks per year, equivalent to about 180 million pairs of chopsticks. Most convenience store consumers of lunchboxes or instant noodles are workers or students, taking their food back to their offices or schools. But convenience stores don't usually ask customers whether they need chopsticks and automatically provide them to customers without asking. Even though most workers and students have access to reusable

chopsticks at their offices or schools, they tend to just use disposable chopsticks for convenience sake, inadvertently adding to the waste problem.

In recent years, media reports on the issue of chopsticks containing SO₂ residues, the number of people that carry their own chopsticks has increased daily and bring-your-own (BYO) chopsticks have become a popular gift for company employees. Results of an online survey conducted by the Consumers' Foundation in May 2008 say that only 9.6% of people do not have a set of BYO chopsticks and nearly 80% of people have 1 to 3 sets of BYO chopsticks. According to a public opinion poll conducted by the EPA in November 2006, 19.9% of respondents said they frequently bring their own chopsticks when eating out, while 15.3% said they sometimes bring their own chopsticks. This shows that

people are gradually getting into the habit of carrying their own tableware.

The EPA struck an agreement with four of Taiwan's largest convenience stores--7-Eleven, Family Mart, Life, and OK--in hopes of promoting a reduction in the use of disposable chopsticks. The corporations expressed willingness to not automatically supply customers with disposable chopsticks. The measure will generally take effect in July, but some branches may not implement this measure until later due to timing factors. The EPA is aiming for a 20% reduction goal in half a year, hoping to prevent the disposal of 36 million pairs of chopsticks per year (about 300 tonnes), the equivalent of 10,000 twenty-year-old trees. This achievement will also reduce the amount of trash incinerated, thereby cutting the emissions of about 280 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.



▶ Taiwan's convenience stores won't automatically dispense disposable chopsticks

Water Quality

River Water Quality Meets Standards Since Pig Farms Removed

Several years ago, the EPA subsidized the removal of pig farms from five major river basins and conducted inspections to ensure all farms were removed. None of the 4,000+ farms have recommenced operations, and drinking water quality complies with standards in these protected water sources.

To solve the problem of long-term pollution of rivers and drinking water sources by pig farm effluent, in late 1990 the government implemented a plan to subsidize the removal of pig farms from midstream and upstream segments of five major river systems (Kaoping River, Tsengwen River, Toucian River, Tamshui River, and Dajia River). Over the last seven years, local environmental agencies have not let up on their inspections and have not yet found

any of the 4,000+ original pig farms recommencing operations. The Kaoping River Dashulan embankment station (water outtake point) ammonia nitrogen average test value dropped and remained stable at 0.2 mg/l, in compliance with drinking water source water quality standards.

The EPA indicates that in order to implement pig farm removal and inspection work in water protection areas,

environmental agencies have adopted a computerized regulatory system that uses GPS, onsite photographs, and registration of inspection results. The EPA ensures all data is accounted for by running it through a comprehensive, continuous verification system shared by the EPA and county and city environmental protection bureaus. From the end of May 2008, a total of 39,546 cases were verified, effectively preventing removed pig farms from recommencing business and reducing pollution of water sources. Current land where pig raising facilities have been completely removed are now mostly planted with vegetation or

left as open space. Lands where pig raising facilities have only been partially removed have been mainly used as storage spaces.

Pig farms in the Kaoping River basin accounted for 83.4% of the pigs in the five main water source protection areas. Most farms were concentrated around Meinong Township, Kaohsiung County and Gaoshu Township in Pingtung County. This region was the focus of inspections to maintain clean water quality.

Ecolabeling

Corporations Rated for Efforts to Promote Green Consumption

To provide consumers with options to purchase products with lower environmental footprints, the EPA has been promoting the Green Mark system since 1993. To date already 313 companies and 4,020 products have obtained certification. The top three companies with the most Green Mark products were Tatung (245 products), Hewlett Packard (209 products), and Epson Taiwan (163 products).

In terms of selling Green Mark products, currently the branches of 18 chain stores and 37 general stores have registered with the EPA as Green Stores, for a total of 265 stores. Among these include 41 General Welfare Service Ministry's stores, 22 B&Q stores, 14 Geant stores, 12 Surewell supermarkets in Yilan County, and 5 Taiwan Sugar stores, all of which have registered all their branches as Green Stores.

According to EPA statistics, currently the companies with the most Green Mark products are manufacturers of IT products, home appliances and water-saving products. These three industries account for 65% of all Green Mark products so far. As for household

cleaning agents, among the most frequently used products of all, there is still a dearth of Green Mark certified domestically manufactured products with only 79 such products on the market to date. Among the 313 companies with Green Mark products, 82 have over 10 Green Mark products. The top ten companies are Tatung, HP, Epson Taiwan, Taiwan Green Device Co, Cybertek, Fuji Xerox Taiwan, Sanyo Taiwan, Hocheng, Tien Kuang Enterprise, and Panasonic Taiwan. These companies' products account for 34% of all Green Mark products. Among the top ranking domestic companies include Hitachi (14th place), Kolin (19th place), AsusTek (20th place), and Acer (26th place).

Ecolabeling

Green Store Online Registration and Review System Kicks Off

The EPA's Green Living Information Website (<http://greenliving.epa.gov.tw>) has launched a Green Store registration and review system to provide people with convenient ways to buy environmental products. Legitimate stores can register as Green Stores through this system.

The EPA indicates that from 22 June 2008 already 55 companies and their 265 stores have registered online to apply for Green Store certification.

Of these, 164 stores have passed a review by their local environmental protection bureau and have obtained Green Store certification. Among the top

five enterprises with the most Green Store branches include General Welfare Service Ministry stores, B&Q, Carrefour, Geant, and Yilan County's own regional Surewell supermarket chain--the only local chain that made it to the top five.

Encouraging more businesses to apply for the Green Mark ecolabel, the EPA will put the application process online before the end of 2008 and add 16 more specification standards and designate 9 more product categories for government green procurement. In terms of promoting green consumption, apart from chain stores, general stores that sell three or more Green Mark products and have completed product labeling and resource recycling facilities, are welcome

to register as a Green Store. Stores that obtain their Green Store certificate before the end of June 2008 (the end of July 2008 for general stores) are eligible to participate in the second annual Green Marketing Awards. Registration details and selection rules are posted on the EPA's Green Living Information Website. The registration deadline is 15 August 2008. The winning Green Stores will be publicly announced and awarded. All businesses are welcome to participate.

Applications and information on Green Store registration can be found online at the Green Living Information Website or by calling 0800-026945.

Climate Change

Legislative Yuan and EPA Survey Industry Carbon Reductions

To better understand industry's greenhouse gas reduction methods and future plans, on 26 June 2008, six legislators on the Legislative Yuan's Health, Environment and Labor Committee and EPA Minister Stephen Shen made onsite visits at China Steel and Taipower to evaluate their compliance with National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policy.

In the evaluation, the legislators and Minister Shen focused on domestic industries more representative of greenhouse gas emissions (steel and power industries) to gain a better understanding of the status of measures and methods currently adopted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

China Steel planted 20,000 trees, and reused furnace slag, waste heat or waste gas to generate power. These measures curtailed about 213,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Taipower's Dalin factory is planning to replace four generators to increase the efficiency of power generation, reuse coal ash, install a photovoltaic system and plant trees. These measures will knock carbon dioxide emissions back

to the 2006 rate of 0.556 kg/kWh. This is expected to be further reduced to 0.51 kg/kWh by 2016 to 2018.

Apart from drawing on reports by the EPA, China Steel and Taipower, the legislators made onsite surveys of the China Steel energy center to gain an understanding of energy use at the plant including the use of waste heat to generate power. They also visited Taipower's Dalin plant to see the results of experiments to use algae to sequester carbon dioxide. The legislators sat down to talks with these enterprises to hear of their problems and suggestions regarding energy conservation and carbon reductions to serve as a reference for future review of the draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (溫室氣體減量法).

Recycling

EOL Vehicles Must Be Recycled before Deregistering

The EPA is revising regulations to require vehicle owners to turn in their old vehicles to a legitimate recycling organization and obtain certification before deregistering. This regulation is slated to take effect from 1 January 2009. Vehicles must be deregistered at the end of their lifetime in order for the owner to cancel taxes or other fees.

To ensure end-of-life (EOL) vehicles are recycled by legal vehicle wrecking enterprises, and to

prevent related environmental or safety hazards, the EPA has revised the Recyclable Waste Recycling

and Treatment Enterprise Management Regulations (應回收廢棄物回收處理業管理辦法) to stipulate that recycling and treatment businesses found violating regulations will have their licenses revoked. EOL vehicle recyclers are required to register their business on the EPA's designated information system. This step assists road monitoring organizations check whether EOL vehicles have been recorded in the system.

The EPA states that there are nearly 280,000 automobiles and 380,000 motorbikes scrapped each year in Taiwan. It is estimated that about 110,000 of these vehicles never make it to legitimate recycling enterprises for appropriate dismantling and treatment. Inappropriate dismantling processes or byproducts that are not appropriately treated could cause serious environmental pollution. Illegal dismantling of vehicles also gives rise to vehicle theft and illegal sales, which can jeopardize public safety.

To effectively and appropriately handle these

environmental and safety issues, the EPA is encouraging all EOL vehicles to enter systematic dismantling and recycling channels. Revisions to the General Waste Recycling, Clearance and Treatment Regulations (一般廢棄物回收清除處理辦法) will require vehicle owners to handover their EOL vehicles to legally registered vehicle recycling enterprises before applying for EOL vehicle deregistration with the road monitoring authority. To increase administrative efficiency, the EPA has already set up an electronic EOL Vehicle Recycling Verification Information System to help road monitoring authorities conveniently check online whether recycling enterprises have already recorded recycled EOL vehicles.

In the future, before people can deregister their EOL vehicles, road monitoring authorities will first confirm whether the vehicle in question has already been handed over to a legally registered vehicle recycling enterprise.

Water Quality

Seven Tap Water Treatment Plants Awarded

Tap water is not only good for your health – it is good for the Earth. Use of tap water reduces waste and consumption of energy used on packaging, and thereby helps mitigate global warming. The EPA has conducted an overall evaluation of Taiwan's water treatment plants to find outstanding water quality at seven plants: Taipei Water Department in Zhihtan and the Taiwan Water Corporation in Nanhua, Bansin, Dongsing, Shapuodang, Shengou, and Yulitan.

Tap water companies first nominated 14 of the best performing water treatment plants in Taiwan. The seven most outstanding plants provide daily drinking water for over seven million people or 33% of Taiwan's population (about 21.13 million).

The evaluation looked at water source protection measures, treatment processes, maintenance of supply system, and customer service. After onsite audits by experts and scholars, the following seven treatment plants were chosen for excellent performance in water source management and water quality control: Zhihtan, Nanhua, Bansin, Dongsing, Shapuodang, Shengou, and Yulitan. All of these plants were noted for posting water quality information on the Internet and providing onsite water quality testing service. For this they received the 2007 Excellent Drinking Water Quality awards.

The EPA emphasizes that drinking more water is good for your health. Bringing your own container for

drinking water when you leave home not only cuts down on expenses for buying packaged drinks, which often have high sugar and calorie contents, but also reduces waste. This simple action provides multiple benefits for both health and the environment. The global environment and conservation organizations are all calling on people to cut down on the use of packaged drinking water.

The EPA indicates that current drinking water quality standards specify controls in 57 categories. Environmental agencies conduct over 10,000 random tests annually at over 300 treatment plants throughout Taiwan, with a compliancy rate of 99%. In contrast, there are only ten health standards regulating the water quality of packaged and dispensed drinking water on the market. Environmental agencies ensure strict control over tap water quality so that residents need only boil their tap water for a healthy and environmental drink. People are thus encouraged to get in the habit of drinking more tap water and buying

less packaged water and other drinks.

More information on the seven top performing water treatment plants is available on the EPA drinking

water website (<http://ivyl.epa.gov.tw/drinkwater>). Inquiries can also be made over the phone at 02-2311-7722 x 2880.

News Briefs

Recycled Food Waste and Bulk Waste Yield NT\$2.7 Billion Annually

According to the EPA's evaluation of food waste and bulk waste recycling in 2007, the top performers in food waste recycling were Taoyuan County, Taichung County, Taichung City, Tainan City and Yilan County. The top five performers in bulk waste recycling were Taipei City, Taichung City, Chiayi County, Tainan City and Taitung County. The EPA publicly announced these local governments to affirm their outstanding efforts.

The EPA explains that over the past year, Taiwan recycled 663,000 tonnes of food waste and reused 31,000 tonnes of bulk waste, for a daily average of 1,900 tonnes, meaning that two of Taiwan's 900-tonne incinerators didn't need to be built. These measures not only reduce carbon emissions, but also create NT\$2.7 billion in economic benefits.

EPA Awarded for Outstanding Performance in Reviewing Construction Quality in 2007

To enhance the construction quality of environmental facilities, the EPA has established the Construction Quality Review Committee. The committee actively steers and reviews the construction of environmental facilities throughout Taiwan. Construction organizations, supervisors and contractors are requested to carry out a three-tiered quality control check of environmental facility construction projects. This process is strictly reviewed by the committee, and in 2007 the Public Construction Commission ranked the committee's performance first place in the central government. The Council of Labor Affairs rated the committee third place in a 2007 evaluation of compliance with construction quality review of public construction disaster prevention.

120 Motorbike Testing Stations Commended

The EPA commended 120 of the nation's top performing motorbike testing stations on 25 June 2008. EPA Minister Stephen Shen personally handed out plaques at the award ceremony. The EPA points out that this is the eleventh year of implementing regular inspections of motorbike exhaust, and there are now already over 2,400 testing stations throughout the island. The annual number of motorbikes to undergo testing at these stations has increased from over one million to about seven million. The percentage of motorbikes that come in for regular testing has increased from 45% to 75.8% in 2007. Over the years the rate of substandard test results has decreased from 22% to 13.8%.



▶ Motorbike Testing Station

Environmental Policy Monthly
R.O.C. (Taiwan)

Publisher
Stephen Shu-hung Shen, Minister

Editor-in-Chief
Y. F. Liang

Executive Editors
Yu-ling Yang; Hui-kuo Consulting Co., Ltd.

行政院新聞局出版登記證局版北市誌字第1611號
中華郵政北台字第6128號執照登記為雜誌交寄

Editorial and translation support
provided by:

Hui-kuo Consulting, Ltd.,
The EPM is available on the EPA website at http://english.epa.gov.tw/en/FileDownloadPage_EN.aspx?path=420

For inquiries or subscriptions to the printed version, please contact:

Environmental Policy Monthly
Environmental Protection Administration
International Affairs Office

83, Sec. 1, Jhonghua Rd.,
Taipei 100, R.O.C. (Taiwan)
tel: 886-2-2311-7722, ext. 2211
fax: 886-2-2311-5486
e-mail: uemail@epa.gov.tw

ISSN: 1811-4008
GPN: 2008600068
Contents Copyright 2008.
printed on recycled paper

