

Major Environmental Policies

June 2021

1. Feature Article: Improvement and Strengthening of Recycling and Access to Recycling

The Four-In-One Recycling Policy devised first in Taiwan has been implemented for a quarter of a century. Its achievements include, for example, a household garbage recycling rate of 56.4% and a reuse rate of 85.89%. In response to the drastic increase of plastic and paper tableware and utensils since 2020 due to the pandemic, various recycling measures have been adjusted. Through expansion of recycling and raised accountability, and by strengthening recycling channels, Taiwan has enhanced its recycling capacity and continued toward zero waste.

The EPA has since January 1997 encouraged communities to sort household garbage. A complete recycling network has been established by working with local authorities (cleaning crews), recycling enterprises, and the Recycling Fund to recycle and reduce household-generated small-size waste.

Since its implementation by the EPA in 2005, mandatory sorting requires all household waste to be sorted into resources, kitchen waste, and garbage, which are then separately taken or disposed of by cleaning crews. In addition, fees are collected for garbage bags used in certain counties, cities, and regions, which helps cut down the amount of garbage and enhances sorting, recycling, and reuse.

The results of promoting general waste recycling include recycling up to 5,807,647 metric tons of general waste in 2020 (consisting of 5,278,079 metric tons of recyclables and 529,567 metric tons of kitchen waste). 58.84% of general waste was recycled.

Taiwan's daily garbage generation per person since 1998 has decreased

year after year. By 2020 the drop was 61.12% compared to the year with the highest daily garbage generation. The percentage of recyclables among the garbage also gradually fell, with the recycling rate at 62.71% in 2020.

With resource recycling and sustainable use as the policy core, the EPA will keep striving for resource integration by promoting garbage reduction, recycling, and reuse. The following are the improvement measures:

Expanding recycling and raising accountability

(1) Announcing newly added articles of responsibility

1. Waste lubricants, plastic lining and foam cases have been announced as recyclables after evaluation. Fees are collected from manufacturers and importers as recycling and disposal costs.

2. Evaluating the expansion of control for refrigerators and freezers as articles of responsibility

Refrigerators and freezers used in business venues were not listed as articles of responsibility. However, in recent years these items of large capacity (approximately 100 to 200 liters) are often sold directly to the public in retail stores. The EPA has begun evaluating the feasibility of listing them as recyclables in response to the future recycling and disposal requirements of large waste items.

(2) Setting responsible enterprises' levied fees and streamlining fee collection

The rate of levied fees for small-scale responsible enterprises (with levied fees less than NT\$100,000/year) were amended to simplify the process. The EPA first audits and calculates the amount of levied fees and then notifies enterprises of the payment. 95% of the amount of waste audited in the first year is used in fee calculation to simplify the fee collection process. The revised Responsible Enterprise Regulated Recyclable Waste

Management Regulations (應回收廢棄物責任業者管理辦法) were announced on 29 June 2020, followed by the announcement of the revised document formats on 13 July 2020. This revision has designed the operation procedures and set-up and thoroughly maintains the operation registration system. A total of 11,261 responsible enterprises benefited in 2020 because of the revised rate of levied fees.

(3) Adjusting subsidy rates for plastic containers and paper tableware in response to the pandemic

In order to prevent the short-term decline in raw material prices from affecting the willingness to recycle waste plastic containers, subsidies for specific waste plastic containers were raised in May 2020. Also raised at the same time were the subsidies for waste paper tableware and utensils (from NT\$7.25/kilogram to NT\$7.86/kilogram) in anticipation of increased use amid tightened pandemic control. Both adjusted rates are effective from 1 May to 31 October 2020.

On 30 October 2020, it was announced that the adjusted subsidies for PET containers, PP or PE containers, non-foam PS containers and waste flat containers (PET or PVC) would continue until 30 June 2021. Subsidies for waste paper tableware and utensils will not be extended as they were properly recycled and disposed of throughout the pandemic.

Strengthening recycling channels

(1) Optimizing and building recycling plants

In 2020, 69 projects concerning preliminary evaluation, planning, and design of regional storage sites and sorting plants were approved. It included 51 for optimization, 15 for construction, and three for sorting plants. Ongoing planning and detail designs are gradually being completed, and it is estimated 35 construction projects will commence in 2021.

(2) Replacing old recycling vehicles

1. A program was implemented in 2020 to subsidize the replacement of old recycling vehicles. One hundred thirty-six old vehicles were phased out and replaced with diesel-powered ones compliant with Phase-6 emission standards. One-hundred ten more vehicles are expected to be replaced in 2021.
2. The EPA has also been implementing a major Executive Yuan mandated program to replace old garbage collection and recycling vehicles and purchase special-use machinery and personal safety gear. One-hundred-fifty recycling vehicles in use for over 15 years have been replaced with new ones compliant with Phase-6 emission standards.

(3) Strengthening local recycling

1. Promoting self-employed recycler welfare by increasing subsidies

The upper subsidy cap for individual self-employed recyclers has been raised from NT\$3,500/month to NT\$5,000/month. It is effective from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2021 to mitigate the COVID pandemic's economic impact on those working at the front line of recycling. Such subsidies will be extended until 31 December 2021 to take care of all registered self-employed recyclers.

Throughout 2020, a total of 20,936 people benefited, who had collected 9,215 metric tons of recyclables and 72,800 items (mostly electronics). Compared to 2019, the number of people who benefited grew 6.1-fold (3,444 people), and the number of recyclables 8.9-fold (1,030 metric tons).

2. Assisting recycling participants

Recycling is promoted by coordinating community residents, recycling enterprises, local cleaning crews, and the Recycling Fund. The results in 2019 and 2020 both exceeded the set goals: 55.14% in 2019 (goal of 53%), 56.96% in 2020 (goal of 53.5%).

Enhanced supervision and individual assistance have been continually provided to entities with poor recycling performance. A program has

been implemented in 2021 to improve these entities' recycling performance by setting recycling goals, conducting visits to innovative recycling sites, and evaluating performance related to poorly recycled items.

(4) Promoting recycling in apartment complexes within communities

To further the four-in-one recycling program and open up diverse recycling channels, the EPA has since 2021 strengthened basic-level recycling capacity by promoting recycling in apartment complexes. Property managers of communities, apartments, and high rises are assisted to set up recycling stations, and their staff are encouraged to work and communicate with cleaning crews. Moreover, guidelines have been set up for random inspections of recycling operations and to carry out mandatory garbage sorting correctly so as to improve recycling performance and sorting quality.

It is expected that 64 communities will be established as recycling facility demonstration sites and that they will randomly inspect and assist 809 apartment complexes across Taiwan. The results will be part of the evaluations for recycling in communities, apartments, and high rises.

Future prospects for reaching the goal of zero waste

To pursue sustainability of resources, Taiwan's garbage disposal policies focus on source reduction and recycling. All resources are to be efficiently recycled and reused by applying green production and consumption, source reduction, recycling, reutilization, and renewable use, which will gradually lead to the end goal of 100% garbage recycling and zero waste.



<https://recycle2.epa.gov.tw/EN/index.html>

2. Operation Guidelines Announced for Pollution Sites Zonal Improvement and Land Use

The EPA has set up the Operation Guidelines for Pollution Site Zonal Improvement and Land Use (污染場址分區改善及土地利用作業原則) in hopes of speeding up clean-up progress and encouraging responsible parties to actively ameliorate pollution. The Guidelines clearly define zonal operations in different phases, allowing areas completing pollution amelioration to be utilized first. A mechanism is also in place to allocate the proceeds from land use into further clean-up efforts to ensure that polluted land is actively improved and adequately managed, resulting in enhanced environmental quality.

The EPA noted that the Guidelines serve as reference for local environmental bureaus when they submit applications based on the land reuse regulations under the Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act (土壤及地下水污染整治法). Planning of pollution site remediation and utilization should cover the entire area that includes the pollution sites and control areas. Moreover, applications can be submitted only if land utilization can proceed after zonal pollution remediation satisfies the control requirements. This will allow local environmental authorities to evaluate and manage appropriately. A mechanism is also in place to continually allocate proceeds from zonal land use into remediation work, ensuring polluted lands are actively improved and controlled.

Moreover, due to geological or other factors, there is a consideration that it may take longer to improve certain polluted plots of land until they are compliant with soil and groundwater pollution control standards. As a result, special regulations have been set for use of specific land types and their risk management. The purpose is to safeguard the public from exposure to pollutants via measures such as stopping pollution, limiting activity areas, or banning groundwater use. Also, it can help achieve environmental protection and sustainable land use.

The Guidelines include the following focuses:

1. Stipulation purposes
2. How remediation plans and goals are formed following land use
3. Operation regulations on zonal improvement and utilization of pollution sites
4. Required documents and evaluation standards regarding land use applications
5. Evaluation procedure for the risk assessment group
6. Remediation plan evaluation principles
7. Regulations regarding modification of land development and use after remediation goals are changed
8. Risk communication after remediation goals are changed
9. Procedure guidelines after remediation plans are approved
10. Supervision and audit regulations regarding site risk management (Article 10)
11. Treatment when remediation is not implemented based on approved plans or when secondary pollution is caused

3. Draft Revisions Preannounced for New and Existing Chemical Substances Registration

The EPA preannounced revisions to the Regulations for New and Existing Chemical Substances Registration (新化學物質及既有化學物質資料登錄辦法), which will extend the deadline to register existing chemical

substances in response to the COVID pandemic. Multiple measures are also in place to optimize registration, evaluation, and application, making the current procedure more efficient.

The EPA expressed that it started collecting input from all sectors after the Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Control Act (毒性及關注化學物質管理法) was amended and announced on 16 January 2019. Furthermore, after becoming officially effective, the annual application and registration process for existing chemical substances underwent a thorough evaluation based on actual practices observed in 2020. In light of needs arising from implementation and the COVID pandemic, the EPA drafted revisions to the Regulations.

For registration of existing chemical substances, all registration deadlines for most enterprises covered in the amendments shall be extended to the end of 2023, as the industry has been hit hard by the pandemic. This provides registrants ample time for preparation. Once finished registering basic information such as registrant and substance data, enterprises are then given a registration code and deadline to complete registration of the remaining information items. However, there is a limit on the use of intermediate substances at certain sites where the risk of exposure can be better controlled, hence the amendments waive such items from registrations of existing chemical substances.

For annual registration, the amendments require registrants to input the first year of registration. Moreover, to effectively help registrants complete registration, rectification notifications are supplemented with the Water Pollution Control Measures and Text Reporting Management Regulations (水污染防治措施及檢測申報管理辦法) for reference. If the registered data fail to comply with regulations or are incomplete, registrants will be notified to rectify it before a given date, or face a penalty.

The EPA also noted that the amendments simplify many procedures, increasing efficiency. For example, many attached tables are combined, a single effective deadline is set for registering different new chemical substances, and the scope is expanded for substances covered by the part

of the Regulations that are no longer applicable. Other changes include adjusting the evaluation period for applications and rectification times, eliminating such requirements as registrants having to keep their application documents, etc.

4. Crackdown on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Leads to Significant Reduction of Emissions

The EPA has formed a special task force with the power to target enterprises that use VOCs heavily, such as the PU synthetic leather industry, the printmaking industry, and the lacquering and paint finishing industry. Four enterprises were found to have violated regulations between 2018 and 2020, with combined fines reaching NT\$51.3 million. NT\$42.193 million of illegal gains were confiscated, and 28 people were investigated and apprehended. The effort has ultimately incentivized enterprises to invest roughly NT\$90 million in air pollution control and cut 851 metric tons of VOC emissions, equivalent to the annual emission of 113,000 two-stroke motorcycles.

The EPA notes that there is growing public awareness of phenomena affecting air quality, such as the emission of colorless VOCs into the atmosphere causing spikes in ozone concentration after photochemical reactions, or the fact that high concentrations of VOCs are carcinogenic and pose potential risks to the human nervous system. Thus, to safeguard public health, VOCs such as toluene and xylene, often generated in industrial processes, have been announced by the EPA as harmful air pollutants.

The EPA further explained that the special task force inspects various environmental permit systems and environmental quality monitoring data with smart technology, and strategically targets and analyzes enterprises with high pollution potential. It has been able to detect significant violations with advanced technology used to collect evidence. Once evidence points to environmental violations, district prosecutors' offices, local investigation bureaus, and police units under the Ministry of Justice

(MOJ) are brought in to conduct joint investigations.

The special task force found four enterprises engaged in rerouting VOC discharges or improper VOC treatment, of which the Taichung District Prosecutors Offices investigated three, and the Nantou District Prosecutors Offices one. All the offenders face criminal charges.

The EPA expressed that it will keep monitoring other industries that use large amounts of VOCs and enhance inspection and analysis of big data on air quality. All meteorological data, all information regarding pollution sources, and data from air quality-related Internet of Things (IoT) are continually compared and audited to understand high pollution potentials and pollution sources in real-time. Moreover, high-tech instruments are also utilized to collect evidence to help conduct thorough and complete inspections.

5. Revisions of Three Water Pollution-Related Regulations Announced

On 31 May, the EPA announced the revisions to the Evaluation Regulations Concerning Water Pollution Control Measure Plans and Permit Applications (水污染防治措施計畫及許可申請審查管理辦法), the Water Pollution Control Measures and Test Reporting Management Regulations (水污染防治措施及檢測申報管理辦法), and the Regulations for Determination of Fines Under the Water Pollution Control Act (違反水污染防治法罰鍰額度裁罰準則). The objective is to enhance control of storage systems that may affect water quality.

Under all the revisions, "oil storage sites" in the original three Regulations are changed to "storage systems." If storing substances announced by the competent central authorities based on the Water Pollution Control Act (水污染防治法) Article 33 paragraph 1, the storage systems should comply with relevant regulations. Moreover, based on different categories of storage systems, respective provisions on violations and evaluation points for penalties are newly added.

If failing to comply with storage system control regulations, the EPA

emphasized that storage systems are deemed not to be fit with facilities to prevent and monitor groundwater pollution, and thus will be penalized for violating the Water Pollution Control Act Article 33. There have also been incidents where oil products leaked out of storage systems due to improper collection or disposal, and then entered soil or groundwater because there were no subsequent maintenance, prevention, or emergency response measures taken. In such cases, offenses will be handled based on the Water Pollution Control Act Article 28, or the Water Pollution Control Measures, or the Test Reporting Management Regulations Article 5.

6. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory and Registration Deadline Extended due to Covid

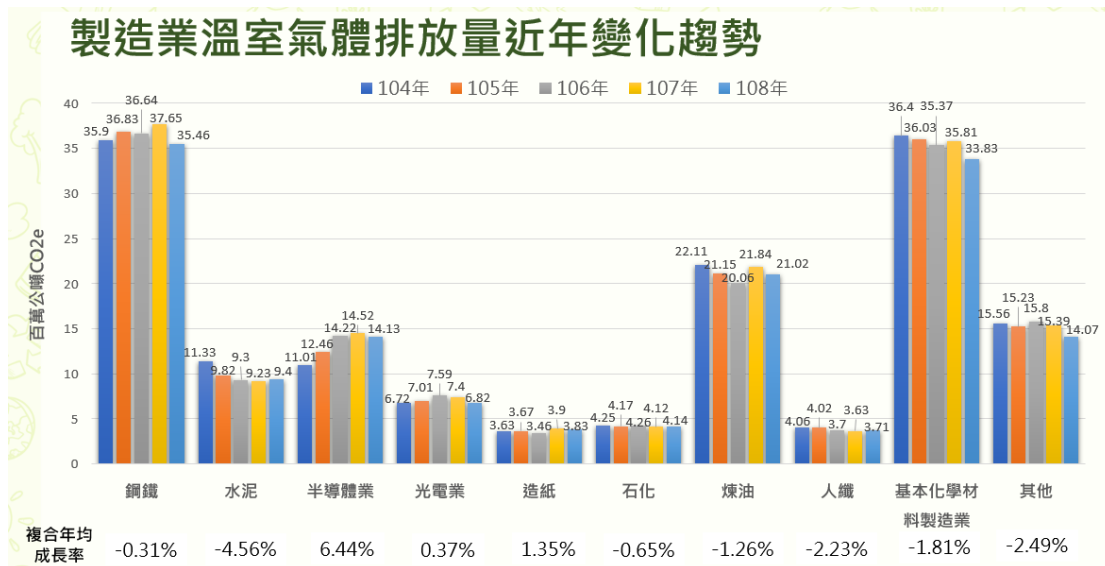
Due to the severity of Covid-19 in Taiwan, the Central Epidemic Command Center recently raised the national epidemic alert to Level 3. To be in line with the nation's fight against the epidemic and to reduce public outings to lower the risks of infection, the EPA has extended the deadline for greenhouse gas emission inventory and registration to the end of September this year (2021).

Since the promulgation of the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act* on 1 July 2015, the First Batch of Emission Sources Required to Report Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory and Registration has been announced. Industries including power generation, iron and steel, petroleum refining, cement, semiconductor and thin film transistor liquid crystal display, as well as emission sources with annual emissions of more than 25,000 metric tons of CO₂e from combustion of fossil fuels are subject to the regulation. They are supposed to complete the inventory and registration of greenhouse gas emission of the previous year of their entire plant (site) by the end of August every year.

According to the EPA, the average number of enterprises that are required to make inventory and register their greenhouse gas emissions is 288 over the past five years. Among them, direct emission sources included

emissions from combustion of fuels (80.70%), emissions from manufacturing processes (18.98%), emissions from fuels used for transportation vehicles (0.03%), and fugitive emission sources (0.29%). Indirect emissions included power consumption (87%) and steam consumption (13%). Ranked by industries, the power generation industry had the highest emission (53%), the second highest are the steel industry (14%), basic chemical material manufacturing (11%), petroleum refining industry (9%), cement industry (4%) and semiconductor industry (2%). Analyzing the changes in manufacturing greenhouse gas emissions in the past five years, the semiconductor industry has the highest average annual growth rate of 6.44%, the paper industry is 1.35%, and the optoelectronics industry is 0.37%; the average annual growth rate of the remaining industries is on a downward trend.

As for the electricity industry, the electricity emission factor (the carbon dioxide equivalent emitted per kilowatt-hour of electricity) decreased from 0.525 kg CO₂e/kWh in 2015 to 0.509 kg CO₂e /kWh in 2019; while the greenhouse gas emissions of the power industry decreased from 115.68 million in 2015. The metric tons of CO₂e rose to 119.57 million metric tons of CO₂e in 2019. Therefore, the electricity emission coefficient decreased in 2019, but the greenhouse gas emissions showed an upward trend. According to statistics from the Bureau of Energy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the industrial sector accounted for about 56% of the electricity consumption in 2019, and the service industry and the residential sector each accounted for about 18%. This shows that energy-saving in the residential and commercial sector is also an important part of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the power industry.



Changes in greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing industries in recent years

7. Waste Solar Panel Recycling System Established

The Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs has cooperated with the EPA to collect recycling and clearance fees for photovoltaic modules. It announced on 1 February 2019 the 2019 Renewable Electricity Wholesale Purchase Rates and Calculation Method, which also sets the recycling fee for photovoltaic modules at NT\$1,000/kw. The collected fees are to be used for the EPA to establish the waste solar panel recycling system or to subsidize clearance and processing, administration, technology research and development and establishment of processing plants.

The lifespan of solar panels is 20 years, and currently no large amounts of waste panels are being generated. The EPA is running a demonstration program in which waste solar panels are accumulated until they reach a certain amount before being disposed of and processed. Entities that have installed solar panels or people that have waste panels can follow the four steps to recycle them: ask, gather, fill out, and collect; that is, they can call the dedicated line, 03-8520009, to ask first, gather the waste panels, and then dispose of the panels themselves or commission a qualified public or private waste clearance organization to do so.

Alternatively, they can go to the Waste Solar Panels Recycling Service Management Information platform (<https://pvis.epa.gov.tw>) to register relevant panel decommissioning information. After the serial numbers and the installation information are checked, a licensed clearance and processing organization will be deployed to dispose of them. In addition, households or low-volume users such as camper vans can also call the dedicated line or ask their local cleaning squad to dispose of them.

Currently, there are two licensed processing plants capable of processing waste solar panels in Taiwan. They mainly use a mechanical process to crush the panels and then send the fragments to Japan to be used as slagging agents in copper smelters. In the future, the EPA will continue to monitor the generation of waste solar panels as well as the domestic processing and recycling capacities, so it can plan for the establishment of new waste solar panel processing facilities or assess the feasibility of technology transfers to respond to the rising demand for disposal of waste solar panels in the future.

8. Rules Prohibiting Use of Disposable Tableware May Be Relaxed Due to Covid

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the EPA indicated that regulated enterprises that are prohibited to use disposable tableware made of various materials can now apply to their local competent authorities to be exempt from this prohibition in accordance with the regulations if they have the need to switch back to using disposable tableware after taking their tableware-washing capability into account. Once approved, they are allowed to use disposable tableware made of materials other than plastics for up to 90 days. When the exemption period is up, they can apply again.

In accordance with the announcement above, to ensure food safety and prevent the epidemic from spreading, local competent authorities can allow some or all of the government agencies, public or private schools, department stores, shopping centers or hypermarkets in their jurisdiction

to provide disposable tableware within a certain period of time. The permission shall be reported to the central competent authority for reference.

The EPA urges all food and beverage enterprises to wash tableware according to the Operating Guidelines for Good Tableware Washing of the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare. When this is combined with environmental cleanup and disinfection, the safety of people eating out can be ensured.

9. Recycling Fees Increased for Waste Lithium Batteries and Lighting Sources

Starting from 1 July 2021, the EPA will raise the recycling subsidy fee rates for dry batteries such as LiNiCoMnO₂ batteries and lithium iron phosphate batteries, as well as for light bulbs such as LEDs, straight tubes and non-straight tubes. The increases are made in order to reflect the hike in recycling and processing costs for waste dry batteries and lighting sources, reduce the risks associated with accumulating them, solve related disposal problems, enhance recycling efficiency, and increase the willingness and economic incentives of the processing industry to process such items.

The EPA pointed out that there are various kinds of secondary lithium batteries. Currently consumer electronics and home appliances use lithium cobalt batteries, which are still purchased by processors for recycling. But LiNiCoMnO₂ batteries and lithium iron phosphate batteries are mostly used for electric cars, motorcycles, and energy storage. Since nickel and cobalt contents are low in LiNiCoMnO₂ batteries and lithium iron phosphate batteries contain only lithium and iron, the materials recovered from these types of batteries are of low value. As a result, recyclers have to pay processors to process them. Currently many vehicles related enterprises recycle secondary lithium batteries and accumulate them on their premises. Since secondary lithium batteries are highly reactive, accumulating them can easily cause fire or other problems. To

prevent these hazards, solve disposal problems, and increase the recycling efficiency associated with these types of batteries, the EPA decided to raise the recycling subsidy fee rates for LiNiCoMnO₂ batteries and lithium iron phosphate batteries.

In addition, traditional lighting sources are currently being phased out from the market to comply with mercury-limiting measures mandated by the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The recycling volume is dropping and processing costs going up year after year. As for LED lighting sources, the evolution of their component materials has led to the decline of profits from recycling and processing them. In addition, the labor costs for handling and sorting also went up, resulting in an increase in the cost of recycling and processing. Thus, the EPA is raising recycling subsidy fee rates for traditional straight tubes and non-straight tubes, as well as LED lights, based on cost survey data from 2020.

The EPA reminded the enterprises receiving subsidies that after 1 July 2021 they shall apply for and receive their recycling subsidies according to the newly adjusted fee rates. For any related problems, they can call the Resource Recycling hotline (0800-085717) or check with the resource recycling website (<https://recycle.epa.gov.tw>) for help.

Item	Resource recycling ratio ($R_T\%$)	Mercury recycling ($R_{Hg}\%$)	Recycling Subsidy Fee Rates (NTD/kg)
traditional straight tubes	$R_T\% \geq 90\%$	$R_{Hg}\% \geq 50\%$	26.9
		$40\% \leq R_{Hg}\% < 50\%$	18.5
		$R_{Hg}\% < 40\%$	0
	$R_T\% < 90\%$	-	0
non-straight tubes,	$R_T\% \geq 60\%$	$R_{Hg}\% \geq 35\%$	44.1
		$20\% \leq R_{Hg}\% < 35\%$	22.1
		$R_{Hg}\% < 20\%$	0

	R _T % < 60%	-	0
--	------------------------	---	---

Item		Recycling Subsidy Fee Rates
Secondary lithium batteries	LiNiCoMnO ₂ batteries	94.5
	Lithium iron phosphate batteries	114.5
	Other secondary lithium batteries	55

10. Measures Devised to Provide Relief and Convenience during the Epidemic

The EPA took the initiative to take stock of relevant environmental regulations such as those for permit renewal, regular test reporting, or onsite inspections that cannot be implemented due to the COVID-19 epidemic and may thus cause severe impacts to enterprises, and devised measures to provide relief and convenience to help enterprises survive the impact of the epidemic.

As the Central Epidemic Command Center raised the national epidemic alert to Level 3 on 19 May 2021, all local governments simultaneously tightened and expanded epidemic prevention restrictions, causing a great impact on people's daily lives, and making some businesses unable to comply with relevant regulations. Therefore, the EPA is formulating measures to provide relief and convenience for the public, and will soon send notifications to local environmental bureaus and relevant industrial associations to ask them to follow them.

The first measure is an extension of the validity periods of permits issued to public or private establishments. If permits expire between 14 May 2021 and 31 December 2021, the expiration dates are uniformly

postponed to 31 December 2021.

The second measure is to allow the extension of correction periods for applications for all categories of environmental permits during the epidemic. The relevant competent authorities can extend the correction periods according to the needs of individual cases up to a maximum of 90 days.

The third measure is to allow new permit or permit change applications to be reviewed mainly through document examination. If applications require review by scholars or experts in person, they may be conducted through video conferencing or recording. In principle, onsite procedures such as inspections or verifications will not be conducted. Because of the epidemic, public or private establishments or enterprises may also be exempt from conducting test runs or functional tests. Reviewing authorities may refer to the application document and approve an application with emissions that are 80% (or specified otherwise) of the estimated pollution emissions. If there is falsified information in the applications submitted by the establishments or enterprises, the reviewing authorities reserve the right to revoke the permits. After the epidemic slows down, relevant pollution emissions shall be verified onsite (such as through onsite auditing or inspection). If emissions are found to be significantly different from the approved levels, the establishments or enterprises will be asked to submit permit modification applications.

The fourth measure is related to regular tests. If any control regulations (such as those for air pollution, water pollution or waste) require tests be conducted in the second quarter (April-June) and third quarter (July-September) of 2021, the test results obtained in one of these quarters can be used to represent the results of the other, thus skipping one quarter's tests. If regulations require tests to be conducted once every half year, the test results obtained in the first half of 2021 can be reported as late as 30 September 2021.

The fifth measure is to adjust the timing for the report and payment of pollution control fees. The deadline is postponed one quarter; that is, the report and payment that should normally be done in the second quarter

can now take place between 1 July 2021 and 31 October 2021.

11. Digital Device Recycling that Guarantees Privacy of Information

The EPA worked with the hypermarket and retailer Carrefour to launch a secure information equipment recycling event, setting up five collecting spots in the northern, central, and southern regions of Taiwan that will operate during May-October 2021. Collected tablets and mobile phones will be destroyed physically to ensure privacy of information, and thus give the public peace of mind when handing over discarded tablets or mobile phones for recycling. Members of the public are urged to go to these designated spots to recycle.

The EPA pointed out that the overall recycling rate for electric, electronic and information equipment in 2020 was 71.84%. Considering the concerns, the public have about privacy of information when they recycle these types of equipment, and that these concerns impact their willingness to recycle, the EPA cooperated with enterprises to develop data security equipment and organized events to promote secure recycling of information devices. By using external force to destroy parts where power buttons, SIM cards and charging ports are in waste tablets and mobile phones, the EPA hopes to effectively address people's privacy of information concerns. The EPA encourages the public to hand over their waste equipment at such sites, so that the component resources can get recycled and thus reduce the need for newly mined resources.

**Major Environmental Policies
R. O. C. (Taiwan)**

Publisher

Tzi-Chin Chang, Minister

Editor-in-Chief

Shyh-Wei Chen

Executive Editors

Shiuan-Wu Chang; Tsu-Shou Cheng; Chun-Wei Yang;
Shaowen Chang; Jason Hoy; Ken Lee

For inquiries or subscriptions, please contact:

Major Environmental Policies

Office of Sustainable Development
Environmental Protection Administration
83, Sec. 1, Jhonghua Rd., Taipei 100, R.O.C. (Taiwan)
tel: 886-2-2311-7722 ext. 2217
fax: 886-2-2311-5486

Contents Copyright 2021