

Major Environmental Policies

January 2023

1. Toward Net Zero: Climate Change Response Act Passed After 3 Readings

On 10 January 2023, the EPA-formulated draft revision of the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act* (溫室氣體減量及管理法) was passed by the Legislative Yuan after three readings under the new name the *Climate Change Response Act* (氣候變遷因應法). The EPA particularly thanked the entire Legislative Yuan, including President Si-Kun You, the Social Welfare and Environmental Committee, and members from all parties for their support. While the Act itself serves as a basis for more resilient climate legislation, its passage clearly demonstrates Taiwan's resolve in the pursuit of net-zero emissions.

Legislation of net-zero emission by 2050 with clearly defined responsibilities and responsible authorities

In this amendment, net-zero emission by 2050 has been included in Article 4 as the national reduction goal clearly defined with laws and regulations. This is a reflection of the government's resolve, compared with the simple declaration in the past. Based on the current practices adopted globally, phased control targets will be set on a five-year basis to gradually achieve carbon reduction.

In light of the fact that reduction and climate change mitigation tasks involve numerous agencies, in Article 8 it clearly states that the Executive Yuan's National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is in charge of coordinating, delegating, or integrating the national guidelines on climate change mitigation, as well as decision making regarding cross-departmental tasks. Moreover, the revision has listed all responsibilities and designated various agencies to be responsible for various coordination tasks.

Addition of a just transformation to include all involving parties

Many communities may be affected during implementation of reduction policies or measures. As a result, the revision has deemed that all central competent industry authorities are to, regarding respective responsibilities, consult communities affected by the transformation toward net-zero under the principles of respecting human rights and labor forces. All involving ministries are to properly collect opinions via a civil participation mechanism and formulate action plans that aim for a just transformation. Additionally, new additions state that rights of indigenous peoples are to be upheld and incorporated as part of climate change mitigation policies and measures in a comprehensive and community-based manner.

Also, the revision has strengthened information disclosure and civil participation mechanism. For instance, while formulating phased reduction targets, ministries or agencies in charge of organizing public hearings are to announce information such as dates, locations, and methods on the internet, the Government Gazette, newspapers, or other appropriate media outlets 30 days before the hearings are held. And the annual reports on results of greenhouse gas reduction or climate change mitigation projects, compiled and edited by central competent industry authorities, municipalities, city and county governments, are all to be published for public disclosure.

Specific uses for carbon fees with diverse incentives in place

Carbon pricing is a significant reduction strategy, so the amendment has included collection of carbon fees from emission sources. These fees will go to specified uses, such as implementation of reduction projects, development of low-carbon and carbon-negative technologies and industries,

subsidies and incentives for investment on reduction technologies in order to facilitate reduction and develop a low-carbon economy.

If achieving assigned reduction goals via measures like switching to low-carbon fuels, adopting carbon-negative emission technologies, increasing energy efficiency, using renewable energies, or improving production processes, targets for carbon fee collection are qualified to propose their own voluntary reduction programs for discounted fee rates. Meanwhile, enterprises are urged to adopt voluntary reduction measures so as to obtain reduction quotas that can be transferred, traded, or auctioned. The combination of diverse economic incentives and collection of carbon fees is certainly able to encourage enterprises to expedite their reduction speeds.

Increase of Taiwan's resilience via climate mitigation

Under the revision there is now a specific chapter on mitigation, focusing on enhancing Taiwan's overall capacity of mitigation by building capacities and infrastructure, keeping up with the latest scientific research, and designing implementation framework. In particular, policy making is to align with scientific research. Therefore, the central competent authorities and central technological competent authorities are now in charge of research and development of climate change-related science and impact-mitigating technologies as well as regularly publish relevant reports as references for government offices of all levels to plan out early warning mechanisms and conduct systemic monitoring. Another focus is to establish the framework for mitigation efforts. The central competent industry authorities are to formulate the action plans on mitigation responsibilities for different sectors, the central competent authorities the *National Climate Change Mitigation Action Plans* (國家氣候變遷調適行動計畫), and the local governments the *Climate Change Mitigation Implementation Program* (氣候變遷調適執行方案). The purpose is to strengthen and adjust mitigation strategies according to varying circumstances, and annual reports on mitigation results are to be compiled and published to ensure information disclosure and public participation.

With climate change as a common challenge for all nations, on Earth Day 2022 (April 22) President Tsai Ing-wen declared that transformation to net-zero emission by 2050 is a goal not just for the entire world, but Taiwan as well. Following that statement, Premier Su Tseng-chang has also appointed the EPA to proceed with needed revisions on the same day as well as during the NCSD's 33rd meeting on 30 August 2022. Passage of the revision is a clear display of the EPA's resolve on carbon reduction and answer to the international community's call for concrete and expedited reduction actions.

Future prospects

Now that the amendment has been passed, in the next six months relevant sub-laws will be proposed, such as amended operations for inventory and registration, management for audit and certification institutes, collection and rates of carbon fees, voluntary reduction programs, and trade mechanisms for voluntary reduction efforts. The EPA will soon discuss with all sectors and collect opinions and ideas based on the principle of public participation upheld during this revision. Before any sub-laws are formulated, meetings will be organized for industries to fully understand what has been revised as well as plans for future operations and projects, further facilitating sustainable development as Taiwan embarks on the path toward net-zero emissions.

2. Diverse Measures to Offset Increased Emissions

On 19 January 2023, the EPA announced the revised *Offset Principles for the Increased Greenhouse Gas Emission Caused by Development Activities* (審查開發行為溫室氣體排放量增量抵換處理原則). The amendment has added more options of emission sources so that agricultural

and transportation sectors with these sources can qualify for offsets, extending emission sources available for offsets and therefore encouraging more enterprises to engage in carbon reduction. It is to provide developers more diverse offset measures and better lower emissions generated by developing activities.

The *Offset Principles* were first announced by the EPA on 27 March 2020 to strengthen controls on increased emissions from newly installed emission sources. During environmental impact assessments (EIAs), developers with certain developing activities are mandated to offset their increased emissions for ten consecutive years with a minimum of 10% annual offset rate. Criteria of these developing activities include development of an area of 50 acres or more, establishment of factories, fossil-fuel power plants burning non-liquid natural gas (LNG) energy, and cogeneration plants.

So far, there are ten EIA-qualified projects in total in which the developers have promised to conduct offsets: They are the second expansion project of Hsinchu Scientific Park (Paoshan Branch); Ciaotou Branch and the third phase of Tainan Branch of Southern Taiwan Science Park; as well as industrial parks in Jhongpu, Shueisheng, and Sinshih, and Chiayi. All are expected to create an annual demand to offset as high as 820,000 Mt CO₂e.

Article 4 of the revised *Offset Principles* has newly added sources of increased emissions qualified for offset. For the agricultural sector, it includes replacement of coal- or oil-burning equipment with biomass energy as fuels, replacement of antiquated fishing lamps with LED lamps on fishing vessels, replacement of old farming machineries with electric ones, and replacement of existing oxygen-adding equipment with high-efficiency, energy-conserving types. For the transportation sector, it includes using electric or hybrid vehicles in place of old ones. Once a developing activity is approved by the EIA, its developer has to submit to the EPA an offset proposal, which has to be evaluated and approved first before being implemented accordingly.

If a developer carries out reduction measures via its affiliated company that is not part of the development sector, the EPA noted that it will be qualified to offset 1.2-time the amount of reduction actually resulted from these measures. Besides motivating different companies to join force in reduction, this is also to encourage developers to put in the capital or technologies to cut down emissions from sources other than their own developing activities.

Moreover, the Scrap Vehicle Platform website launched last year serves as a platform to generate offset credits by purchasing electric motorcycles to replace old ones. It has so far matched over 24,000 offset requests. This year the mechanism has been expanded to incorporate other vehicle types like cars and pickup trucks. As a result, it encourages major developers to invest more in order to purchase more offset credits generated by the general public, thus creating joint reduction efforts between corporations and citizens, and at the same time lessens the government's financial burden.

3. Ozone Pollution: Standards Amended to Strengthen VOC Control

On 17 January, the EPA preannounced the draft revision of *Volatile Organic Air Pollutants Control and Emission Standards* (揮發性有機物空氣污染管制及排放標準) in an attempt to cut down the petrochemical industry's emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and harmful air pollutants. It includes regulations for lowering emissions from the petrochemical industry's exhaust gas combustion towers, strengthening controls on regular maintenance for production processes, and tightening controls for storage tanks, transporting facilities, tanker truck loading, and spare parts for relevant equipment. The aim is to safeguard public health by cutting down the daily maximum eight-hour ozone concentration.

VOCs are ozone precursors, so it is necessary to enhance controls on the petrochemical industry, a major VOC emitter, in order to continue improving Taiwan's daily maximum eight-hour ozone concentration. The EPA noted that it has since 2021 begun banning emissions of exhaust gas from combustion towers, a common practice during petrochemical production. Also, exhaust gas can be utilized as fuels after being recycled, contributing to emission reduction. So far emissions of exhaust gas from combustion towers have been lowered by 85%.

The EPA pointed out that currently the petrochemical industry uses combustion towers only when necessary, such as during the occurrence of abnormal incidents concerning industrial safety, regular maintenance, car parking, etc. However, a large amount of exhaust gas, when piped to combustion towers for disposal within a very short period of time, often ends up being released directly into the atmosphere because of insufficient disposal time. And it frequently leads to poor air quality with too much ozone during the high-ozone season, thus presenting the need to reduce combustion towers' emissions in time of regular maintenance.

Not only so, there are still certain petrochemical enterprises that utilize combustion towers long-term. The amount of exhaust gas emissions accumulated annually is too much to be overlooked despite the smaller emissions on a daily basis. The EPA hopes to enhance controls on combustion towers via the amendment, mandating enterprises to cut down time of usage during regular maintenance by adjusting or optimizing operations as well as improving the operation that causes emissions of small amount of exhaust gas over a long period. Enterprises are also asked to voluntarily make public announcements on usage of combustion towers so that the public can know when they are utilized in real time.

Another goal is to tighten controls on pollution during the regular maintenance of petrochemical production in order to prevent air pollutants from entering and contaminating the environments in time of petrochemical factories' regular maintenance or when equipment is being fixed. Therefore, the revisions state that leakage-proof installation is to be opened only after concentration of air pollutants inside lowers. During the times when air quality deterioration is forecast to reach medium or serious levels, operators are not to open leakage-proof installations or storage tanks even during cleaning. In addition, information of regular maintenance has to be made public ahead of time.

It is worth noting that the revision has included the EPA's continual efforts on reduction of health risks within the petrochemical industrial parks, evaluating the industry's current development of the latest control technologies and their feasibilities. The other focus is to tighten controls on major petrochemical productions with the potential to emit harmful air pollutants, such as storage tanks, transporting facilities, tanker truck loading, spare parts for equipment, and other pollution sources.

4. Revisions Preannounced to Enhance Management on Control Facilities for Particulate Matter

Fugitive dust air pollutants account for 63% of total suspended particles (TSPs) in Taiwan. On 3 January, the EPA preannounced the draft revision of *Management Regulations for Facilities to Control Fugitive Dust Air Pollution from Stationary Pollution Sources* (固定污染源逸散性粒狀污染物空氣污染防制設施管理辦法). It aims to cut down emissions of particulate matter from stationary sources in both private and public premises and, after taking effect, is expected to slash emissions by 1,471 metric tons.

Focuses of the revisions include increasing control ratio for exposed regions and storage sites in Level-3 control zones, as well as requiring the steel smelting and asphalt mixing industries to enhance efficiency of exhaust gas collection and disposal during production processes. Public and

private venues with larger particulate matter emissions are not only subject to tightened regulations on automatic car-washing facilities and newly added ones for adopting and voluntarily cleaning adjacent streets, but also are mandated to install surveillance camera systems in areas that store materials, entrances, and exits. Large-scale storage sites with a storage amount reaching a certain level are newly listed as control targets. Meanwhile, road regulatory authorities are to have in place facilities that prevent overflowing of wastewater from dividing islands and sidewalks so as to lower road pollution and traffic-generated airborne dusts. All the measures above are expected to further cut down emissions of fugitive air pollutants from public and private premises by 11.5% (approximately 1,471 metric tons).

The EPA expressed that the TSPs emitted from private and public venues amount to roughly 20,424 metric tons/year. Sixty-three percent (12,812 metric tons/year) are fugitive particulate pollutants from non-piped sources, and approximately 70% of emissions occur in Level-3 control zones. Fugitive pollutants mainly come from material storage sites, exposed regions, vehicle transportation, and open productions. Material storage sites are the largest source of fugitive pollutant emissions among them.

As a result, the revisions have particularly targeted public and private venues within Level 3 control zones, requiring them to raise the percentage of control equipment, such as sprinklers or covers, within their material storage sites from 80% to 90%. Percentage for controls for exposed regions within all control zones are to increase from 80% to 100%, which together with the previous mandate is expected to slash emissions of fugitive particulate pollutants by 1,266 metric tons/year. Additionally, large emitters like steel smelting and asphalt mixing industries as well as odor sources within major productions are mandated to improve collection efficiency of their air pollution control facilities so that efficiency can reach at least 60% for collecting production-generated fugitive exhaust gases. This will certainly lead to lower emissions of particulate pollutants as well as the public's complaints about odors, all expected to cut down fugitive particulate pollutants by 205 metric tons/year.

The revisions have assigned public and private venues responsibilities to monitor operations of control facilities so as to improve abnormal emissions of fugitive particulate pollutants due to poor operations of control facilities on these premises. Large pollution sources are to install video surveillance systems at entrances, exits, and material storage sites within public and private premises to ensure proper handling and operations of air pollution control facilities.

Moreover, the revisions have in particular strengthened regulations regarding cleaning facilities for large pollution sources' transporting vehicles in order to lower airborne road dusts. Besides replacing all basin-type car wash stations to bump-type ones, major sources are to take up responsibilities to voluntarily clean up adjacent roads within public and private venues to better clean up their vehicles and also enhance quality of surrounding roads. As for dividing islands and sidewalks on public roads, road regulatory authorities are to prevent overflowing of wastewater by examining the depth of soil covering or planting vegetation. Last but not least, adjustments have been made regarding control targets within port areas according to the *Commercial Port Law* (商港法). If properly carried out, all the measures above are expected to effectively reduce emissions of fugitive particulate pollutants, improve the quality of roads around public and private venues, and even enhance corporate images by providing better work environments for staff and operators.

Regulations are scheduled to take effect in a year per the amendments. A period of three years will be provided for items that need a longer time to improve, such as dividing islands and exhaust gas collection facilities.



Bump-type car wash station

5. ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Soil and Groundwater Creates Collaboration among Industry, Government and Academia

On 6 January 2023, the EPA held the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum on Sustainable Soil and Groundwater with talks on Taiwan and ASEAN nations' environmental policies concerning soil and groundwater as well as experiences of environmental governance in order to generate innovative ideas. Foreign invitees included officials from the Ministry of Environment, Pollution Control and Environmental Degradation in East Java Province, Indonesia, as well as Indonesian and Vietnamese scholars. Attendees from Taiwan included representatives from local environmental authorities, soil and groundwater industries, and academia, as well as foreign and local graduate students studying in Taiwan. Furthermore, the Forum served as an award ceremony, honoring those who have successfully conducted research on sustainable and innovative soil and groundwater remediation.

In his opening speech, the then EPA Deputy Minister Hung-Te Tsai noted that Taiwan's well-rounded *Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act* (土壤及地下水污染整治法) has allowed itself to collect pollution remediation fund, just like how the Superfund was founded and is operated in the US, in order to effectively carry out remediation and prevention work for soil and groundwater pollution. With climate and environments similar to those in Southeast Asian countries, Taiwan has under its belt 20 years of experiences in investigations, remediation technologies, and experiences on soil and groundwater pollutions, which can be shared with ASEAN countries. Every year there are continuous efforts to keep up with the latest global trends, exchange experiences, and enhance technological capacities through seminars and forums to interact with experts in relevant fields from the USEPA and Asian-Pacific nations. It not only helps lessen pollution' impacts and enhance environmental quality but also lays a solid foundation to expand Taiwan-led bilateral or multilateral collaborations.

The forum mainly discussed soil and groundwater issues in Indonesia and Vietnam. Taiwan's legislation of the *Soil and Groundwater Pollution Remediation Act*, management strategies, technological development, and aligning with the world have all helped tremendously in its understanding of the ASEAN partners. And the industries, government, and academia have joined forces to assist Taiwan's relevant industries to expand their foothold in ASEAN nations. Furthermore, a competition for research on sustainable and innovative soil and groundwater remediation was organized, with ASEAN students studying in Taiwan, to foster ASEAN talents in this field. Among the 22 competing teams, a total of ten passed the preliminary and secondary evaluation, and at the end five of them came out winning and were awarded NT\$90,000. The goal to stimulate new ideas via competition so that these students can tackle environmental issues in their home countries with action will eventually lead to sustainable soil and groundwater development.

At the end, the EPA emphasized that, as sustainable soil and groundwater is a global environmental concern, it hopes to establish a partnership of soil and groundwater protection with ASEAN nations to jointly improve the environments and living quality for all people.



ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Soil and Groundwater

6. Policies with Prevention and Controls Carried Out Across Ministries to Ensure Food Safety

Several food safety incidents over the past years caught the public's attention. With the government's subsequent legislative and precautionary measures, which were listing chemical substances with food-safety risks under control and tightening enterprises' voluntary management on chemical substances, incidents in which chemical substances with food-safety risks systematically enter the food chain have not occurred in recent years. What's more, the EPA is joined by other agencies to keep an eye on chemicals substances at the source of food production as well as the environments where food is planted and grown.

Humans cannot live without food, so food safety is of utmost importance. To properly ensure food safety from the source, the EPA's Toxic and Chemical Substances Bureau (TSCB) has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) and the Council of Agriculture (COA) since its establishment in December 2016. The approach is to achieve food safety by tracking the flow of chemical substances that may affect food safety and implement at-source controls on them.

Since 2016, the EPA has actively evaluated the 57 chemical substances with potential risks to food safety, screened out by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) and other agencies, to intensify controls so as to enhance responsibilities of enterprises handling these substances and prevent them from systematically entering into the food production chain. In 2017 and 2018, 20 types (with a total of 27 chemical substances) have been listed as Class 4 toxic chemical substances, including rhodamine B, an additive found in glutinous rice balls, and Sudan Red G, another one found in salted egg yolks. Then five chemical substances with potential food-safety risks, which are lead monoxide, lead (II, IV) oxide, sodium sulfide, sodium thiocyanate, and β -naphtholrongoalite, were listed as concerned chemical substances on 12 January 2023. Now handlers of these five substances are mandated to obtain approval for use, label, document relevant activities online, and file monthly registration, while banned from trading them online and operating without licenses. Activities like manufacture, import, sale, use and storage are all subject to controls with the aim to ensure proper at-source management and prevent abuses in the supply chains of food products.

Moreover, every year the EPA has been continuously conducting over 3,000 visits to enterprises manufacturing or selling chemical substances between 2017 and 2022, assisting them in their voluntary management and working with them as partners to stop industrial-use chemical substances from being used in food production or processing. There are collaborations with other ministries and agencies to conduct joint inspections during traditional holidays. In 2019, the sanitation authorities found two food stalls using rangalite and rhodamine B that they had kept before these substances were listed as toxic substances. But otherwise no incidents of chemical substances being used in the food production process was found regarding enterprises on the EPA's control list.

In collaboration across different government agencies, deputy ministers of the EPA, the COA, and the MOEA regularly convene and preside over quarterly meetings on environmental protection and food safety, addressing the latest relevant information and keeping monitoring high-risk regions. Should risks of contamination be detected within the food production process, a response mechanism will be immediately activated to conduct joint monitoring, take samples to trace contamination sources, or carry out emergency response measures. The agencies work together and make sure that all steps in the food production process are closely connected and kept under close watch so as to ensure food safety and protect public health.

7. Regulations Revised for Green Mark Certification

The Green Mark evaluation mechanism will undergo changes to improve the certification and management of green products by clarifying responsibilities and operations in evaluating applications for the right to use the Green Mark. Besides assigning professional institutes to conduct third-party certification via an open selection process, the EPA will carefully review the application and evaluation process for green products and also undertake partial revisions on current regulations. For instance, green product certification and issuance of approval documents for the right to use the Green Mark will afterwards be conducted by the assigned certification institutes and the EPA.

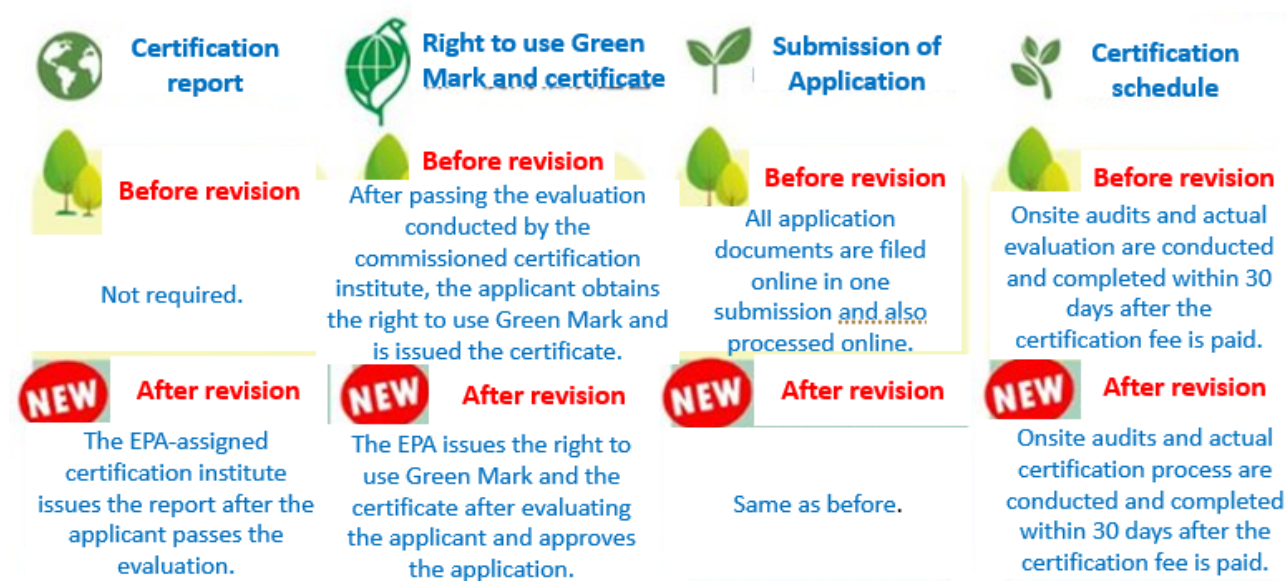
Before applying for the right to use the Green Mark on their products and to obtain certificates, enterprises are required to obtain certification reports issued by the EPA-assigned certification institutes. Afterwards, the EPA will then approve the applications and issue the right to use the Green Mark.

Currently, enterprises' Green Mark applications are all done online on the Green Living website (<https://greenliving.epa.gov.tw/GreenLife/Anonymous/LoginById.aspx>). The revisions will simplify

and expedite the process by adjusting the online application, certification, and document approvals. In the future, application documents are to be filed and submitted online all at once for certification institutes to evaluate whether they comply with standards and other regulations. Once certification institutes issue reports proving the documents are in order, the EPA will be notified electronically by the certification system and then initiate evaluation for the right to use the Green Mark with no further needs for enterprises to submit more application documents to the EPA.

The EPA explained that relevant meetings will be held to assist enterprises to obtain rights to Green Mark usage and needed certificates as well as encourage them to provide more environment-friendly products, ultimately promoting green consumption and production of recyclable, low-polluting, and resource-conserving products.

Key revisions in the Green Mark's application and evaluation mechanism



8. Taiwan and Denmark Jointly Launch Environmental Education Partnership and Design Competition

On 31 January 2023, EPA Deputy Minister Chih-Hsiu Shen and Director of the Trade Council of Denmark in Taiwan Bo Mønsted together kicked off the Taiwan and Denmark Environmental Education Partnership and the Index Award Exhibition in Taipei. The event also included an exhibition from 31 January and 5 February. On display were recently awarded works of the Index Award, considered the Nobel Prize in the global design community, as well as all the winning works in Taiwan's Caring for the Environment Design Competition over the year. Among the attending guests were Lesley Price and Charlotte Høeg Andersen, the Index Project's Communication Director and Education Director, and Charles Huang, Chairman of the Circular Taiwan Network.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister Shen mentioned President Tsai Ing-wen's Earth Day (22 April) pledge to promote transition to net-zero emissions. In correspondence with the pledge, the National Development Council (NDC) and various agencies have formulated transition strategies in energy, industry, life, and society. Not only so, the EPA-proposed a draft revision to the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act* (溫室氣體減量及管理法), which was passed at the Legislative

Yuan on 10 January 2023 after three readings, and is now formally renamed the *Climate Change Response Act* (氣候變遷因應法). The Act includes goals pertaining to net-zero emission by 2050, allowing such a grand mission to become an official law and thus be regulated with clarity. He noted that the event held is to emulate Denmark's approach of combining environmental education with design, innovation, and commercialization in response to global climate change and other sustainability issues.

Next, Director Mønsted talked about Denmark's efforts and long history in sustainable development and that in fact it established the world's first government ministry specifically for the environment in 1971. However, environmental protection and slowing down climate change is a global challenge. Facing this task, the Index Project was founded as an NGO in Denmark that aims to improve human life via design and innovation and achieve environmental sustainability by developing sustainability initiatives with design as a tool. For years the NGO has hosted the Index Award, an honor seen as the Nobel Prize of the design circle, and awardees and those nominated have included well-known corporations like Tesla or Lego as well as many newly-founded teams. And applications of their ideas has also become impactful solutions for environmental sustainability, such as Lifestraw, invisible airbag helmet for bicycle, \$25 raspberry pi, marine vacuums, and natural microorganism dyes. It is hoped that the Taiwan-Denmark Partnership on environmental education can integrate resources and innovations from different nations and fields, together contributing to a future of net-zero emission.

For this year's event, the Index Award brought a total of 15 works from Denmark, including those that received the award as well as nominated pieces in 2021, all of which center around pressing issues like circular economy and net-zero emission. The most notable piece showcased is Pinatex, a material made by a company that manufactures sustainable materials with fibers of pineapple leaves and therefore presenting great potential for Taiwan's industries. Not only is this new material able to replace current textile and leather products, but it can generate new viable business opportunities for pineapple-producing nations like Taiwan, enabling farmers to build a strong circular economy.

More detailed information about the exhibition is available on the event website: <https://www.epadesign.tw/>



Taiwan and Denmark Environmental Education Partnership and the Index Award Exhibition in Taipei

9. Public Encouraged to Use Centers for Pre-owned Goods

The EPA invited the public to visit the website of the National Treasure Map of Unused Goods (<https://recycle.epa.gov.tw/utmap/MapQry>) in order to practice a green lifestyle by donating second-hand articles that are no longer needed at suitable sites, for potential new owners. Doing so helps individuals unburden themselves of clutter at home, and propagates the spirit of environmental protection into the future.

Many people in Taiwan still follow the tradition of doing a major house cleaning before Chinese New Year. It is a way to get rid of all unused or unneeded articles as well as the bad luck of the past year, and to welcome the arrival of a new year. However, people are often hesitant to dispose of articles they no longer need but are still in good condition. The EPA reminded the public that besides properly recycling or disposing of these articles in accordance to regulations, they can also donate them to others that may need them. Providing detailed information such as address, phone number, and type of articles, the EPA's National Treasure Map of Unused Goods site (<https://recycle.epa.gov.tw/utmap/MapQry>) can help the public to find relevant second-hand sites nearby.

The National Treasure Map of Unused Goods collects data from more than 3,000 stores and 6,000 clothing recycling sites for public reference. After cleaning up unneeded goods at home, people can simply enter their address, township or district on the National Treasure Map of Unused Goods to find nearby sites where they can donate. Sharing unneeded goods prolongs the useful life of goods, prevents waste generation and helps people in need. It may also bring good luck in the new year.

10. Preannouncement of Restrictions on Single-Use Lodging Supplies

Following international trends to reduce plastic waste, the EPA preannounced the draft of the *Targets and Measures for Restrictions of Single-Use Lodging Supplies* (一次用旅宿用品限制使用對象及實施方式), which impose restrictions on single-use lodging supplies provided by hotels and other lodging enterprises. The contents of the preannouncement will be implemented in two phases starting from 1 July 2023. "No providing unless requested" will be implemented in the first phase while "discounts for people who bring their own supplies or the option to buy" in the second. Local environmental bureaus shall submit the second phase implementation dates for approval.

The *Targets and Measures for Restrictions of Single-Use Lodging Supplies* was formulated by the EPA based on Article 21 of the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法). The regulations stipulate that hotel enterprises (including tourist hotels, hotels and guesthouses) and other lodging enterprises (such as campgrounds and RV camps) shall not provide, unless requested, free single-use lodging supplies to consumers inside or outside of the rooms of the lodging during the first phase (starting from 1 July 2023). During the second phase, the enterprises shall provide consumers a discount of at least 5% for rooms that do not provide single-use lodging supplies, or enterprises shall display the prices of all single-use lodging supplies in operating sites or lodging rooms for consumers to purchase. Implementation dates shall be submitted by local governments to the EPA for approval and promulgation.

Restricted single-use lodging supplies include three types of items: liquid cleaning and maintenance products less than 180 ml and in single-use packaging, such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion; personal hygiene products such as combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving foam and shower caps; and disposable slippers.

Single-use lodging supplies, including main items, containers or packaging, are often made of plastic materials. Disposing of them after just one use leads to a rapid waste of resources. To reduce plastic pollution, in the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), 154 countries pledged to formulate a legally binding global plastics treaty by 2024 to greatly reduce the use of single-use plastic products. In addition, plastic pollution and waste generated during travel is prone to enter oceans or land waters causing environmental and ecological harm. Hence, to solve the problem and reduce waste, the United Nations Environment Programme and World Tourism Organization launched the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative in 2020, inviting tourism industry chain enterprises, associations and NGOs to join and pledge to use environment-friendly products instead of single-use plastics for lodging supplies.

The EPA reminded the public again to cultivate the concept of “bring your own, use repeatedly, and use less” to put environmental protection actions such as plastics reduction and waste reduction into practice. It emphasized that self-supplying lodging supplies when traveling is both hygienic and environment friendly.

Based on the authorization of Article 21 of the *Waste Disposal Act*
The Targets and Measures for Restrictions of Single-Use Lodging Supplies
 was formulated

2 targets to be regulated:

Hotel Enterprises
 Tourist Hotels
 Hotels and Guesthouses

Other Lodging Enterprises
 Campgrounds
 RV Camps

Implementation in **2** Phases

First Phase:
 Implementation Date: **1 July 2023**
No free provision unless requested

Second Phase:
 Implementation Date: Submitted **by local environmental bureaus**
 Enterprises are required to give consumers a discount of at least **5%** for bringing their own supplies or the option to purchase

Restrictions on **11** Items:

- **Liquid cleaning and maintenance products less than 180 ml and in single-use packaging:** shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion
- **Personal hygiene products:** combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving foam and shower caps
- **Disposable slippers**

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