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Feature Article

Recycling Management in Taiwan

Through the implementation of the *2018-2020 Resource Recycling and Reuse Plan* (107 至 109 年資源回收再利用推動計畫), the EPA expects Taiwan to advance toward a circular economy and achieve the sustainability goal of maximizing resource utilization and minimizing the impacts on the environment. In the future, the EPA will continue to guide enterprises to increase the value of reused resources, assist enterprises in resource recycling and reuse, and promote cooperation between industries. The EPA is also encouraging industry and academia to invest in technological development and applications to help upgrade the recycling industry.

Launched in 1997, the EPA's Four-in-one Resource Recycling Plan (資源回收四合一計畫) combines the efforts of four forces: communities, recycling enterprises, local sanitation crews, and the Recycling Fund. Its outstanding results, such as achieving a proper waste treatment rate of over 99%, are recognized the worldover.

The implementation of the general waste recycling and reuse policy focuses on two tracks: resource

recycling and reuse and recycling management. The goal of "strengthening recycling management" is to increase the recycling volume. The relevant measures and achievements currently being promoted are mainly as follows:

(1) Thirty-three regulated recyclable waste items under 13 categories have been announced by the EPA, and 25,444 enterprises (37,966 registrations) have registered as responsible enterprises as of the

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end of May 2020. From January to December 2019, the total reported operating volume was 749,855 metric tons with 1,722,378 entries of reported data audited and filed. The goal for the year was to audit the operating volume of more than 4,600 enterprises (20% of the total). From January to December 2019, the EPA completed the audit for the operating volume of 5,994 enterprises (26.5% of the total), exceeding the annual goal by 30.3%.

(2) Building storage sites: From 2020, construction of storage sites have been implemented in cities and counties. Subsidies have also been provided to build recycling and storage sites for those who need to store recyclables temporarily but have no place to store them. Furthermore, it will improve the efficiency of resource recycling operation and promote the high quality of material classification products, so as to effectively expand their decontamination and reuse channels.

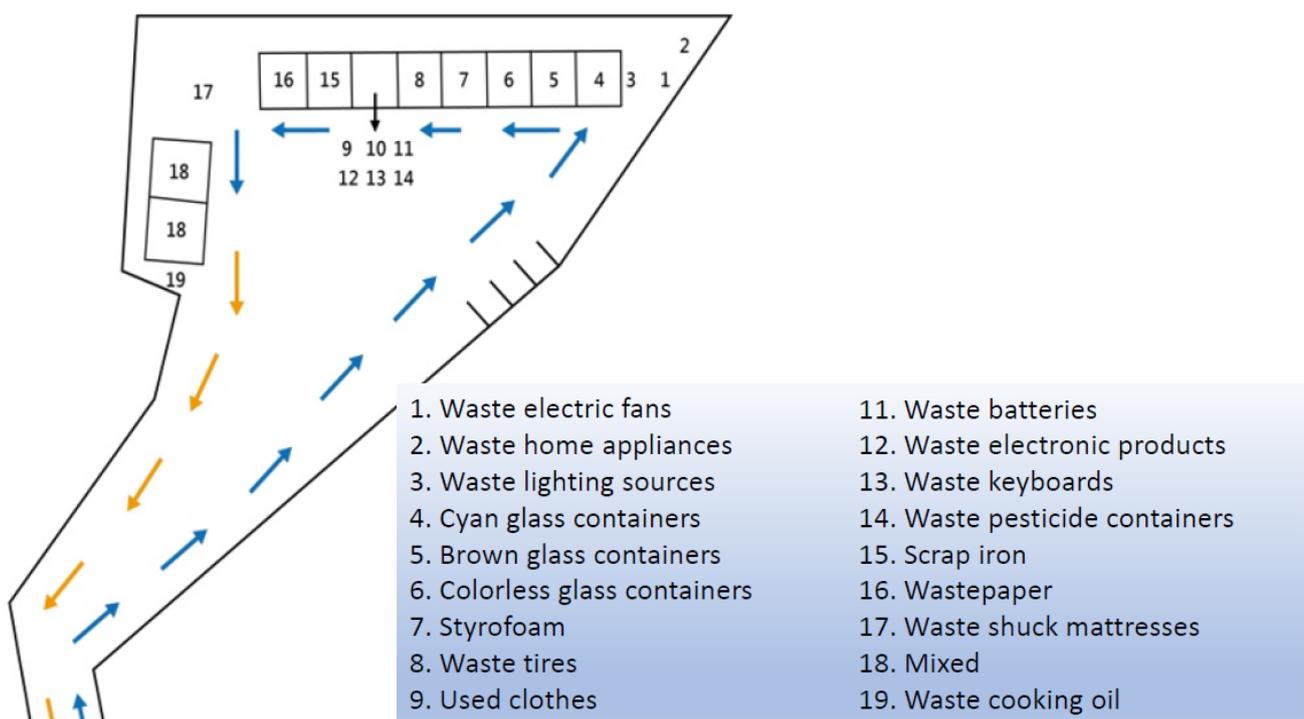
(3) Enhancing recycling by sanitation crews: Beginning from January 2020, sanitation crews were incentivized to collect and sort 14 materials or items

with low recycling rates. Subsidies are calculated based on estimated amounts recycled and sorted as well as set unit prices, so the recycling rates can be raised via goal-oriented management.

(4) Optimizing recycling and storage sites: Local governments were subsidized to optimize and improve the facilities of existing recycling and storage sites, change the stereotypes of the recycling and storage sites that citizens hold, make the working environment of sanitation crews more friendly, strengthen the operation of existing storage sites, increase the recycling volume and enhance the image of recycling and storage sites..

(5) The *Recycling Care Program* (資收關懷計畫), launched in 2019, provides self-employed recyclers who sell recyclables with monthly subsidies of up to NT\$3,500 per person. Local environmental bureaus are allowed to subsidize, by themselves or by commissioning welfare organizations, 8,900 registered recyclers. Starting from August 2019, self-employed recyclers are eligible for the subsidies. Additional subsidies are given for less frequently recycled items

Configuration diagram of a recycling and storage site affiliated with the Madou Sanitation Crew (in Tainan City)



such as electric fans, laptops, tablets, and keyboards. These measures aim to increase the income of self-employed recyclers as well as the amount of waste recycled.

In addition, in response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the monthly subsidy limit per person has been increased up to NT\$5,000 from May 2020 .

(7) The EPA has launched the *Paper Tableware Recycling-Friendly Shops Subsidization Plan* (紙餐具有環友善店家補助計畫) to encourage proper sorting and recycling of waste paper tableware. From 1 February to 31 December 2020, local environmental bureaus are taking inventory of eateries, providing needed guidance, and listing eateries for management. In addition, more demonstration sites will be set up to observe the recycling and sorting behaviors of the public. The observation will serve as reference for future legislation and policymaking. Meanwhile, authorities are to show target enterprises



▲ *Recycling and storage site affiliated with the Madou Sanitation Crew*

how the Plan works, offer assistance, and subsidize installation of recycling equipment. Subsidies under this Plan amount to NT\$49.04 million in total.

The Plan's first trial run will audit and give advice to the targets, of which 7,210 have been registered. By promoting the setup of waste paper tableware recycling amenities and the "clearing, sorting, and stacking" recycling steps, the EPA hopes to alter the habits of those who dine out, raise the public's awareness of waste paper tableware recycling, and increase the recycling rate from the 64% in 2018 to 80% in 2021.

Future outlook: Increasing recycling and reuse

(1) The EPA will assist enterprises to utilize recycled resources in Taiwan instead of exporting them, leading to higher profits and added value for the resources. Differentiated subsidization will be provided to enterprises to encourage technological development and strategy forming, creating positive competition for continuous progress and technology upgrades.

(2) Collaboration between different industries will be promoted. The EPA will continue to assist waste processors to work with reuse facilities or manufacturers that are able to further increase the value of recycled materials so as to form industry chains. Processing enterprises will also be eligible for higher subsidies once their applications are reviewed and approved by the EPA.

(3) Encouraging technological development and applications

To encourage academic institutions and enterprises to invest in the research and development of recycling technologies, attract talent to join the ranks of basic research, and open up more reuse channels, the EPA will publicly solicit innovative plans and R&D projects for the recycling and processing of recyclables, and subsidize public and private universities, research institutes, and waste processors to carry out recycling-

related innovation, research and development. government and academia to carry out the effort. The purpose is to combine the forces of industry,



▲ The Recycling Care Program provides self-employed recyclers with monthly subsidies.

Inspection

The EPA Coordinates Garbage Disposal as Incinerators Undergo Maintenance

Half of the 24 incinerators in Taiwan will one by one enter a period of major maintenance over the next five years. In addition to coordinating regional garbage disposal, the EPA will continue to actively assist local governments to strengthen temporary garbage storage and other temporary placement measures, and install their own disposal facilities. The purpose is to compensate for the deficiency in garbage disposal capacity during the maintenance period of each incinerator.

The EPA noted that with reduced garbage disposal capacity during incinerator maintenance periods, proper temporary garbage storage will be necessary to prevent it from scattering. All counties and cities are currently carrying out temporary garbage packing and storing the packed garbage temporarily in legal landfills. Proper packing can therefore reduce the space the garbage occupies while lowering the risk of environmental pollution. At the same time, the sorting

step prior to the packing can also be used to separate high-heating-value (HHV) materials, which can be used directly as auxiliary fuels.

Under the EPA's recently launched *Diversified Garbage Disposal Plan* (多元化垃圾處理計畫) launched, the eight counties with no garbage disposal capacity have gradually begun to plan construction of their own disposal facilities, which are expected to

be finished within two to three years. These ongoing projects include gasification and high-performance disposal facilities on offshore islands, the collaboration of Hualien County with Taiwan Cement Cooperation to use its cement kilns, high-performance disposal parks planned by Hsinchu County, and Nantou County's green energy park project. Additionally, the Taitung County Government has decided to relaunch the Taitung Incinerator, which has been idle for years, and is currently going through restart procedures.

The EPA stated that it has proposed to the Executive Yuan to revise the *Diversified Garbage Disposal Plan*. It will further invest NT\$1 billion to assist local governments to alleviate the piling up of garbage and expand landfill capacities. The EPA also urged everyone to work together during this difficult time to reduce incinerator loads by strengthening waste recycling and reduction.

Waste

Management Regulations Announced for the Reuse of Incinerator Bottom Ash

On 18 May 2020, the EPA announced the management regulations for the reuse of incinerator bottom ash according to the *Waste Disposal Act* (廢棄物清理法) Article 14 paragraph 2. Referring to Japanese and Dutch practices and experiences, the regulations were based on leaching scenarios and their control when aggregate of recycled bottom ash is used in the environment. The recycled aggregate leaching procedure (NIEA R222) is used as the leaching testing method. And referring to Groundwater Pollution Control Standards' classification environmental standards, limitations of usage locations were reviewed.



▲ Incinerator bottom ash was recycled and processed as aggregates.

The main points of this announcement are as follows:

- (1) New uses of aggregate are added, including cement products, such as Jersey barriers and road curbs and sanitation landfill construction materials that are not in contact with steel. These uses are classified as fillings for construction foundations, roads and embankments.
- (2) Limitations of usage locations were reviewed. Controlled low strength materials used for other purposes cannot be used in sensitive regions, while controlled low strength materials used in ditches and pipes are to be kept out of the sensitive areas in water quality and quantity protection areas.
- (3) Environmental standards for recycled incinerator bottom ash aggregates were stipulated. In sensitive areas, aggregates are allowed to be used only for five remanufactured product uses and must comply with Class 1 standards. In regular areas, aggregates can be used for eight unprocessed or remanufactured product uses and must comply with Class 2 standards. For two specific uses in all areas, the use

of aggregates must comply with standards set for said specific uses.

(4) If curing is involved, the minimum curing time is increased from a month to 45 days.

The EPA stated that the new regulations will take effect on 1 January 2021 so that all affected agencies have adequate time to adapt to the new requirements.

Water

Use of Food Waste as Fertilizer Promoted for Better Harvests, Cleaner Rivers, and Lower Production Costs

In light of the recent panic buying of chemical fertilizers, the Yunlin County Government held a press conference on May 25 to promote recycling and reuse of digestate fluid and sediment to reduce farming costs. Magistrate Li-Shan Chang, along with the Director of the EPA Department of Water Quality Protection, Sheng-Chong Wu and livestock industry representatives, led a ceremony to promote environmental innovation and show appreciation for the work of farmers. The participants celebrated cooperation between government agencies and the private sector to put policies into action and create win-win situations for the livestock industry, agriculture, and environmental protection.

At the conference, the county government displayed organic matter products made with recycled food waste, digestate fluid for irrigation use and sediment made from livestock manure supplied by certified livestock farms. Rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and organic matter, these products benefit plant growth and can be used as fertilizer for farmland. Not only do they help satisfy crop growing needs of regular citizens and farmers, their use also serves as an example of collaboration between livestock farms and crop farmers. It is hoped that more livestock farms and crop farmers can join in to reutilize livestock manure and contribute to the remediation and protection of local rivers.

Since 2015, the EPA has been subsidizing the Yunlin County Government to carry out livestock manure reutilization and replace agrochemicals with organic fertilizers in order to increase farm production, reduce soil acidification, and reduce discharges of organic pollutants into rivers. A total of 268 livestock farms have filed applications to reutilize livestock manure; 12 newly purchased irrigation vehicles delivered; ten irrigation vehicle fleets have been set up, and five projects that use livestock manure processing facilities to treat livestock manure from other farms have been launched. The performance of Yunlin County with respect to manure reutilization ranks first in Taiwan.

By 31 May 2020, 920 livestock farms in Taiwan have been permitted to use digestate fluid and sediment as farmland fertilizers. In addition, 128 farms have successfully applied for agricultural waste reuse permits, and 292 farms have been permitted to use the recycled waste that meets the *Effluent Standards* (放流水標準) for crop irrigation. Not including the 38 farms that applied to use recycled manure in both ways, a total of 1,302 livestock farms now practice livestock manure reutilization in Taiwan.

Potential nationwide outcomes of the livestock resource reutilization policies are as follows: 618 metric tons per year of recycled manure waste are permitted for irrigation of 2,949 hectares of farmland. Annual organic pollution discharge to rivers can be reduced by 38,608 kg of BOD (biological oxygen demand), equivalent to the amount of pollution reduction achieved by 705 gravel contact oxidation treatment plants with a daily capacity of 10,000 metric tons. As much as 1,082 metric tons of nitrogen can be spread through the approved irrigation methods, equivalent to using 169,192 bags of Taiwan Fertilizer Co. Heiwan #5 Fertilizer. All of the above would result in cutting fertilizer costs by NT\$57.52 million and water pollution control costs by NT\$45.44 million, significantly improving river water and air quality.



Yunlin County Government displays organic matter products made with recycled food waste.

Water

Revisions Preannounced for *Enterprise Classifications and Definitions in the Water Pollution Control Act*

On 13 May 2020, the EPA preannounced revisions of paragraph 1 Annex of the *Enterprise Classifications and Definitions of the Water Pollution Control Act* (水污染防治法事業分類及定義). The revised part includes definitions, applicable entities, and implementation dates for enterprise category 64.(2), oil storage sites, and category 64.(5), enterprises whose operation premises have storage facilities that store materials specified by the EPA based on the *Water Pollution Control Act* (水污染防治法) Article 33 paragraph 1, and whose combined capacities reach 200 liters or more.

The EPA stated that this revision follows previous amendments of regulations concerning underground storage tanks. The previous amendments incorporated the definition of oil storage sites and regulations concerning the construction of overflow protection dikes into the section dealing with storage facility management, in order to avoid redundant control. The main points of the revision are as follows:

1. Due to the effective date of the *Management Regulations Concerning Underground Storage Tank Groundwater Pollution Prevention Equipment and Monitoring Equipment Installation* (地下儲槽系統防止污染地下水體設施及監測設備設置管理辦法),

regulations concerning enterprise category 64.(2), oil storage sites, will cease to apply from 1 January 2021.

2. Enterprise category 64.(5), “enterprises whose operation premises have storage facilities that store materials specified by the EPA based on the *Water Pollution Control Act* Article 33 paragraph 1 and whose combined capacities reach 200 liters or more”, is changed to “storage facility”. It includes above-ground and underground storage tanks or containers, and excludes storage cans, tanks, or barrels that are sealed, have not been unsealed, or do not leak after placed upside down. Relevant applicable conditions

are also deleted, and its effective date is postponed to 1 January 2021.

3. Enterprise category 59, livestock excreta or bioenergy treatment center (or biogas center); category 60, reclaimed water operators; and category 63, steam suppliers; are deleted because their effective periods have ended.

The EPA stressed that by regulating industrial oil storage facilities that have higher pollution risks, enterprises are thereby obligated to properly install water pollution prevention and monitoring equipment and to have adequate leak prevention equipment in store. They must properly collect and handle any leakage should it occur. Enterprises are urged to abide by regulations, as violations will lead to penalties in accordance with the *Water Pollution Control Act*.

Environmental Management

Public and Private Sectors Collaborate in Taipei 101 Offset Project

On 12 May 2020, at an EPA press conference at Taipei 101 on the Public and Private Sector Collaboration on Carbon Emission Reduction in the Residential and Commercial Sectors, the EPA pledged to reduce carbon emissions by working jointly with the civic sector. The Department of Environmental Protection of the Taipei City Government also participated in the press conference to recognize the achievements in carbon emission reduction and energy conservation of Taipei 101. The carbon offset project proposed by Taipei 101 management passed a review by the EPA on 20 March 2020, and it completed the registration process in April. This is the first offset project implemented by the residential/commercial sector and it is estimated that it will reduce emissions by 2,718 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Taipei 101 and the Taipei City Government can also apply for reduction credits subsequent to the implementation of the project.

EPA Minister Tzi-chin Chang stated that Taiwan is devoted to energy saving and carbon emission reduction and is one of the few countries in the world that has written greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals into law. Emissions growth in Taiwan has slowed owing to the joint efforts of every government department. However, there is still a small gap to be crossed to reach the Phase 1 emissions control goal of a 2% reduction of domestic GHG emissions by 2020. The Phase 2 goals aim to reduce emissions by 10%. Minister Chang pointed out that even though emissions from the manufacturing sector make up 52% of total emissions, the residential/commercial sector still accounts for 20%. Hence, the EPA has reviewed and simplified the application procedures for micro-scale offset projects to encourage participation of the residential/commercial sector.

According to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection of the Taipei City Government, Ming-lone Liou, the main source of carbon emissions in Taipei City is from the residential/commercial sector. Due to its hard work to promote

energy conservation in this sector, among Taiwan's six major cities, Taipei City is the only one that has accomplished a reduction in electricity use for three years in a row, equaling 2.58% of energy saved. With Taipei 101 leading the way, the commissioner anticipated more residential/commercial properties will participate, and he encouraged other department stores in Xinyi District to follow suit and make the district a center for carbon reduction.

Commissioner Liou indicated that Taipei 101 not only achieved the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum status as a green building but also assisted the Department of Environmental Protection of the Taipei City Government with air quality monitoring. Taipei City will receive 50% of the reduction credits from this offset project, which can be used to offset the carbon footprint produced in international events in the future.

Taipei 101 President Angela Chang stated that Taipei 101 has been selected as one of the "50 Most Influential Tall Buildings" in the world, hence it has the corporate social responsibility to take the lead in

environmental protection. Taipei 101 management started with disclosing the building's carbon footprint and worked with the government to come up with feasible emission mitigation measures. This time, Taipei 101 voluntarily launched the offset project in support of government policies, which makes it the first micro-scale offset project implemented by the residential/commercial sector. The reduction credits earned can also be used for the New Year fireworks shows.

To promote emission reduction in the residential/commercial sector, the Department of Environmental

Protection of the Taipei City Government also assisted Taipei 101 to apply to be the first of the residential/commercial sector micro-scale offset projects. Being an iconic establishment in the residential/commercial sector, Taipei 101 not only conducted a voluntary GHG inventory, but also disclosed information on its corporate social responsibility (CSR) report. To further reduce emissions, Taipei 101 formulated a new plan last year that entails the replacement of lighting systems in its underground parking lot with 2,841 LED light bulbs. The plan is estimated to save 7.7% of electricity per year, or 510,000 kWh of electricity.



▲ EPA Minister Tzi-chin Chang (second from left), Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection of the Taipei City Government, Ming-lone Liou (first from right), and Taipei 101 President Angela Chang (second from right) witnessed the achievements of Taipei 101 in energy conservation and carbon reduction.

Chemicals

Revisions to Regulations Governing Toxic Chemical Substances Listed for Control and Relevant Operations and Management Preannounced

In response to dicofol and other substances newly listed by the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, the EPA preannounced dicofol to be listed as a toxic chemical substance. Current regulations for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (POSF), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) were also revised as a means to tighten Taiwan's controls for toxic chemical substances.

The EPA explained that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are resistant to degradation, capable of long-range transport and bioaccumulation, and are harmful to human health and other living organisms. Therefore, the UN formulated the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* to protect human health and the environment by eliminating, limiting and reducing the release of POPs. In response to recent updates to the Stockholm Convention, the EPA has revised regulations concerning dicofol, PFOA, POSF, PFOS, lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate, and PBDEs.

The EPA pointed out that dicofol was added to Annex A (elimination) of the Stockholm Convention in 2019. Capable of bioconcentration and being ecotoxic, dicofol meets the characteristics of Class 1 and Class 3 toxic chemical substances listed in the *Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Control Act*. Therefore, dicofol has been added to Class 1 and Class 3 toxic chemical substance lists, and its use outside of research, experimental and educational

purposes has been banned in accordance with the convention. In addition, the EPA referenced the convention on the regulations concerning PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related substances and announced that PFOA and POSF would be categorized as Class 1 toxic chemical substances. The EPA also revised the control concentration standards of lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate and POSF, and amended the use restrictions for PFOA, PFOS, lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate and POSF.

An investigation conducted by the EPA regarding the domestic industrial uses of the above-mentioned substances revealed that these substances are primarily used for research, experimental and educational purposes in Taiwan. Due to their limited use in Taiwan, the tightened control on these substances will only have a marginal effect on domestic industries, improve their existing air pollution control facilities and gradually bring in enclosed equipment to control air pollution at its source.

Environmental Monitoring

Upgraded Environment Info Push App Offers More Personalized Services

Launched on 15 May 2020, the 4.0 version of the Environment Info Push App now provides more personalized environmental information for people's daily lives. In addition to the new warning notifications for ozone levels, the app now offers reminders for regular motorcycle inspections and information on public facilities, such as the locations of public restrooms. The app will continue to provide up-to-date air pollution data to help safeguard public health.

The new content of the 4.0 version includes: ozone level warnings, notifications for regular motorcycle inspections, motorcycle inspection sites' location search, and public restroom location search. The updated app aims to safeguard public health with its new "ozone level warnings", and help citizens save money and be environmentally conscious by not missing inspections with reminders for regular motorcycle inspections.

In addition to PM_{2.5}, ozone has become another important issue that calls for more attention. Statistics have shown that 359 red alert station-days in 2018 were caused by eight-hour average ozone concentrations exceeding the standards, which surpassed the 277 red alert station-days triggered

by excessive concentrations of PM_{2.5}.

In light of this situation, the EPA proposed the idea of developing a warning system for when ozone levels may exceed the standards during the 2019 Presidential Hackathon. The new "ozone level warnings" feature in the 4.0 version is Taiwan's first forecasting and warning system that uses big data analytics and AI technology to provide prediction and warning services for when the eight-hour average ozone concentrations may exceed the standards. App users can look up the latest hourly air quality monitoring data before going to school or work or pursuing any outdoor activities. They can also make arrangements or take protective measures for any outdoor activities of the day based on the ozone data and warnings provided by the

app. The ozone forecasting in the app is achieved by building predictive models based on historical monitoring data, and evaluating the hourly data between 7 am and 6 pm each day to predict if the eight-hour average ozone concentration of the day may exceed the standards. Users of the app can subscribe to the ozone alert service to receive timely ozone level warnings for their locations.

The 4.0 version also provides reminders for regular motorcycle inspections that give timely notifications based on the data from the Information and Management System for Motorcycle Inspections Website. Compared to the existing method of mailing paper notifications, the app's motorcycle inspection reminder service reduces the chances of missing inspections for vehicle owners. The EPA encourages citizens to subscribe to the service and complete the annual exhaust inspections in a timely manner.

In addition, with the public facility search engine on the app, citizens can immediately acquire information on the nearest public facilities, which currently include public restrooms and motorcycle inspection sites, and find out their locations through the map. Take public restrooms for example, the app allows users to search for public restrooms. With just a few taps, users can easily switch between categories and find a restroom that accommodates their needs, such as accessible restrooms, family restrooms and all gender restrooms.

The Environment Info Push App has been downloaded more than 510,000 times with an average of four-star reviews and more than one million views per month. The app is a convenient tool for people's daily lives and is available on Google Play and Apple store.

Environmental Education

EPA Takes Climate Action to Mark World Environment Day

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. In response to this year's theme of "climate action", the EPA held its environmental education summer events with a focus on "sufficiency in life". A retrospective exhibition was held on World Environment Day on 5 June in Tainan to remind citizens that the future environment we'll be living in depends on our action at present.

The final event was "Earth Day 50th Anniversary – Environmental Retrospective Exhibition," which took place from 5 to 7 June 2020 in Tainan. It highlighted major environmental incidents and topics, both globally and domestically, in the past 50 years. The exhibition featured an environmental video zone where the environmental education documentary "Taivalu" was played daily. On the first day of the exhibition, there was also a "Conversation with EPA Minister", in which student representatives from Taiwan and US eco-campus were invited to discuss about the *National Environmental Protection Plans* with EPA Minister Tzi-chin Chang. During the activity, the students expressed their opinions on the strategies Taiwan can implement to realize the vision of "reducing carbon and disasters", "relaxing and breathing well", "enjoying clear water", "transforming waste to resources", "having zero forest loss", and "co-existing with wildlife" by 2030.

In the "Actions to Protect the Planet Zone," an exhibition featured three types of post cards based on the themes of Earth Day and World Environment Day. When visitors completed the visit, they could obtain a so-called "future post card" on which they could write down what they promised to do in their daily lives for environmental protection. The post cards would be mailed by the event organizers to the visitors three months after the exhibition as a reminder to examine their actions in light of the promises they have made and reflect on how to protect the environment in their daily lives.



▲ Students from Taiwan and US eco-campuses were invited to discuss about the National Environmental Protection Plans with EPA Minister Tzi-Chin Chang (center).

News Brief

Extended Subsidies for Replacing Large Old Diesel Vehicles

In response to the economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPA has launched relief packages to help owners of large diesel vehicles scrap and replace their vehicles with new ones. The EPA preannounced draft amendments to the *Subsidy Regulations for Scrapping and Replacing Large Old Diesel Vehicles* on 19 May 2020. The amendments increased the total subsidy by NT\$160 million and extended the subsidy application deadline from 10 December 2020 to 10 December 2021. The amendments also extended the grace period for scrapping and purchasing a replacement vehicle to one year. With the amendments, the EPA aims to relieve the financial burden of vehicle owners and stimulate the incentive to phase out old vehicles.

To clarify any possible misunderstandings that could happen while implementing the subsidy regulations, the EPA has revised the definitions of large diesel vehicle emission standard phases. The amendments also include changes to the required documents and baseline dates when vehicle owners apply for subsidies for scrapping and replacing their Phase 1 to Phase 3 heavy-duty diesel trucks. In addition, according to the amendments, when purchasing used or new vehicles, if the price on the receipt is lower than the subsidy, subsidies will be given based on the actual purchase price. The EPA plans to directly accept vehicle owners' applications for subsidies beginning 2021 to streamline the application process.

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