

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education and Publicity Sub-Committee

Paper 02/03

Operation of the Sustainable Development Fund

Purpose

This paper invites Members' views on the detailed operation of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

Proposal

2. We propose that –
 - (a) Members note the broad objectives and funding guidelines for the SDF as agreed by the Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) (**Annexes A & B** respectively);
 - (b) the Fund be open to applications all year round; and
 - (c) initially we should only accept applications for grants of a minimum of \$50,000.

Considerations

3. On 1 April 2003, the CSD advised that -
 - (a) the Education and Publicity Sub-committee should be tasked with reviewing and advising on applications for grants from the SDF in line with the broad objectives (**Annex A**) and funding guidelines (**Annex B**) agreed by the Council;
 - (b) any application for a sum of \$500,000 or above should be further reviewed by the full Council;

- (c) the SDU should provide administrative support to the Council and the Education and Publicity Sub-committee in respect of applications under the SDF;
- (d) the Director of Administration should, in his capacity as the Controlling Officer, make a submission to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to seek approval of an allocation of \$100 million for establishing the SDF;
- (e) the Director of Administration should take into account the Sub-committee's or the Council's advice, as the case may be, in approving grants for individual applications and making payments from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
- (f) initially, a maximum of \$10 million annually should be made available for disbursement from the Fund.

4. In addition, Council Members discussed the question of possible overlap between the SDF and other related Funds. Members agreed that clear and distinct criteria should be set out for the award of grants from the SDF, and that the types of project supported by funds such as the Community and Inclusion Fund (CIIF) and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) should not be eligible for SDF grants. A list of some recent projects supported by the CIIF and ECF is attached at **Annex C** for Members' information.

Frequency of Receiving Applications

5. In assessing the appropriate arrangement for the frequency of receiving applications, we note that there are essentially two ways of handling this issue. The first is to accept applications all year round, which is the approach adopted by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Alternatively, we could accept applications only at certain times of the year, in accordance with specified deadlines for applications, which is how the Quality Education Fund operates. We **propose** that the SDF be open to applications all year round, so as to allow maximum flexibility for applicants in putting forward their proposals.

6. Alternatively, Members may consider whether the Fund should be open for applications, say, two to three times a year, in accordance with a

set timetable and deadlines for application. Although this would provide less flexibility for applicants, it would allow for a concentration of the work of the Sub-committee and the SDU on business related to the SDF at certain designated times of the year.

Minimum Level of Grants

7. One of the objectives of the SDF is to encourage: “*projects likely to make a noticeable impact on the general public’s awareness of sustainability*”, Members may wish to consider whether we should stipulate a **minimum** amount of grant for applications so as to help to avoid a large number of applications for small projects with limited coverage, and to ensure that funds are directed at substantial projects that are likely to raise public awareness of sustainability. In order to encourage applicants to create longer-term projects with a good level of coverage in the community, subject to Members’ views, we would suggest that initially only applications for funding in excess of \$50,000 be accepted.

Further Action

8. Subject to Members’ advice, we shall consult the Legislative Council Panels on Environmental Affairs and Planning, Lands and Works in May 2003 and prepare a submission to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council seeking a sum of \$100 million to establish the Sustainable Development Fund in June 2003.

9. We would then draw up detailed application guidelines, application forms, funding conditions, progress report forms and evaluation forms for endorsement by this Sub-committee at its next meeting. At the same meeting we would invite Members to consider a suitable publicity programme for the launch of the SDF.

Council Secretariat

May 2003

Annex A

Sustainable Development Fund - Scope and Objectives

The Sustainable Development Fund should provide a central source of funding to support initiatives aimed at developing a strong public awareness of the concept of sustainability and its importance. It should also provide funding for projects that would promote sustainable practices in Hong Kong.

Specifically, the Sustainable Development Fund should be a source of grants for practical and research programmes that promote –

- (a) public understanding of the importance of balancing the need for further economic development with awareness of broader social concerns and respect for the natural environment;
- (b) everyday practices that are consistent with the principles of sustainability; and
- (c) public participation in the discussion of Hong Kong's long-term sustainable development.

Given that the main aim of establishing the Sustainable Development Fund would be to promote better understanding of sustainable development in the wider community, priority would be given to projects likely to make a noticeable impact on the general public's awareness of sustainability. We would therefore encourage applications related to public educational programmes, particularly those that would convey in a direct and practical manner the message that members of the community can and should all play a part in making Hong Kong a sustainable city.

Non-profit organisations, educational institutions, professional bodies and registered community groups would be among those eligible to receive grants from the Fund.

Projects undertaken by the Council for Sustainable Development and government departments consistent with the scope and objectives of the Fund should also be eligible for grants from the Fund.

Annex B

Sustainable Development Fund - Proposed Funding Guidelines

1. Projects selected for funding support will be expected to enhance Hong Kong people's understanding of sustainable development, or encourage the local community to put the concept of sustainable development into practice.
2. The concept of sustainable development involves integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of development. Hence, projects failing to demonstrate clearly full integration of at least two of these aspects would not be supported.
3. The benefits must accrue to the local community as a whole, and not just a single organisation, a consortium of companies or a narrow sector.
4. Projects should be non-profit making in nature. Any income derived from a project, which should be set out in the application in the first instance, should be used to further the project's objectives.
5. Funds approved cannot be used to create any permanent posts or recurrent financial commitment.
6. In considering a project proposal, due consideration will be given to -
 - (a) whether there is a demonstrable need for the proposed project;
 - (b) the technical and project management capability of the applicant;
 - (c) whether the proposed project's schedule of implementation is well-planned and the duration is reasonable;
 - (d) whether the proposed budget is reasonable and cost effective in general terms;
 - (e) whether the proposed project has alternative source(s) of funding support or would be more appropriately funded by other source(s) (e.g., the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund);
 - (f) whether there is or likely to be duplication of the work by the

proposed project and other community groups; and

- (g) whether the proposed project has the potential to become a self-sufficient ongoing initiative.
7. Successful applicants will be required to provide regular progress reports on the implementation of projects, and to complete an end-of-project evaluation that measures the success of the project against its stated aims.

Annex C

- Fund : ECF – Community Waste Recovery Project
- Grantee : Hong Kong Women Workers Association
- Project Title : Green Collar Community Recycling Scheme
- Amount : \$531,816
- Duration : Jan 2002 – Dec 2003
- Summary : Types of recyclable to be collected:
Plastic bottles
- Mode of collection:
- (1) Mobile waste collection station will be set up twice a week in Kwun Tong.
 - (2) Waste collection centre will be set up in the district.
The centre will be operated in the form of cooperative centre.

Fund : ECF – Community Waste Recovery Projects

Grantee : Caritas Industrial Labour Development Centre

Project Title : Waste Reduction Promotion Project for Restaurants and
Cafe in Industrial-commercial District

Amount : \$114,330

Duration : Jan – Dec 2003

Summary : Roving exhibition will be held to promote waste reduction.
Environmental ambassadors will have site visit to
restaurants in the district for promoting waste reduction.

- Fund : ECF – Environmental Education and Community Action Projects
- Grantee : Hong Kong Federation of Employees Unions in Public Utilities
- Project Title : Green City – A series of Environmental Education and Community Action Programme
- Amount : \$18,965
- Duration : March – Dec 2002
- Summary : The project included seven activities –
1. Set up and training Environmental Protection Ambassadors
 2. Visit to paper recycling plant
 3. Environmental poster and slogan competitions with ‘Green City’ as the theme
 4. Environmental basketball competition
 5. Environmental roving exhibition
 6. Visits to Yuen Long Wetland and Mai Po Nature Reserve
 7. Green carnival

Fund : ECF – Environmental Education and Community Action Projects

Grantee : Green Power

Project Title : Hong Kong Rivers and Conservation Workshop

Amount : \$46,790

Duration : June – Dec 2002

Summary : The project included three activities:

1. Education workshops at Yuen Long Creek to introduce concepts of river ecology, river pollution and possible conservation practices
2. Production of educational packs including handouts and maps
3. Production of educational VCD featuring local rivers

Fund : ECF – Research / Technology Demonstration Project

Grantee : Hong Kong Baptist University

Project Title : Environmental knowledge and interest in environmental activities of Hong Kong primary students.

Amount : \$85,000

Duration : Jan – Nov 2001

Summary : Two round of postal surveys on a systematic probability sample of 4,112 grade 2 to 6 students from 116 primary schools in HK was conducted to investigate how much they know about the environment and their interest in participating various environmental activities.

Fund : ECF – Research / Technology Demonstration Project

Grantee : Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management, the University of H K

Project Title : Initial Indicators of Environmental Sustainability for HK

Amount : \$1,501,028

Duration : May 1996 – Jan 1999

Summary : To develop an initial set of sustainability indicators for HK to be used to assess the extent to which the HKSAR is moving towards of away from a more sustainable development path.

Fund : ECF – Research / Technology Demonstration Project

Grantee : Friends Of the Earth
The HK Polytechnic University Postgraduate Association

Project Title : The feasibility Study of Waste Minimization for Hotel Industry in HK

Amount : \$92,048

Duration : March – August 1998

Summary : To identify hoteliers' existing housekeeping practice on the usage of disposable toiletries and to evaluate the practitioners' and the guests' willingness to shift to a better option.

Fund : Community Investment and Involvement Fund

Grantee : The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
North District Integrated Youth Service Centre

Project Title : Space of Dream – Youth Employment Project in the North
District

Amount : \$1,107,700

Duration : April 2003 – March 2006

Summary : Youth aged between 15-19 learn skills and get support and
share of life experience from a Community Leader which
was arranged through community centre. Youth then
provide services to the minority group in the community in
return.

Fund : Community Investment and Involvement Fund

Grantee : St. James' Settlement

Project Title : Retired Senior Volunteers' Association – Community Mutual Help Network Project

Amount : \$954,740

Duration : April 2003 – March 2006

Summary : A group of retired people living in Central and Western District set up a volunteer association. The group aims at supporting and networking with those elderly in need in the District.