

1. Agricultural Pollution Control. March 21, 2006 -- Prevention and treatment of agricultural pollution will become major parts of the environmental protection efforts of the municipal authorities in East China's metropolis of Shanghai.

Over the next three years, Shanghai's environmental protection will include comprehensive treatment of large livestock or poultry farms, agricultural pollution treatment and utilization of crop stalks, said a municipal agricultural official.

The city will build or rebuild five poultry or livestock waste processing centers and promote the use of organic fertilizers and technologies to reduce the use of pesticides, the official said.

2. Green measures to safely dispose of medical waste. February 25, 2006 -- A large-scale environmentally friendly project for the disposal of medical waste will be carried out under the co-operation of the country's top environmental watchdog and the international community. The project will cost around US\$45 million, nearly half of which will come from the Global Environment Facility.

Planned to run for four years, the project aims to reduce the production of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) during the disposal of medical waste by improving the current treatment facilities and establishing new advanced services.

According to figures from the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), China now produces more than 1,500 tons of medical waste one day, and this figure is likely to rise. Experts say if SEPA does not consider the reduction of POPs, it may lead to a serious pollution risk, especially in levels of dioxin. Currently, the country's treatment facilities mainly use combustion techniques. "However, according to my investigation, most of the country's 171 incinerators for medical waste do not reach the correct standards for pollution control," said Wu Shunze from the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning. To solve the pollution problem, the State Council ratified SEPA and the National Development and Reform Commission to compile the "Hazardous Waste and Medical Waste Treatment Facility Construction Plan." "Although we now have regulations on how to treat medical waste, there are still many difficulties since the plan is not very practical or complete", said Wu Yinghong from the Ministry of Health.

3. Taking out the garbage, 2006. -- With Chinese cities estimated to accumulated account for nearly one third of all the garbage produced in the world every year, disposing of this trash is becoming an urgent task for Chinese governments at all levels.

In the 1980s, China began a campaign to improve urban sanitary conditions and has been working since then toward this purpose. In February this year, the State Council, China's cabinet, issued a document on strengthening environmental protection efforts, listing rubbish disposal as one of the eight major objectives of that program. The amount of trash produced worldwide is increasing 8 percent on an annual basis, while the figure for China is over 10 percent. The world produces an estimated 490 million

tons of rubbish each year, with China's cities alone accounting for 150 million tons. Currently, as much as 7 billion tons of garbage produced by Chinese cities remain untreated. Disposing of the huge amount of garbage produced every day has always been a headache. Government telephone hotlines get many environmental complaints from residents each year, with the majority related to trash. The Central Government spends a lot of money to dispose of garbage each year, and every city has its own rubbish disposal center. But it appears that government efforts to clean up the environment cannot keep pace with the speed of China's urbanization. This rapid urbanization has brought a population explosion in cities, more skyscrapers, rapid industrial and service-sector development--and a big increase in garbage.

4. Clean City. BEIJING, 2006 -- Beijing is making every effort to handle its garbage in an environmentally sound manner.

At present, 94 percent of the garbage is treated to the point where it is environmentally harmless, but the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau said the goal is to reach 96 percent this year, 97 percent in 2007 and 98 percent in 2008.

Beijing has established complete garbage treatment and management systems in most of the inner eight districts and outlying satellite towns. Eighteen garbage disposal establishments have been set up, among which there are four large garbage transfer stations, nine large landfill sites, three composting plants and two incinerators, with a daily disposal capacity of 8,800 tons. However, compared with the 11,500 tons of garbage Beijing generates each day, an amount that is increasing by 2 percent year on year, disposal capacity needs to be increased. By 2008, Beijing is expected to generate 12,000 tons of rubbish every day, for an annual output of 4.38 million tons. Medical waste is forecast to total 60 tons per day and kitchen waste will amount to 1,200 tons. This provides a tough test of Beijing's garbage disposal capacity.

Liang Guangsheng of the Beijing Municipal Administration Commission said this year and next year the city would totally invest 10 billion yuan in building garbage disposal facilities and it would employ a market-oriented management model. One key project will be a plastic waste separation system at the Majialou garbage station, which will handle plastic bags. The plastic will be cleaned and compressed, and then sold back to enterprises. This new separation system will be the second of its kind in Beijing. The first one was set up in the Xiaowuji garbage transfer station and has been operating for more than a year. Every day it can separate five to six tons of waste plastic bags from 1,000 tons of garbage. The plastic bags, which previously were buried along with other trash, can be sold at a price of 200 yuan per ton. Construction has begun on the largest household trash disposal facility, the Asuwei Comprehensive Garbage Treatment Plant, with a total investment of 270 million yuan. It is expected that by 2007 Beijing will have a daily trash disposal capacity of 11,800 tons. Beijing also has adopted a household trash on-site treatment program, which is in the pilot stage in 250 communities, including Xinwaidajie No.6 Community. About 1,000 families in the community generate over 1.5 tons of trash every day.

The trash is roughly sorted by the residents first. About 30 percent of the waste, which consists of recyclable items such as paper and plastic, is transported to a

recycling station, but the remaining 70 percent, which includes food waste, wooden chopsticks, nut shells and even some tree branches or leaves, is processed in equipment that grinds and dehydrates the trash. It then becomes a powdery or granular organic fertilizer after decomposition and fermentation, which is used on flowers and grass.

It is reported that Beijing plans to set up another incinerator, two landfills and seven comprehensive disposal plants to meet its target for making trash environmentally safe.

5. Putting Waste to Industrial Use. GUIYANG, 2006. -- Phosphorous chemicals are the backbone industry of Kaiyang County in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, and the Kaiyang Defluorinated Phosphate Co., Ltd is one of its largest chemical enterprises.

Mineral plants generally produce tail gas that is 90 percent carbon monoxide, according to an official at the Guiyang Municipal Recyclable Economy Office. Since promotion of the concept of a recyclable economy, however, scientific methods have been introduced to convert the carbon monoxide discharged from phosphorus tail gas into a form of energy that produces industrial material. This solid production waste is sold on as raw material to cement plants, an innovation that reduces waste disposal costs as well as mitigating air pollution.

The Kaiyang Phosphorus and Coal Chemicals Eco-Industrial Demonstration Base in Kaiyang County has been constructed with the specific intention of establishing a recyclable economy through high technology. Similar trial projects in Guiyang, such as at the Coal Chemicals Eco-Industrial Base in Qing Town, and the Organic Vegetable and Fruit Base in Yongle Township, Wudang District are also underway.