

Warm Korea for Environmentally and Health-Vulnerable Groups: Support from 19 Companies for Indoor Environment Improvement

- Collaboration agreement among Ministry of Environment, Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute, socially responsible companies (19), and Community Chest of Korea
- Vice Minister of Environment: Ensuring the greatest benefits reach the most challenging places aligns with ‘social justice’

The Ministry of Environment and businesses are joining hands to create a warm Korea for the environmentally and health-vulnerable groups by contributing eco-friendly wallpaper and household goods.

The Ministry of Environment (Minister Han Wha-jin) and the Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI, President Choi Heung-jin) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 12 at the KEITI (located in Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul) with 19 socially responsible companies* and the Community Chest of Korea to improve the indoor environment for the prevention of environmental diseases among vulnerable groups.

* Kang Cheong, Gaenari Wallpaper, Kyungdong Navien, Daraeworld, Lion Korea, Brush World, Samhwa Paints Industrial, Seoul Wallpaper, Sugar Eco, Aekyung Industrial, Eden Bio Wallpaper, LX Hausys, LG H&H, Ecomass, Jaeyoung, Jaehyun Intext, KCC Glass Corporation, Coway, Hyundai L&C

The Ministry of Environment plans to support approximately 500 households

among environmentally and health-vulnerable populations with eco-friendly wallpaper, flooring (floor panels), paint, and atopic dermatitis moisturizers provided by socially responsible companies through this collaboration agreement. Four new companies participating in contributions this year—Kang Cheong, Brush World, Ecomass, and Jaehyun Intex—will be contributing eco-friendly household goods.

Since 2009, the Ministry of Environment has been collaborating with KEITI to implement indoor environment improvement projects aimed at preventing environmental diseases among vulnerable populations such as low-income children and elderly individuals who are easily exposed to environmental hazards.

This year, officials from indoor environment inspection agencies will visit over 1,500 households to diagnose indoor air quality for seven factors including mold. Based on the diagnosis results, they plan to support indoor environment improvements.

They continue to collaborate with regional flagship hospitals to provide screening and treatment services for vulnerable populations suffering from environmentally-related diseases such as atopic dermatitis, asthma, and rhinitis. In addition, they sustain a program that supports medical expenses and medication costs for approximately 250 individuals annually.

Furthermore, this year, they plan to actively support companies to contribute socially to the environmental health sector by providing opportunities for employees of contributing companies to volunteer directly in indoor environment improvement projects.

Vice Minister Lim Sang-jun of the Ministry of Environment stated, “Like John Rawls’ Theory of Justice*, I am grateful to companies that willingly

contribute to ensuring that the greatest benefits reach those most in need.”

* John Rawls, an American political philosopher, presented this theory in his 1971 book, referring to the principles of social distribution for the realization of social justice