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ACE Paper 14/2011

For discussion on 17 October 2011

**Council for Sustainable Development's
Public Engagement on
“Combating Climate Change:
Energy Saving and Carbon Emission Reduction in Buildings”**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the issues raised by the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) in its document “Combating Climate Change: Energy Saving and Carbon Emission Reduction in Buildings”.

BACKGROUND

2. In recent years, the issue of climate change has been in the forefront of the sustainable development agenda of many nations and cities as well as on the international agenda for co-operation. In the last quarter of 2010, the Government conducted a public consultation to gauge the community's views on Hong Kong's climate change strategy and action agenda for the coming decade. In terms of Hong Kong's greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, electricity generation accounted for about 67% of our total emissions in 2008. Close to 90% of our city's electricity is consumed in buildings. That means electricity consumed by buildings contributes to about 60% of Hong Kong's GHG emissions. Of the total electricity consumption in buildings as at 2008, residential premises accounted for some 25% while commercial buildings took about 65%. There is a strong case for targeting major building user groups, including residential, office, retail and catering sectors, for territory-wide reduction in energy consumption and carbon

emission.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT BY SDC

3. The SDC focuses on the “demand side” of the equation and launched a public engagement process in August 2011 to take a bottom-up approach to engage building users to work together to maximize energy efficiency and minimize carbon emission in buildings. The SDC issued an Invitation for Response (IR) document entitled “Combating Climate Change: Energy Saving and Carbon Emission Reduction in Buildings” (**Annex**) which served as a discussion framework to impart information and initiate public dialogue. The SDC has identified 11 areas of action categorized under “Systemic Enhancement” and “Facilitation of Behaviour Change” for soliciting public views, summarized as follows -

Systemic Enhancement

- (a) To consider tightening the Building Energy Code;
- (b) To consider providing recognition for buildings achieving high energy efficiency;
- (c) To explore extension of the application of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS);
- (d) To consider tightening up the energy efficiency grading levels for room air conditioners and refrigerators under the MEELS;
- (e) To explore phasing out energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs; and
- (f) To explore phasing out energy-inefficient electrical installations/appliances.

Facilitation of Behaviour Change

- (g) Energy/Carbon audit;
 - (h) Better understanding of your energy consumption;
 - (i) More use of energy efficiency management systems;
 - (j) Promote adoption of energy-efficient electricity appliances among the trades; and
 - (k) Electricity tariff structure review.
4. The public engagement will last for four months until 4 December 2011.

The SDC will analyze the views and responses collected during the public engagement process, and plans to submit a report with recommendations to the Government by the first quarter of 2012.

ADVICE SOUGHT

5. Members are invited to provide comments and views on the issues set out in the IR document.

**Secretariat, Council for Sustainable Development
October 2011**