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**ACE Paper 14/2022**  
*For discussion on 7 November 2022*

**2022 Policy Address**  
**Policy Measures of Environment and Ecology Bureau:**  
**Environmental Protection**

**PURPOSE**

This paper sets out the major policy measures of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) (Environment Branch) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in relation to environmental protection and relevant issues in the 2022 Policy Address.

**KEY POLICY MEASURES**

**Improving the Environment**

Near-shore water quality

2. Since the commissioning of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A, the water quality of Victoria Harbour has markedly improved. In 2021, the overall compliance rate of Water Quality Objectives for the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone was 100%. Notwithstanding that, with dense population and vibrant streets packed on both sides of the harbour, roadside activities and misconnection of foul sewers to stormwater drains lead to discharge of pollutants into Victoria Harbour through stormwater drainage systems, causing odour and environmental problems in some coastal areas. In this connection, the Government will implement a series of measures to resolve the problems.

3. The Government will tackle the problems at source, focusing on the root causes of odour. In districts with more serious odour nuisance at seafront, we will proactively investigate and trace the major pollution sources in stormwater drainage systems and engage government departments including the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Buildings Department (BD) to follow up on the rectification of sewer misconnections. Our target is to reduce by half the pollution loading at stormwater outfalls with serious pollution problems on both sides of Victoria Harbour, in particular at Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City districts, by the end of 2024.

4. Besides, the Government is planning and carrying out a series of pollution control projects on both sides of Victoria Harbour to intercept pollutants that discharge through stormwater drains into the harbour; implementing territory-wide underground sewers replacement and rehabilitation works to reduce the risk of environmental pollution caused by damaged ageing sewers; carrying out regular inspection, maintenance and desilting of public sewerage and stormwater drainage systems; and applying Malodour Control Hydrogel extensively to stormwater outfalls along the seafront of Victoria Harbour and nearby locations with odour problems to mitigate odour on a regular basis.

#### Ameliorate noise from domestic renovation and street cries

5. More than 200 000 flats undergo renovation in Hong Kong every year and quite often, the public is affected by domestic renovation noise. On the other hand, noise emanating from loudspeakers for street cries has been an aggravating issue particularly in Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po, Yuen Long and Mongkok. According to studies conducted by the EPD, more than 1 million population was affected by domestic renovation noise in the past year and around 30 000 population was constantly affected by street cries noise. However, daytime renovation noise is currently not subject to control under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO). Besides, shop keepers may not be certain if their street cries have caused an offence and the lengthy prosecution procedures pose insufficient deterrence. The EPD therefore proposes to amend the NCO to put control over domestic renovation noise and use of loudspeakers for street cries, and introduces a Fixed Penalty System to effectively control and remediate associated noise nuisance.

6. Apart from the above recommendations, in order to reduce the noise nuisance from domestic renovation, the EPD has rolled out a 2-year pilot scheme in 2021, which aims to promote the adoption of quiet renovation house rules and the

skills of using quieter renovation equipment through series of seminars and site demonstrations to relevant stakeholders. Over 850 professionals from property management sector have been reached out as of Q3 2022. The Environment and Conservation Fund has also sponsored a 2-year pilot scheme under the category of environmental education and community action in 2022 which expects to raise stakeholders' awareness on quieter renovation through community level trainings and promotion campaigns.

## **Striving towards Carbon Neutrality**

7. To align with the national “dual carbon” targets, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region strives to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce the total carbon emissions from the 2005 level by half before 2035. We will tackle the carbon emissions problem at source through our four major decarbonisation strategies, namely “net-zero electricity generation”, “energy saving and green buildings”, “green transport” and “waste reduction”. The EEB will set up a new Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality to strengthen co-ordination and promote deep decarbonisation. The Council for Sustainable Development will be re-organised, becoming the new Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development to offer advice on decarbonisation strategies and promote participation by different sectors of the community with a view to building a carbon neutral future for Hong Kong.

### Energy saving and decarbonisation

8. We will gradually change the local fuel mix for electricity generation. Coal will be replaced by natural gas with lower carbon emissions and other zero-carbon energy. We will grasp the opportunities brought by low-carbon transformation of our country and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) to strengthen regional cooperation and develop a diversified and low-carbon fuel mix.

9. Buildings account for about 90% of Hong Kong's total electricity consumption, and over 60% of our carbon emissions are attributable to generating electricity for our buildings. As such, enhancing energy saving performance of buildings is one of the most effective means for decarbonisation. To lead by example, the Government will strive to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% by 2024-25. Besides, we are introducing legislative amendments to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2022-23 to expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme

to include more household appliances (i.e. light emitting diode (LED) lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters), thereby increasing the total coverage of energy consumption in the residential sector by the scheme from about 50% to about 80%, and energy saving by 17%. We will also accelerate the incorporation of district cooling systems in new development areas (including the Northern Metropolis) to reduce energy consumption from infrastructure level.

### Green transport

10. The Government has made notable progress in the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs). In the first 9 months of 2022, over 40% of the first-registered private cars are electric. We will cease new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier, and are expanding the EV charging network on all fronts. We will increase the proportions of parking spaces with EV chargers from 30% to 100% in government premises just completed or to be soon completed, and expect to provide 7 000 additional parking spaces with EV chargers in the next 3 years.

11. To expedite the low-carbon transformation in the transport sector, we target to introduce around 700 electric buses (e-buses) and around 3 000 electric taxis (e-taxis) by end-2027. Since the Government's promulgation of the *Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of EVs* in 2021, some franchised bus companies have already announced their timelines of attaining a full zero-emission bus fleet, as well as introducing single- and double-deck e-buses for daily services. We will provide assistance to the franchised bus companies for the conversion of old diesel buses to e-buses, as well as the setup of charging facilities in new and existing bus depots. As for taxis, the Government will continue encouraging more EV suppliers to introduce e-taxi models suitable for use in Hong Kong, promoting trials of the new generation e-taxis and replacement of old liquefied petroleum gas taxis under the New Energy Transport Fund, as well as setting up an e-taxi charging network. In addition, we will commence the trials of hydrogen fuel cell electric double-deckers and heavy vehicles next year, and explore various options for hydrogen production, transportation, storage and refilling. The Government will put at least 180 electric commercial vehicles under trial in the next few years, with a view to announcing a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles by 2025. We will also formulate the long-term strategies for the application of hydrogen energy in road transport in the same year.

12. In addition, the Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries to test out electric ferries with all 4 in-harbour ferry operators by 2024.

### Regional collaboration

13. To strengthen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in combating climate change as well as joint prevention and control of air pollution in the GBA, the Government is preparing to set up a supersite for GBA air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring in Hong Kong to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services.

### Waste reduction and recycling

#### *Municipal solid waste charging*

14. The Amendment Bill to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging has been passed by the LegCo on 26 August 2021. We are actively taking forward the preparatory work, including the establishment of a production, inventory and distribution system and a sales network for the supply of designated bags and labels; communication with various stakeholders (such as property management companies, frontline cleansing workers, waste collectors, etc.) to formulate relevant guidelines and provide support to them; as well as launching of extensive public education and publicity campaigns on waste reduction and recycling, so as to enable the Government, various stakeholders and the public to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging in the second half of next year at the earliest. We will further consult the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs on the commencement date, having regard to the progress of various trial projects and other complementary measures for MSW charging, as well as various aspects of the society.

#### *Regulating the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings*

15. MSW charging and waste reduction and recycling go hand in hand. We expect that after the implementation of MSW charging, the public will practise waste reduction and recycling more actively to reduce the MSW charges payable as far as possible. To ensure that sufficient recycling facilities are set up in residential buildings and the recyclables collected are properly handled so as to strengthen the public's confidence towards the recycling system, the Government will explore

requiring by legislation the property management companies and owners' organisations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large number of flats to separately collect common types of recyclable (at least including waste paper, plastic and metal) and pass them to downstream recyclers for proper processing. The aim is to regularise the collection, separation and processing of recyclables. In fact, the service contracts of some owners' organisations and property management companies have already included similar requirements. We will initiate a study on the legislative framework and operational details based on the actual situation of Hong Kong and prepare the legislation. Our target is to implement the requirement in 2024 or earlier.

*Step up the regulation of disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products*

16. In order to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware at source with a view to minimising the impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment and human health, the EPD conducted a two-month public consultation on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware on 9 July 2021. We received over 8 000 submissions during the consultation period, amongst which over 90% of the responses supported in principle the introduction of legislation to regulate disposable plastic tableware progressively. Besides, on the invitation of the Government, the Council for Sustainable Development conducted a public engagement from September to December last year on the control of single-use plastics, and submitted a report to the Government in April this year. It is recommended that the Government should implement suitable measures to control different single-use plastic products based on their characteristics. The recommended measures include banning the sale, free distribution and/or manufacture of disposable plastic products with readily available alternatives or products that are not essential, such as plastic stemmed cotton buds, umbrella bags, hotel toiletries, etc.

17. We are preparing the relevant bill for the regulation of disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products by phase. For disposable plastic tableware, the first phase of the regulation consists of banning the sale and provision of expanded polystyrene (EPS) tableware and other disposable plastic tableware such as stirrers, straws, knives, forks, spoons and plates. The exact timing of the second phase will depend on the availability and affordability of non-plastic alternatives. At this stage, we tentatively plan to implement the second phase of the regulation in 2025, in order to speed up the progress for all types of disposable tableware to go plastic-free. In respect of other disposable plastic products, a ban will be imposed

in the first phase on the manufacture, sale and/or free distribution of disposable plastic products with established alternatives or products that are not essential (for instance, umbrella bags, inflatable cheer sticks, glow sticks, cake toppers, food sticks, oxo-degradable plastic products etc.). We will review the implementation of the first phase of regulation as well as the suitability and affordability of alternatives for other disposable plastic products, before proposing the products to be covered in the second phase.

18. We plan to introduce the bill into the LegCo early next year. To expedite the move towards “plastic-free”, and at the same time allow time for the society to get prepared, we propose to implement the first phase of regulation six months after the passage of the bill by the LegCo (i.e. 2023 Q4 at the earliest). The Panel on Environmental Affairs discussed the proposals at its meeting on 24 October 2022 and expressed their support.

#### *Advancing Development of Modern Waste-to-Energy Incinerators (I · PARKs)*

19. Long-term reliance on landfilling is not a sustainable mode of waste management. To achieve the vision of moving away from the reliance on landfills for MSW disposal by around 2035, we need to develop a network of advanced and highly efficient modern Waste-to-Energy (WtE) incinerators. Through replacing landfilling with modern and advanced waste incineration technology, waste is transformed into useful energy at the same time. To this end, the EPD is building the first modern WtE incinerator (I · PARK1) adjacent to Shek Kwu Chau at full speed, with a view to commencing service in 2025; and planning the development of the second one (I · PARK2) in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, with relevant investigation and design study commencing by end-2022. We will also approach relevant trades and contractors to explore measures for enhancement of efficiency and speed in delivering the projects with a bid to expedite the development of modern WtE incinerators. In tandem with the continuous economic growth and population increase, we are bound to continue building up our incineration treatment capacity in order to serve the long-term needs of Hong Kong. To tie in with the future urban development of Hong Kong, we will explore developing more similar modern WtE incinerator(s) in the Northern Metropolis with proper design and waste transfer arrangement.

#### *Trial scheme on food waste collection at public rental housing estates*

20. The EPD is in collaboration with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society to launch a “trial scheme on food waste collection at public

rental housing (PRH) estates”. The 18-month trial scheme will use smart bins equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices for food waste collection to maintain environmental hygiene, coupled with the “GREEN\$” reward to incentivize residents to participate in food waste recycling, and explore a more cost-effective mode of food waste collection at PRH at the same time. The first phase of the trial, that covers five PRH estates<sup>1</sup> and a total of about 30 PRH blocks, is expected to be progressively launched starting from October this year. The target of the scheme is to expand to a total of 100 PRH blocks within 2023/24. We hope to encourage residents to practise source separation through this trial, on one hand reducing environmental hygiene issues arising from food waste, and on the other hand making good use of organic resources by turning the food waste into electricity and compost.

## **Nature Conservation**

21. The Government will explore the implementation of a New Proactive Conservation Policy under the framework of the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy. Through conserving key conservation areas, including the gradual resumption of private wetlands and fish ponds with ecological value, and the development of a Wetland Conservation Parks (WCP) System<sup>2</sup> in the Northern Metropolis in phases, we can enhance the quality of habitats and biodiversity of these areas, with a view to increasing the environmental capacity for the development of the Northern Metropolis while meeting both conservation and development needs at the same time. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has commenced a strategic feasibility study in August this year to determine the exact locations/areas and management model etc. of the various parks proposed to be established under the WCP System, which is targeted to be completed by end-2023 the soonest. Separately, the Development Bureau has also commenced a feasibility study on the development potential of the Tsim Bei Tsui, Lau Fau Shan and Pak Nai areas in end-August this year. The EEB is exploring in parallel the area to be reserved for the Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai Coastal Protection Park through that study.

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<sup>1</sup> The five PRH estates include Shek Pai Wan Estate in Aberdeen, Choi Tak Estate in Ngau Tau Kok, Sheung Tak Estate in Tseung Kwan O, Kwun Lung Lau in Kennedy Town, and Lin Tsui Estate in Chai Wan.

<sup>2</sup> It includes Nam Sang Wai WCP, Sam Po Shue WCP, Hoo Hok Wai WCP, Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park and Hong Kong Wetland Park Extension Area proposed to be constructed. Apart from conservation, the WCPs will also facilitate the development of modernised aquaculture industry, promotion of the relevant scientific research and the sustainable development of aquaculture industry, as well as provide ecological education and outdoor recreational facilities for the public.



22. The Government will soon initiate the statutory procedures for designating about 500 hectares of land in Robin's Nest with high conservation value, landscape quality and recreational potential as the 25th country park in Hong Kong, which is expected to be completed in 2024. The proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) will echo with the Shenzhen Wutong Mountain Scenic Area to create a cross-border ecological corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, with a view to strengthening the protection of habitats of high ecological values in both places. AFCD will implement a series of measures in the proposed RNCP to increase the recreation, education and ecotourism resources of the area, including improving the existing hiking trails and constructing new hiking trails; providing recreation facilities at suitable locations (such as picnic areas and viewing platforms etc.); revitalising the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave within the park into an open museum to allow the public to learn about the history of mining industry, wartime relics and bat ecology; and considering to provide guided tours and educational services at the signature attractions in the park.

23. AFCD will step up its efforts in controlling wild pig nuisance, by carrying out capture and humane dispatch operations targeting at wild pig nuisance black spots more frequently. AFCD has set a key performance indicator (KPI) for wild pig management, with the target being reducing the number of existing wild pig nuisance black spots by 50% within this year. AFCD will update the wild pig nuisance black spots annually and a review on the KPI will be conducted in 2025. AFCD will also introduce into the LegCo within this year the necessary legislative amendments to expand the Feeding Ban Area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) to cover the entire territory. AFCD is also studying the proposed amendments to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance to raise the penalty of illegal feeding of wild animals and consider introducing fixed penalty notices. AFCD is now consulting the Department of Justice on the abovementioned legislative amendments, and will submit the proposed amendment of the relevant legislation to the LegCo in due course.

### **Streamlining the Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

24. The EEB is currently conducting a review on the "Optimising the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) Process" with a view to optimising its process, enhancing its operational efficiency, focusing more on environmental outcomes and balancing environmental protection and development need. The review proposal focuses on four areas, including:

- a) developing an open Centralised Environmental Database;
- b) updating the lists of Designated Projects under the EIAO;
- c) using Direct Application for Environmental Permit mechanism more efficiently; and
- d) amending relevant technical memorandum and guidelines.

25. Through the above enhancement initiatives, it is anticipated that the EIA processing time can be trimmed down from 36 months to 18 months for typical projects and from 48 months to 24 months for major or complicated projects. Our target is to complete the EIAO review exercise by end 2022, with recommendations to optimise the EIAO process and enhance operational efficiency.

## **CONCLUSION**

26. Members are invited to note the above key policy measures relating to environmental protection and provide comments. A summary of other relevant policy measures is at **Annex**.

**Environment and Ecology Bureau**  
**October 2022**

**2022 Policy Address**  
**Policy Measures of Environment and Ecology Bureau:**  
**Environmental Protection**

**Policy Measures**

Area	Policy Measures
<b>1. Improving the Environment</b>	
Near-shore water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Since mid-2022, the EPD has been proactively investigating and tracing the major pollution sources in stormwater drainage systems at districts with more serious odour nuisance at seafront (including Tsuen Wan, Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po), and engaging government departments such as the DSD and BD to follow up on the rectification of sewer misconnections. Targeting illegal connections and discharges, the EPD will take enforcement action and instigate prosecution against offenders according to the Water Pollution Control Ordinance upon collection of sufficient evidence.</li></ul>
Regulating noise from domestic renovation and street cries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Amend the Noise Control Ordinance to put control over domestic renovation noise and the use of loudspeakers for street cries, and introduce a Fixed Penalty System.</li><li>● A review of the amendments to the ordinance is currently underway, and the proposals are expected to be completed in 2022, with consultation starting in 2023.</li></ul>
<b>2. Striving towards Carbon Neutrality</b>	
(a) Overall strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce the total carbon emissions from 2005 level by half before 2035.</li><li>● Establish the Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality to co-ordinate Government's strategies and action plans in addressing climate change.</li><li>● Re-organise the Council for Sustainable Development to become the new Council for</li></ul>

Area	Policy Measures
	<p>Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development to offer advice on decarbonisation strategies and promote participation by different sectors of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allocate sufficient resources, estimated to be about \$240 billion in the next 15 to 20 years, to support mitigation and adaptation measures for combating climate change.</li> </ul>
<b>(b) Energy Saving and Decarbonisation</b>	
Enhance energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strive to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% by 2024-25, using 2018-19 as the baseline year. Apart from energy saving, contribution of renewable energy projects will also be taken into account.</li> <li>● Introduce legislative amendments to the LegCo in 2022-23 to expand the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to include more household appliances (i.e. light emitting diode (LED) lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters), thereby increasing the total coverage of energy consumption in the residential sector by the scheme from about 50% to about 80%, and energy saving by 17%.</li> <li>● Accelerate the incorporation of district cooling systems in new development areas (including the Northern Metropolis) to reduce energy consumption from infrastructure level.</li> </ul>
Renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Actively explore and trial the development of larger-scale renewable energy systems in more spacious reservoirs, restored landfills, water channels and other premises. The Water Supplies Department and the Environmental Protection Department will also join hands to introduce highly-efficient battery storage technology on a pilot basis to better utilise the electricity generated by large-scale solar energy systems at reservoirs.</li> </ul>

Area	Policy Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Solar Harvest installs solar energy systems for eligible schools and non-government organisations for free. The number of solar energy systems to be installed in 2023-24 will be 30% more than it originally planned and the electricity generated can meet the demand of about 400 households.</li> </ul>
<b>(c) Green Transport</b>	
<p>Popularisation of electric vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase the proportion of parking spaces installed with EV chargers in new government premises to 100%, with the aim of equipping about 7 000 additional parking spaces with EV chargers by 2025.</li> <li>● Assist franchised bus companies in replacing old diesel buses with electric ones and installing charging facilities in new and existing depots to speed up the pace of adoption of electric buses in Hong Kong.</li> <li>● Step up efforts under the New Energy Transport Fund to encourage taxi owners to replace their old liquefied petroleum gas taxis with electric ones. We are also installing in Lantau Island and Sai Kung by phases no less than 10 dedicated quick chargers for e-taxis, which are expected to commence service from mid-2023 onwards.</li> <li>● Implement the extended EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to subsidise installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for about 140 000 parking spaces in the car parks of existing private residential buildings. The scheme was open for application on 21 October 2020. By September 2022, we have received more than 620 applications, covering more than 127 000 parking spaces. Applicants are proceeding with the design stage and the installation works. We expect that the first batch of car parks could have EV charging-enabling infrastructure completed before the end of 2022.</li> </ul>

Area	Policy Measures
Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The EEB is leading an inter-departmental working group to progressively commence the trials of hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and heavy vehicles in 2023 with a view to assessing their operational performance under local circumstances, conducting risk assessments on hydrogen refilling stations and their arrangements of hydrogen supply, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles on road, etc., as well as reviewing relevant regulations, standards and technical guidelines. The Government is liaising closely with franchised bus companies and other stakeholders to work out the details of the trials.</li> </ul>
<b>(d) Waste Reduction and Recycling</b>	
Municipal solid waste charging (MSW charging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Actively prepare for implementing municipal solid waste charging in the second half of 2023 at the earliest.</li> </ul>
Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers (PPRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce a bill into the LegCo in 2023 for a new PPRS.</li> </ul>
Regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce a bill into the LegCo in early 2023 to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases, starting from 6 months after the passage of the bill.</li> </ul>
Regulating the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore requiring by legislation the property management companies and owners' organisations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large number of flats to collect separated recyclables and pass them to recyclers for proper processing, with effect from 2024 or earlier.</li> </ul>
Trials scheme on food waste collection at public rental housing estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct trials of food waste collection with smart bins in a total of 100 blocks of public rental housing estates by 2023/24 to encourage domestic food waste recycling.</li> </ul>
Development of a network of modern WtE incinerators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Press ahead with the construction of our first modern WtE incinerator I•PARK1 for commissioning in 2025, and commence the investigation and design study on the development of I•PARK2 by end-2022.</li> </ul>

Area	Policy Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore developing more modern WtE incinerator(s) in the Northern Metropolis to tie in with the future urban development.</li> </ul>
Continue to implement the Pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to run the pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling expanded since March 2022 to cover nine districts and half of our population. The total amount of waste plastics collected is expected to reach 5 000 tonnes per year.</li> </ul>
Set up modern Pulping Facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun will commence operation in 2025, with an annual handling capacity of some 580 000 tonnes of local waste paper.</li> </ul>
<b>(e) Others</b>	
Innovative technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement the \$400 million Green Tech Fund to support research and development projects on decarbonisation technologies with high application and commercialisation potential.</li> </ul>
Regional collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To strengthen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and establish a supersite for regional air quality and meteorology monitoring with advance monitoring and computing capability.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Proactive Environmental Conservation</b>	
Implementation of New Proactive Conservation Policy in the Northern Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explore implementing a New Proactive Conservation Policy in the Northern Metropolis to achieve the dual objectives of meeting both conservation and development needs.</li> </ul>
Designation of RNCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete the statutory procedures for designating RNCP in 2024, to form an ecological corridor with the Shenzhen Wutong Mountain Scenic Area, thereby promoting the ecological integration between Shenzhen and Hong Kong.</li> </ul>
Conservation of Sha Lo Tung (SLT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proactively conserve SLT, a renowned site with very high ecological value and a reputation for being a dragonfly sanctuary.</li> </ul>

Area	Policy Measures
Countryside Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Countryside Conservation Office will continue to promote countryside revitalisation work at areas including Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung, through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme and minor improvement works.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Streamlining Development Procedures</b>	
Optimise the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review, optimise and streamline the EIAO process and enhance its operational efficiency.</li> <li>● Relevant review is being conducted. Recommendations will be put forward to LegCo upon completion of the review followed by stakeholder consultation and they will be implemented progressively in 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Combat the Epidemic Together</b>	
Continuous sewage surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The EPD and DSD are collaborating with the University of Hong Kong and three testing laboratories to implement a territory-wide sewage surveillance programme (the Programme) for continuous monitoring of COVID-19 virus in sewage at 154 stationary sites throughout Hong Kong, which covers some 6 million of Hong Kong residents, as well as relevant ad-hoc sites upstream. The Programme will provide early-warning of the epidemic situation in Hong Kong, and facilitate the tracing and monitoring of the spread of epidemic in the community. Since the implementation of the Programme, over 26 000 hidden cases have been discovered.</li> </ul>

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