

Message

Environment policy in Hong Kong is at a watershed. Since 1989 it has been directed towards the control of pollution, under the ten-year programme set out in the White Paper "Pollution, A Time to Act". Efforts to reduce pollution must be maintained, especially important being measures to cut harmful emissions from vehicles and to complete the construction of an effective sewage treatment system. This is essential to the health and the enjoyment of our city.

But control of harmful pollution goes only part of the way towards establishing for ourselves and our children a living environment that will continue to support our economic and social needs. The environment we live in is the product of our economic activity and the choices we make about consumption, transport, energy use, or recreation. In turn, the quality of our environment affects the potential for our economy and society, and the health of the natural environment around us does not just affect our enjoyment, it provides a litmus test for the future health of the whole city.

Recognising the indivisible bonds between our economic, social and environmental choices is crucial to our being able, together, to build a sustainable future for Hong Kong. In this booklet we have begun to draw together some of the other issues, such as efficiency in resource use, conservation of nature and better waste management, which, together with pollution control, shape our environment. We have also tried to make clearer the process through which policy develops. It is just a start. It does not describe all the programmes of work on the environment - for that you need to look at Departmental reports as well. But it does set out the new initiatives we will be starting and it lays out the developing direction for an environmental policy that will help to sustain Hong Kong. We welcome comments and ideas on our priorities and presentation. Above all, I welcome everyone's participation in the common enterprise of creating a healthier, sustaining environment for our city and our home, Hong Kong.



(Bowen Leung)
Secretary for Planning,
Environment and Lands



Build understanding and support

While some solutions to environmental problems and needs can be achieved by the Administration using existing resources, most require either a change of attitudes or habits among sections of the community or the allocation of new resources. The issue of White Papers and other statements to explain policy; organisation of public and school education campaigns; dissemination of information and advice to industry and business groups; or support for community initiatives and training programmes are all activities that we undertake to help the community address environmental issues. The Administration also provides briefings to the Legislative Council's Environmental Affairs Panel, presents and explains draft legislation to bills committee, and presents and explains funding requests to the Finance Committee.

Indicator

Our main indicator of progress in this area is the extent to which the public and the legislature are prepared to provide funding for environmental programmes and will support institutional changes to achieve environmental objectives.

Initiatives	Targets
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Environmental Management

To promote within the public sector environmentally responsible management by requiring all controlling officers within the Government to publish reports on their environmental policies and actions and by encouraging government-owned public corporations to do likewise
(Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau (PELB))

All Government departments, agencies and publicly-owned corporations to publish environmental reports from the 1999-2000 financial year

To engage the support of different sectors of the community in implementing the waste reduction strategy
(PELB)

To set up a Waste Reduction Committee in early 1999

To promote public awareness of and support for the Waste Reduction Framework Plan
(PELB)

To organise a series of promotional and educational activities after the Plan is launched in late 1998

To encourage the adoption of waste reduction and avoidance initiatives within the commercial and industrial sectors by establishing a scheme to recognise the efforts of those companies achieving their targets
(Environmental Protection Department (EPD))

To launch the “Wastewi\$e Scheme” within the financial year 1999-2000