

# Green Hong Kong

Working hand-in-hand to build a low-carbon city



Global warming is one of the most serious environmental issues we face today, and its causes include natural climate change and human-induced greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)).

While Hong Kong is a small city, its climate is still affected by global warming. The city's average temperature between 1982 and 2011 increased by 0.23 degrees Celsius every ten years, and the sea level of Victoria Harbour increased by 2.8mm each year between 1954 and 2011. The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Hong Kong are from power generation and transportation, and the Government has adopted a series of measures in response to curb these emissions.



## Saving energy and promoting energy efficiency

The Government fully implemented the second phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme on September 19, 2011 that requires energy labels to be shown on prescribed products for supply in Hong Kong. In addition, the Government plans to implement a district cooling system at the Kai Tak Development to supply chilled water to buildings in the area for centralised air-conditioning.

## Expanding and upgrading public transport infrastructure

To encourage the use of environment-friendly petrol private cars with low emissions and high fuel efficiency, the Government has introduced Tax Incentive Schemes for Environment-friendly Petrol Private Cars since 2007. The Government also set up a HK\$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund in March 2011 to encourage the transport sector to test our green transport technologies.

To save for the future of Hong Kong, we all have a responsibility to combat climate change. Let's work hand-in-hand and adopt a low-carbon lifestyle.



# Reducing Carbon Together

## Pitching in with the CarbonSmart Programme



The subsidy scheme will regularly organise seminars and workshops.

Supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund, the 30-month CarbonSmart Programme was launched on March 21, 2012 by the Hong Kong Productivity Council in collaboration with the business sector to promote energy efficiency.

One of its key initiatives include the Carbon Audit Pilot Fund, which offers grants of up to HK\$30,000 to about 200 businesses from office-based operations, retail, catering, and other industry sectors for conducting carbon audits.

Furthermore, the programme provides an initial repository of carbon data from local businesses, sets up an online platform and a helpdesk, as well as organises seminars and workshops in an effort to reduce carbon emissions and facilitate the development of environmental industries, shaping a low-carbon future for Hong Kong.



### Voice of the People



Mr Ng  
Office Assistant

“ During the summers, I often alternate between air conditioning and fans at the office to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.”



Ms Wong  
Event Planning Director

“ Every day after work, I walk round the office to ensure all devices are switched off before leaving, and hope this can help with carbon reduction.”



# Quality Environment

## Innovative noise mitigation designs and measures



Separating the residential building and carriageway with a shopping mall to reduce the traffic noise nuisance caused to nearby residents.

Due to the dense population of Hong Kong, traffic noise has become one of the major challenges when it comes to land development. The EPD encourages a wide range of designs and measures to minimise the impact of traffic noise. These measures include setting residential buildings back to allow more space between the carriageway and the building, arranging the residential portion of the development on top of a podium to increase the distance between the carriageway and the residential block, arranging noise tolerant buildings (such as shopping mall and car park) between the carriageway and the residential buildings, arranging noise tolerant portions of the building (such as bathroom, kitchen, and stairwell) to face the noise source instead of living room and bedroom, and using recessed windows with noise absorptive canopies to block noise.

To further promote these innovative noise mitigation designs and measures, the EPD has gathered a list of residential developments that have successfully adopted these designs and measures to minimise the impact of traffic noise on its residents. The information will form an online database to serve as an interactive and informative platform for professionals and those interested in implementing these measures.



### Public Opinions



Ms Leung  
University Lecturer

“ I agree that noise mitigation design should be applied to future buildings. This design enables us to live in a quiet and harmony environment. I can even have a better atmosphere for my study.”



Mr Yeung  
Student

“ By using noise mitigation design, we can reduce noise disturbances without affecting Hong Kong’s transportation system. It is really amazing.”

# Green Living



Dry clothes outdoors with sunlight instead of using dryers



Reduce energy consumption by reducing the frequency of opening the refrigerator door



Switch off the devices when they are not needed



Use environmentally friendly private cars



Choose home appliances with energy labels



Apply energy-efficient lighting products

Low carbon living starts with making green lifestyle choices in every aspect of our daily lives. It is easier than you think, and only requires a few simple steps.



Know More, Do Better



Electricity consumption in buildings in Hong Kong accounts for about 90% of the city's total electricity consumption, and produces about 60% of Hong Kong's total greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency is therefore of paramount importance when it comes to reducing the level of carbon emissions, and the Government has proposed a target to reduce carbon intensity by 50-60% by 2020 (as compared to the 2005 baseline).



# Green Activities

## Secretary for the Environment, Wong Kam-sing, promotes waste reduction and recycling, and supports green schools

Secretary for the Environment, Wong Kam-sing, visited the EcoPark in Tuen Mun on August 29 and toured the visitor centre that introduces Hong Kong's waste management system through large display panels, models, short films, and interactive games. He also visited four EcoPark tenants and was briefed on the collection and processing of recyclables. Mr Wong highlighted the Government's efforts in promoting waste reduction and recycling, and its collaboration with various sectors to provide recycling facilities. The Government targets to achieve a 55% waste recovery rate by 2015.

Mr Wong also visited Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School on September 21, where he observed the on-site meal distribution arrangements and enjoyed a "green" lunch with students, learning more about how the school reduces food waste while promoting healthy meals. He stated that the EPD launched on-site meal portioning projects in schools through the Environment and Conservation Fund in December 2009, which encourages schools to become "green schools" by carrying out basic conversion works and installing facilities for implementing on-site meal portioning. The fund has subsidised 94 schools since the launch of the scheme, with 92 of these schools having completed conversion works, reducing food waste by an average of 50% each day.



Secretary for the Environment, Wong Kam-sing (left) inspecting the visitor centre of waste management system in the EcoPark.



Mr Wong (right) is briefed by an Ecopark tenant on the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment.



Inspecting the execution of on-site meal portioning project, Mr Wong visited Ma On Shan Ling Liang Primary School and shared lunch with students.

## Environment Bureau engages with academia and green groups on air quality issues

Academia and green groups were invited by the Environment Bureau to an engagement session about Hong Kong air quality issues on September 20 2012. The session aimed at finding out the right solution for reducing air pollutants from diesel commercial vehicles and buses which are the top polluters in Hong Kong. Also they have discussed the effectiveness of existing policies for improving the air quality.

Furthermore, in respect of improving the cross-border air quality, Wong Kam-sing said in Hong Kong EPD will carry out studies on the legislation level and communicate with different stakeholders. The target of reducing air pollutants is expected to be achieved in 5 to 10 years.



# Green Activities

## Christine Loh, newly appointed Undersecretary for the Environment

On September 12, the Chief Executive's Office announced the appointment of Christine Loh, CEO of Civic Exchange, as Undersecretary for the Environment.

In 1992, Ms Loh was appointed to the Legislative Council and had spent nearly a decade as a politician. Leaving the legislative in 2000, she focused on environmental work and founded a think tank Civic Exchange, spearheading efforts to advocate environmental policies. She later also chaired the Society for Protection of Harbour.

It is evident that Ms Loh is passionate about the environment and she will undoubtedly lead Hong Kong towards the next chapter of green living.



### Incentive Scheme for Ocean Going Vessels using Cleaner Fuel

To reduce marine emission, the Government introduced the Port Facilities and Light Dues Incentive Scheme which will last for 3 years. Ocean going vessels (OGVs) not plying exclusively within the river-trade limits are eligible for the scheme. The aim of this scheme is to encourage OGVs to use fuel with sulphur content not more than 0.5% while at berth in Hong Kong waters, so the air pollutants from OGVs can be reduced. Ms Loh said that subject to further discussions with the shipping sector, she hopes both Hong Kong and Guangdong Province can jointly tackle this problem through a legislative approach as early as possible.

