

---

# Chapter 5

## Environment and Conservation

### Preamble

Sustainable development requires a proper balance among environmental protection, heritage conservation, economic development and providing for social needs.

This Administration has mapped out clear targets and work plans for improving air quality and waste management in two published blueprints. We are committed to achieving the targets in the blueprints through implementation of various measures and programmes in proactive partnership with various sectors.

For conserving our natural environment and fulfilling our commitment under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, we are developing a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.

To combat climate change, we have introduced various initiatives to achieve higher energy efficiency and promote a less carbon intensive lifestyle.

To make Hong Kong a better city for all, we will continue to enhance infrastructure to provide a safe and quality living environment. At the same time, we will improve the greening, landscape and tree management regime by adopting a holistic and professional approach and engaging stakeholders under the Be Our Greening Partner Campaign.

We wish to preserve the city's charm while respecting the need for development. We will actively consider how the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board on reviewing the built heritage conservation policy could be implemented as soon as possible.

---

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

### **Air Quality**

- Review the Fourth Technical Memorandum in 2015 in the light of the outcome of the consultation on the way forward for the future fuel mix for electricity generation in Hong Kong, with a view to further tightening the air pollutant emission caps on power companies from 2020 onwards. (ENB)
- Collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Government, in preparing for a mid-term review of the progress made in emission reduction of air pollutants in the two places having regard to the socio-economic development in 2015, and finalising the emission reduction targets for 2020. (ENB)
- Further allocate \$150 million to extend the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme for five years and further enhance the programme in collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Government. We will continue to promote cleaner production technologies and practices among Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong and Hong Kong to reduce pollutant emissions and enhance energy efficiency, thereby improving regional air quality. (ENB)

## **Energy**

- Launch a public consultation on the long-term development of the electricity market and its regulatory framework after the expiry of the current Scheme of Control Agreements with the two power companies in 2018. (ENB)

## **Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation**

- Achieve the target of reducing electricity consumption of government buildings by 5% in the next five financial years from 2015-16 to 2019-20 under comparable operating conditions (taking the 2013-14 financial year as the baseline). (ENB)
- Collaborate with relevant organisations as well as public and private bodies to promote a low carbon and energy efficient built environment in order to reduce the overall electricity demand of Hong Kong. (ENB)

## **Development of Desalination**

- Commence in phases the design work for the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and its associated infrastructures. (DEVB)

## **Water Intelligent Network**

- Study and progressively establish Water Intelligent Network that utilises sensors and related technologies to continuously monitor the health condition of the underground water supply networks. (DEVB)

---

## **Safe and Quality Living Environment**

- Conduct a consultancy study for exploring the practicable options for applying the concept of revitalising water bodies to nullahs and river channels when carrying out large-scale drainage improvement works and drainage planning for new development areas. This is aimed at promoting greening, biodiversity, beautification and water friendliness in addition to achieving efficient drainage, with a view to building sustainable drainage facilities and providing a better living environment. (DEVB)

## **Fisheries**

- Draft legislation to set up a control scheme for the trading of toothfish in Hong Kong to meet the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. (FHB)

## On-going Initiatives

*We are:*

### **Improving Air Quality**

#### (a) Greening Road Transport

- Encouraging the transport sector and non-profit-making organisations to test out green and innovative transport technologies through the Pilot Green Transport Fund. (ENB)
- Providing funding support for franchised bus companies to retrofit Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices to reduce roadside air pollution. (ENB)
- Setting statutory emission standards for non-road mobile machinery newly supplied for local use to reduce air pollution. (ENB)
- Continuing to procure more electric vehicles, subject to the availability of suitable models on the market and the operational needs of government bureaux and departments. (ENB)
- Launching a pilot scheme to enable electric taxi suppliers to set up quick chargers in the car parks administered by the Transport Department in order to facilitate the expansion of electric taxi fleet. (ENB)

- 
- Launching an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to phase out progressively by the end of 2019 some 82 000 highly polluting diesel commercial vehicles which only comply with Euro III or earlier emission standards to improve roadside air quality. (ENB)
  - Deploying roadside remote sensing equipment for surveillance purpose and using dynamometer for emission tests to strengthen the control of emissions of petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles. (ENB)
  - Providing funds for the procurement of hybrid buses and electric buses by franchised bus companies for trial run. (ENB)

(b) Reducing Marine Emissions

- Legislating to mandate the use of low sulphur fuel by ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong waters to reduce marine emissions. (ENB)
- Completing a technical feasibility study on the setting up of an onshore power supply system at Kai Tak Cruise Terminal and working out the next step in the light of the study outcome. (ENB)

(c) Regional Co-operation

- Implementing the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to achieve the emission reduction targets for 2015 and 2020. (ENB)

- Exploring with the Guangdong Provincial Government the feasibility of promoting fuel switch for ocean-going vessels berthing in Pearl River Delta ports. (ENB)
- Conducting a study with the governments of Guangdong and Macao on fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) for the Pearl River Delta region to provide a robust scientific basis in mapping out the strategies for further improvement in regional air quality. (ENB)
- Exploring with Guangdong the co-operation in air pollution forecasting and joint effort in promoting regional air pollution prevention. (ENB)

(d) Others

- Making preparations for setting up a general air quality monitoring station in Tseung Kwan O to provide air quality information. (ENB)

## **Enhancing Waste Management**

(a) Reducing Waste and Promoting Recycling

- Sustaining the implementation of the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, promoting food donation and encouraging the avoidance and reduction of food waste at source. (ENB)
- Setting up an inter-departmental working group to follow up the recommendations made by the Council for Sustainable Development on the implementation of quantity-based municipal solid waste charging. (ENB)



- 
- Encouraging public participation in waste reduction at source and improving the recycling facilities. We promote the “clean recycling” campaign to increase the recycling value and recovery rate of waste materials, thereby alleviating the pressure on landfills and facilitating the sustainable development of the recycling industry. (ENB)
  - Promoting the development of the recycling industry through infrastructural support, green procurement, subsidies for technology research and development, support for manpower training of the industry and implementation of a registration system. (ENB)
  - Promoting and implementing the measures and action plan under A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong to reduce, recycle and treat food waste and yard waste. (ENB)
  - Making preparations for launching the \$1 billion Recycling Fund to promote recovery and recycling of waste by facilitating the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry in support of the industry’s sustainable development. (ENB)

(b) Implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes

- Stepping up publicity and education for the full implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags in the whole retail industry from 1 April 2015. (ENB)
- Developing legislative proposals and treatment facilities for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment. (ENB)

- Developing legislative proposals for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage bottles. (ENB)

(c) Developing Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities

- Pursuing landfill extension. (ENB)
- Completing the tendering of phase 1 of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment. (ENB)
- Completing the feasibility study on phase 2 of the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities for food waste treatment, and preparing for tendering of the project. (ENB)
- Preparing for tendering of phase 1 of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities for municipal solid waste treatment. (ENB)

### **Combating Climate Change and Energy Conservation**

- Mapping out implementation strategies and detailed recommendations for promoting green building. (ENB)
- Implementing the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance and conducting a comprehensive review of various energy performance standards under the Building Energy Codes in 2015. (ENB)
- Implementing the district cooling system at Kai Tak Development, which has commenced its initial phase of operation, to meet the demand for air-conditioning of public and private non-domestic developments. (ENB)

- 
- Implementing the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, which includes full implementation of the new grading structure and review of the scope of the scheme by the end of 2015. (ENB)
  - Continuing with the three-year programme initiated in 2012 to carry out carbon audits of major government buildings and public facilities so as to identify carbon reduction opportunities for managing local greenhouse gas emissions. (ENB)
  - Continuing to encourage listed companies to participate in carbon auditing, and disclose related information and share best practices in carbon management through the carbon footprint repository. (ENB)
  - Considering the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting and developing proposals to address public concern about external lighting. (ENB)

## **Improving Water Quality**

- Implementing Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme with the aim of commissioning the sewage treatment system within 2015. By then, all sewage generated from both sides of Victoria Harbour will be conveyed to Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works for treatment and disinfection. (ENB)
- Conducting a consultancy study to explore various practicable options to effectively reduce near-shore pollution and enhance the water quality of the coastal waters with a view to improving the overall environment of both sides of Victoria Harbour. (ENB)

## **Total Water Management Strategy**

- Conducting a review of the Total Water Management Strategy to ensure sustainable use of precious water resources and timely introduction of new initiatives to strengthen our resilience and preparedness against uncertainties and challenges. (DEVB)

## **Water Conservation and Reclamation**

- Continuing with the implementation of the “Let’s Save 10L Water” Campaign and the “Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme” to promote public awareness of water conservation and facilitate users’ choice of water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances. (DEVB)
- Commencing the study and planning on using reclaimed water in the north-eastern part of the New Territories (including Sheung Shui and Fanling) for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. (DEVB)

## **Green Construction**

- Implementing measures to promote low carbon construction, emission reduction and use of recycled materials in public works projects, including –
  - promoting the use of electric vehicles in works projects;
  - using biodiesel as fuel for construction machineries in construction sites;
  - adopting green site offices; and
  - continuing to conduct trials on the use of waste glass as fill materials in site formation, backfilling and reclamation. (DEVB)

---

## Supporting Community Green Actions

- Enhancing community participation in waste reduction, energy and water conservation through district-based environmental education, promotion and publicity programmes, production of the “Use Less, Waste Less” pre-primary education kit, and sponsorship of activities organised by DCs. (ENB)
- Providing long-term and sustained support for green actions initiated by the community through the investment returns generated from the injection of \$5 billion into the Environment and Conservation Fund. (ENB)
- Continuing with the development of community green stations in phases in each of the 18 districts. The project has been titled “Community Green Stations”. (ENB)
- Supporting the Council for Sustainable Development in conducting public engagement exercises on issues of public concern, and subsidising community education and publicity efforts through the Sustainable Development Fund. (ENB)

## Promoting Green Economy

- Actively applying green specifications in government procurement as well as cleansing and vehicle hiring service contracts. We also seek to widen the scope of green procurement in public works projects. (ENB)

- Supporting the local environmental industry in participating in environmental exhibitions, trade missions and related events to promote the industry and explore business opportunities in the Mainland and overseas markets. (ENB)

### **Promoting Nature Conservation**

- Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We will consult the public on the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan being formulated, and we intend to complete the plan within 2015 for implementation in phases so as to enhance the conservation of biodiversity. (ENB)
- Implementing measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular those found suitable to be included as part of the country parks. (ENB)
- Taking forward the proposal to improve marine ecosystems and providing better protection for marine organisms. (ENB)

### **Greening, Landscape and Tree Management**

- Improving the greening, landscape and tree management regime through –
  - embracing quality landscape planning and design in the upstream and professional vegetation management and maintenance in the downstream;
  - better co-ordination across departments;
  - enhancement of professional expertise; and
  - increased community involvement. (DEVB)

- 
- Engaging stakeholders in the promotion of greening, landscape and tree management through the “Be Our Greening Partner Campaign”. (DEVB)
  - Reviewing the current arrangements for tree risk management to safeguard public safety. (DEVB)
  - Developing Greening Master Plans for the New Territories. (DEVB)

## **Heritage Conservation**

- Exploring ways to implement as soon as possible the recommendations of the Antiquities Advisory Board pursuant to the policy review on conservation of built heritage, including the establishment of a fund for built heritage conversation. (DEVB)
- Working closely with selected non-profit-making organisations to continue implementing the first three batches of projects under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme”. (DEVB)
- Completing the assessments of the projects for revitalising the fourth batch of historic buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” and commencing the pre-revitalisation works on these historic buildings. (DEVB)
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. (DEVB)

## Safe and Quality Living Environment

- Implementing measures to enhance building design to foster a quality and sustainable built environment and to control the problem of “inflated buildings”. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to –
  - upgrade and landscape Government man-made slopes;
  - mitigate the landslide risk of natural terrain with known hazards; and
  - conduct safety screening studies for private slopes. (DEVB)
- Conducting studies to –
  - assess the flood risk levels of rivers in rural areas; and
  - develop flood warning systems and mitigation measures for flood-prone rivers. (DEVB)
- Continuing with the construction of an underground stormwater storage tank to relieve the flood risk in Happy Valley and adjacent areas. (DEVB)
- Reviewing the Drainage Master Plans of East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung and North Hong Kong Island to assess the flood risks in these districts and formulate improvement measures. (DEVB)



- 
- Considering the winning entries of the concluded Design Ideas Competition for Kai Tak River in designing the green river corridor. The reconstruction and rehabilitation works of the Kai Tak River will be completed in stages from 2016 onwards. (DEVB)
  - Continuing with the design of the improvement works for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance quality of the local environment and the ecological value of the nullah. (DEVB)
  - Launching a Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme with \$1 billion earmarked for non-profit-making organisations or “national sports associations” to develop recreational facilities or other innovative proposals at restored landfills. (ENB)