

**Confirmed Minutes of the 271st Meeting
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)
on 6 October 2025 at 2:00 p.m.**

Present:

Prof John CHAI, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Prof Kenneth LEUNG, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Mr CHEUNG Chi-wah
Ms Linda HO
Mr Alex KWAN
Ms Grace KWOK
Dr Theresa KWONG
Prof Alexis LAU, JP
Prof Dennis LEUNG
Mr Daryl NG, SBS, JP
Mr Simon NG
Prof QIU Jian-wen
Mr Albert SU, MH, JP
Prof WONG Kam-bo
Mr Jonathan WU
Dr Raymond YAU
Dr William YU
Ms Fabia TAM (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Ms Ada FUNG, BBS
Mr Eric HO

In Attendance:

Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB)

Miss Mavis HUI	Chief Information Officer
Ms Karen CHEK	Chief Executive Officer (CBD)
Ms Cynthia LAU	Executive Officer (CBD) 1
Miss Glory CHONG	Executive Officer (CBD) 2

Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

Dr Samuel CHUI, JP	Director of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Dr Vanessa AU	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr Simon CHAN Assistant Director (Conservation)

Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Kevin NG Chief Town Planner / Technical Services

In Attendance for Item 1:

Mr TSE Chin-wan, BBS, JP	Secretary for Environment and Ecology, EEB
Mr Eddie CHEUNG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment), EEB
Miss Diane WONG, JP	Under Secretary for Environment and Ecology, EEB
Mr Kenneth CHENG	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Reduction), EPD
Ms Fanny HUI	Press Secretary to Secretary for Environment and Ecology, EEB

Action

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, including Ms Fabia Tam who attended the meeting for the first time as the Secretary of the ACE, and informed Members that apologies of absence had been received from Ms Ada Fung and Mr Eric Ho.

Item 1: Briefing by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology on 2025 Policy Address (ACE Paper 12/2025)

Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr Tse Chin-wan, Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Mr Eddie Cheung, Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment), Miss Diane Wong, Under Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Dr Samuel Chui, Director of Environmental Protection and Mr Kenneth Cheng, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Reduction) to the meeting.

3. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Tse Chin-wan briefed Members on the major policy measures of EEB (Environment Branch) in the 2025 Policy Address.

(Post-meeting notes: A Member joined the meeting during the open session.)

Promote Green Cooperation in the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative

4. A Member supported the proposal of establishing Hong Kong as a centre for future green development. He opined that the Government should step up its publicity efforts to showcase Hong Kong's work in supporting the promotion of green cooperation in the national B&R initiative while making contributions to

economic development. In view of the challenges ahead, Mr Tse Chin-wan remarked that a change in lifestyle and business operation would be required to facilitate a green transformation. Leveraging the tremendous progress achieved by the Chinese Mainland in the development of green industry in the past years and its leading position in technologies and products related to solar energy, wind energy, waste treatment, electric vehicles (EVs) etc., Hong Kong could play a bridging role by exporting the aforesaid technologies and products to other countries for the joint efforts in addressing climate change and environmental challenges while achieving economic development.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

5. Apart from the support measures which included the construction of a blending facility for the development of SAF, a Member enquired whether there were plans to drive market demand to speed up the development. Mr Tse Chin-wan responded that SAF would be an important element for the aviation industry to achieve carbon neutrality given the limitations in adopting other types of new energy. Considering the huge development potential of SAF, the Government would work with the Mainland authorities to enable a local enterprise, ranked second in the supply of aviation fuel in the world, to develop its business in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) with a view to establishing a production base for SAF in the area. The relevant blending and storage facilities to be established in Hong Kong could support both local and overseas markets. Leveraging the lower production cost in the GBA, Mr Tse expected that the price competitiveness factor could drive worldwide demand, and help Hong Kong strengthen its position as an international hub by serving as a major supply for SAF.

6. To comply with the requirements of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation by 2027, a Member said that airlines could either offset their emissions with eligible carbon credits or through direct carbon reduction by using SAF. He opined that there should be more mention of the lower carbon emission quality of SAF. The Member reminded that the Government should take relevant international standards into consideration when making development plans for the industry while the International Civil Aviation Organization and other related international organisations were reviewing the standards. To achieve economy of scale, the Member said that the Government should focus on driving the demand for SAF to bring down the price which was about 3 to 5 times higher than that of conventional jet fuel. For example, the Airport Authority could liaise with the airlines to set a minimum consumption level to support the scale-up of SAF supply. Mr Tse Chin-wan acknowledged that the Government would need to work on certification, international standards and local demand for the development of the SAF industry. He highlighted that the aforementioned Hong Kong company was a leader in the industry which possessed all the relevant patents and technologies required for the production process, and such capability would provide the company with the autonomy in operating the

entire supply chain as well as the possibility to have its share in setting future standards for the industry. Through the joint efforts of the GBA, Mr Tse hoped that Hong Kong would be able to offer price-competitive SAF to attract also global demand which could be substantial in volume.

Green Buildings

7. A Member pointed out that significant carbon reduction in buildings very much depended on the successful transition to zero-carbon electricity. He asked if hydrogen fuel cells could be used more widely for electricity generation as part of the solutions. The Member held the view that a multi-pronged approach, including more supply of zero-carbon electricity by power plants, an enhancement of the district cooling system and additional green building initiatives, could be adopted to help achieve the carbon neutrality target by 2050. He said that the Government should take the above into account in formulating relevant development plans and trial projects could be conducted in government buildings as a start.

8. Other than achieving carbon reduction through building design, Mr Tse Chin-wan said that there was room to reduce carbon emissions through energy efficiency. Taking the air conditioning system as an example, he shared that there would be a 30% to 40% improvement in the energy efficiency of the appliances every 10 years or so. Therefore, the Government had made continuous efforts in upgrading energy efficiency grading standards of electrical products to facilitate carbon reduction through replacing older electrical equipment. Mr Tse concurred that electricity generation by hydrogen fuel cells would help reduce carbon emissions and the government strongly supported the trial of various hydrogen technologies. Mr Tse said that the real challenges were the high production cost for hydrogen. As the first step to expand the usage, Mr Tse said that the Government had started working with the construction industry to promote the adoption of hydrogen-powered generators to replace diesel generators at construction sites.

Zero-carbon Electricity from the Mainland

9. In response to a Member's and another Member's enquiries on the timetable for importing more zero-carbon electricity from the Chinese Mainland, Mr Tse Chin-wan replied that the Government had been liaising with our Mainland counterparts on the matter, with a view to achieving the target of reducing Hong Kong's carbon emissions by half by 2035. He added that Hong Kong would increase the proportion of zero-carbon electricity in its fuel mix for electricity generation from the current level of about 25% to about 60% to 70% by the same timeline. Mr Tse also said that the Government had already earmarked land for the cross-boundary electricity transmission and receiving facilities in Tseung Kwan O Area 132, and commenced certain preparatory works for such facilities. He

also supplemented that further details, including the timeline of the importation, would be announced later.

Updated Climate Action Plan

10. To address a Member's enquiry on the timeline and consultation arrangements for the updated Climate Action Plan, Mr Tse Chin-wan shared that the Government would conduct an overall review in 2026 to include additional initiatives and measures with reference to the latest developments, such as development plans for green fuels, with a view to exploring the long-term direction for Hong Kong to achieve green transition and carbon neutrality in the most effective way. Mr Tse indicated that the Government would consult relevant stakeholders including the ACE before finalising the updated plan. Based on the latest progress in the implementation of the measures in Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, he anticipated that Hong Kong should be able to meet the targets of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2035 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Green Finance

11. A Member said that the Government's continued efforts in driving the market to accelerate carbon reduction in existing buildings were welcomed by both the green building sector and green finance sector. She remarked that many large developers had made efforts in retrofitting their existing buildings to improve the indoor environmental quality and mitigate climate change risks which in turn improved the rental value of the buildings concerned. In addition, the number of existing buildings with green certification had been on the rise in the past few years. She considered that developing Hong Kong as a demonstration base for green technology could help promote the building redevelopment market and accelerate the carbon reduction process. Noting the huge opportunity associated with the green transition and the funding requirements for large-scale development or new technology adoption, Mr Tse Chin-wan remarked that the Government had issued green bonds to channel market capital to support green projects in Hong Kong. As a major green bond issuing centre in Asia, Hong Kong could continue to explore the opportunities of the green finance market such as carbon trading.

Waste Management

12. In view of the significant increase in the recovery rate for municipal solid waste (MSW) from 28% in 2020 to 34% in 2024, a Member asked whether the Government had any corresponding plan for handling the additional food waste by O·PARK. Mr Tse Chin-wan explained that food waste accounted for only a portion of the overall increase in MSW recovered. In addition to O·PARK 1 and O·PARK 2 with a total treatment capacity of about 500 tonnes per day (tpd), the overall food waste treatment capacity of Hong Kong was enhanced by the food waste / sludge co-digestion facilities at Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works and Tai

Po Sewage Treatment Works where slurry collected through the Food Transmarter system was turned into biogas for subsequent power generation. Mr Tse added that through upgrading the existing sewage treatment facilities, the treatment capacity could be further enhanced when necessary, to meet the need in short-to-medium term.

13. With reference to a Member's questions on the implementation of waste charging and the need to construct I-PARK3, Mr Tse Chin-wan explained that the previous discussion and promotion of MSW charging scheme had raised public participation in waste reduction and recycling. Multiple surveys, commissioned by the Government or media organisations, showed that the public was more receptive to incentive-based waste reduction and recycling measures. Even after the suspension of the implementation of MSW charging scheme, the quantity of MSW disposed of at landfills continued to drop. Should waste reduction and recycling yield results with sufficient public participation in the future, MSW charging might not be required. Meanwhile, the Government would continuously monitor the effectiveness of various waste reduction and recycling measures as well as the level of public support and participation in waste reduction and recycling, to assist in evaluating the potential need and conditions for a trial on MSW charging in future. He added that if the public and various sectors of society keep the momentum in waste reduction to further reduce the MSW disposal quantity to below 9 000 tpd, there might not be a need to construct I-PARK3 for Hong Kong to achieve “zero landfill” by 2035.

14. A Member noted the Government's plan in supporting the development of battery-swapping and relevant charging infrastructure for EVs. He asked about the disposal plans for the used EV batteries following the retirement of the existing some 130 000 EVs in the market. Mr Tse Chin-wan explained that the Government had been pushing forward the construction of a recycling facility for EV batteries by the trade at EcoPark. The facility was expected to commence operation in the first half of 2026. In parallel, a producer responsibility scheme would be put in place to ensure that retired EV batteries would be properly collected and recycled. Mr Tse added that the EV recycling facility in Hong Kong would be among the first in the region. In the long term, Hong Kong could emerge as a hub for the treatment of retired EV batteries.

Nature and Biodiversity Conservation

15. Considering that both AFCD and EPD had done remarkable work in marine conservation, a Member opined that such elements could be featured in the “Four Peaks” project. Mr Tse Chin-wan remarked that the Government had a comprehensive set of policy for nature conservation including marine conservation. The Government was updating the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) based on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the China National Biodiversity Conservation

Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030). The Government would suitably incorporate marine elements in the “Four Peaks” tourism project.

16. Quoting the recent incidents at Sharp Island where tourists had caused damage to the natural environment including coral reefs, a Member considered that public education on nature conservation should be extended to tourists. Mr Tse Chin-wan replied that the Government would continue to enhance the recreational facilities and amenities at eco-tourism destinations. At the same time, relevant departments including AFCD, Police, Transport Department, Marine Department would strengthen patrols in those areas during holidays and take appropriate actions against illegal activities. Mr Tse agreed that public education was crucial for building a green culture in Hong Kong and the Government welcomed suggestions and collaborations with Members or other organisations.

17. A Member took note that the Government would continue to conduct coral health checks at Sharp Island and restore the marine ecological environment if required. He remarked that the Government could consider encouraging enterprises and the general public to participate so that the restoration plan could cover more areas. In addition, he reminded that the western waters should not be overlooked as there were important wetlands. He hoped that the establishment of a protected zone along Sheung Pak Nai, Ha Pak Nai and Hoo Hok Wai would be given higher priority in the overall development of the Northern Metropolis for safeguarding the ecosystem of South China as a whole. The Member further shared about a white paper released in July 2024 under the title of “Marine Eco-environmental Protection in China” which presented the country’s direction in marine eco-environmental protection, including the establishment of a marine eco-environment for harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean, the launching of a nationwide green and low-carbon campaign, the promotion of a green lifestyle including practising responsible tourism etc. To promote the concept of environmental protection among the tourists, the Member suggested using popular social media like WeChat to disseminate messages and environmental protection tips for outdoor activities. With proper training, he opined that uniformed groups such as the Civil Aid Service could provide strong support by serving as ambassadors to educate the public and tourists about proper countryside etiquette. Mr Tse Chin-wan thanked the Member for his suggestions and said that the Government would further explore his suggestions.

18. To better promote biodiversity and encourage greater support for relevant research, a Member suggested that a centralised facility such as a biodiversity museum should be established to showcase the biodiversity resources in Hong Kong including specimens which were currently stored in different locations. Mr Tse Chin-wan explained that the proposal might have substantial resources implications and could be explored in the long run.

Publicity and Public Education

19. A Member indicated that the Government should collaborate with the academic sector and share more information about Hong Kong's various environmental efforts including the infrastructures for transition to a green economy. He held the view that students could act as ambassadors in telling good stories of Hong Kong's green development. While there were various environment-related programmes at schools, Mr Tse Chin-wan concurred that more could be done through collaboration with different stakeholders.

20. A Member proposed that the Government could share more information about the downstream process for the collected waste to help the public, particularly students, get a better understanding of the full lifecycle of recycling. She opined that further public education could be done through videos or visits to the recycling facilities. Dr Samuel Chui shared that the Government had been enhancing publicity and public education from various aspects including through face-to-face discussions during the We-recycle@School (回收@校園) Activity where students could enhance their knowledge about waste reduction, recycling, and community recycling facilities. To further help students develop a sense of responsibility for environmental protection and better understand the life cycle of waste, EPD had been gradually encouraging schools to recycle the recyclables collected at school premises directly at downstream recyclers.

21. Sharing an example of an airline promoting the recycling of plastic bottles, a Member pointed out that more collaboration with the industry could bring complementary results to waste reduction and recycling.

22. Dr Samuel Chui informed Members that the Government had produced the documentary series "Enchanting China" to help the public, in particular the younger generation understand the contributions and achievements of the country and Hong Kong in environmental protection and nature conservation. He said that EPD had trained all of its staff who would be assigned to visit primary or secondary schools to explain the relevant environmental protection efforts with a view to instilling a stronger sense of personal responsibility in environmental protection. Dr Chui added that the training centre under the B&R Initiative would provide professional trainings for the B&R countries as well as programmes and workshops for local university students and graduates to enrich their technological knowledge which would facilitate them to obtain relevant professional qualifications and career development.

Conclusion

23. The Chairman thanked Mr Tse Chin-wan for the detailed presentation and explanation and concluded that Members were supportive of the environmental initiatives in the 2025 Policy Address. Mr Tse thanked Members for their valuable comments and suggestions.

(Mr Tse Chin-wan, Mr Eddie Cheung, Miss Diane Wong, Mr Kenneth Cheng and Ms Fanny Hui left the meeting at the end of this session.)

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

24. The Chairman thanked Members for their comments on various aspects of environmental protection in the Policy Address.

Item 2: Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 270th meeting held on 27 June 2025 (Closed-door session)

25. The draft minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any proposed amendments.

Item 3: Matters arising (Closed-door session)

26. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

27. While there were no matters arising from the last meeting, the Chairman shared with Members his observations about the media's interest in the topic of biodiversity. Noting that there was no news coverage about the ACE's discussion on the update of BSAP on 27 June 2025, the Chairman had invited AFCD colleagues to give more thoughts on the mainstreaming strategies to see how a good story about biodiversity could be told through the media to induce more public discussion, participation and understanding of the topic. While there were more and more media attention to issues related to environmental protection, nature conservation and biodiversity, he considered that much remained to be done to push forward a green culture in society through behavioural change which required continuous and long-term education and promotion. He encouraged all parties including AFCD colleagues to continue promoting biodiversity in Hong Kong and to see in particular how the objective of mainstreaming could be achieved through the deployment of suitable tools and resources, involvement of appropriate channels, reinforcement of key messages etc.

28. Ms Fabia Tam said that the recent incidents concerning Sharp Island had garnered much media attention and the public response reflected a strong concern about the environment. The Government would continue to tackle illegal activities on Sharp Island and enhance public education. She acknowledged that public education would take time to change public awareness, attitudes and behaviours, and even more so for non-livelihood subject such as biodiversity. The Government welcomed more suggestions and comments from Members which would be taken into account in finalising the updated BSAP.

29. A Member considered that it would be more effective to start the relevant education from an early age and she would explore with the Environmental Campaign Committee to see how they could help with the promotion of nature

conservation and biodiversity. Another Member indicated that the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals might also be engaged to assist in the relevant promotion.

30. Dr Samuel Chui informed that EEB was producing the documentary series “Enchanting Hong Kong” with a total of five episodes. In addition to the first episode on “Picturesque Bays of Hong Kong”, EPD was currently producing one on “The City of Life” while AFCD was working on two others about hiking trails and biodiversity in Hong Kong. In response to a Member’s suggestion for AFCD to work with EPD in the promotion of biodiversity, Dr Chui informed that EPD would conduct a series of promotional activities including presentations at primary and secondary schools when the videos were ready. He suggested AFCD join force with EPD in the promotional efforts with a view to enhancing the message for environmental protection, nature conservation and biodiversity conservation as a whole. On other fronts, Dr Chui welcomed other stakeholders including Members of the ACE to use the videos in their relevant promotion since it was crucial for all parties to join hands in raising public awareness of environment-related subjects including biodiversity conservation.

Item 4: Any other business (Closed-door session)

EIA Report not selected by EIASC for submission to ACE

31. The EIASC Chairman reported that since the last ACE Meeting, the EIASC received the Executive Summary of the EIA report on “Tsing Yi - Lantau Link” which had been circulated to EIASC Members. Members were advised to provide their comments, if any, on the EIA report directly to DEP within the respective public inspection period. Given that the EIA report had not been selected by the EIASC for presentation and discussion, the EIASC Chairman informed Members that EPD would take that the ACE had no comments on the EIA report under section 8(3)(b) of the EIA Ordinance.

Subcommittee Meetings

32. Considering that some subcommittee meetings of the ACE were held on an ad hoc basis, the Chairman encouraged subject teams to review issues under their purview regularly and provide timely updates or reports to the relevant subcommittees accordingly. EEB/EPD

[Post meeting notes: The Chairman’s comments have been conveyed to the subject teams after the meeting.]

33. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

Item 5: Date of next meeting (Closed-door session)

34. The Chairman informed Members that the Secretariat would issue the tentative meeting schedule and proposed agenda items for 2026 shortly and invite all Members to make time for the meetings.

35. Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:45 p.m.

**ACE Secretariat
December 2025**