

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Digest of the 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting

held on 9 November 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

in Environmental Academy, 40/F, Revenue Tower,

Wan Chai, Hong Kong

### Present :

Prof the Hon Arthur Li

*(Chairman)*

Prof John Chai\*

Dr Bunny Chan

Ms Chan Shin-kwan

Ms Vanessa Cheung

Prof Paul Chu

Miss Natalie Chung\*

Prof Laurence Ho

Ms Angelina Kwan

Ir Alkin Kwong

Mrs Sandra Mak

Miss Samanta Pong

Mr Tam Kent-chung

Mr Cliff Tang

Prof Jonathan Wong

Dr Thomas Yau

Mr Eric Yeung\*

Dr Rita Yu

Dr William Yu

Mr Wong Kam-sing

*Secretary for the Environment*

Dr Raymond So

*Under Secretary for Transport and Housing*

Mr Francis Chau

*Deputy Secretary for Development (Works)*<sup>3</sup>

Mr D C Cheung

*Principal Assistant Secretary for*

*the Environment (Sustainable*

*Development)*

*(Secretary)*

\* attended online

**In Attendance:**

Government Representatives

Environment Bureau

Ms Maisie Cheng	<i>Permanent Secretary for the Environment</i>
Ms Irene Young	<i>Deputy Secretary for the Environment</i>
Mr Patrick Lee	<i>Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment</i>
Ms Elaine Li	<i>Press Secretary to Secretary for the Environment</i>
Ms Michelle Au	<i>Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment</i>
Mr Alvin Tai	<i>Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Sustainable Development)2 (Ag) / Economist (Sustainable Development)</i>
Mr Eric Wong	<i>Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Sustainable Development)2 (Ag) / Senior Executive Officer (Sustainable Development)1</i>
Miss Joanne Kam	<i>Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Sustainable Development)1</i>
Miss Mandy Wong	<i>Executive Officer (Sustainable Development)2</i>

Housing Department

Mr Ian Luk	<i>Assistant Director (Estate Management)3</i>
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For agenda item 2

Environmental Protection Department

Mrs Dorothy Ma	<i>Assistant Director (Cross-Boundary &amp; International)</i>
Mr Ray Leung	<i>Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Cross-Boundary &amp; International)5</i>

Programme Director – Policy for Sustainability Lab, Centre for Civil  
Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

Dr Winnie Law	<i>Deputy Director and Principal Lecturer</i>
Ms Joyce Chow	<i>Senior Project Manager</i>
Mr Darwin Leung	<i>Assistant Project Manager</i>

**Absent with apologies:**

Mr Kwok Lit-tung  
Secretary for Home Affairs

**Agenda Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting**

The secretariat had not received any proposed amendments and the minutes would be taken as confirmed.

**Agenda Item 2 – Council for Sustainable Development’s Report on Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy**  
*(SDC Paper No. 01/20)*

2. Members were briefed on the latest progress in drafting the Council for Sustainable Development’s (“SDC”) report (“the report”) and the SDC Paper No. 01/20. The following were highlighted:

- (a) The public engagement (“PE”) aimed to arouse public awareness of the impact of carbon emissions, and gauge the views of the community in developing feasible strategies for carbon reduction, with a view to making recommendations to the Government;
- (b) After the conclusion of the public interaction phase, the Independent Analysis and Reporting Agency (“IRA”) compiled and analysed the findings of all the views received. IRA had already briefed the SDC, Strategy Sub-committee (“SSC”) and Support Group (“SG”) members on 21 May 2020. Based on the views collected during the public interaction phase and the discussions at the SG and SSC meetings on

29 June and 22 October 2020 respectively, the Programme Director (“PD”) had prepared a draft report; and

- (c) PD had taken into account Members’ views expressed at the SG and SSC meetings and written submissions, and revised the report. The revised draft of the report set out one vision and six overarching objectives, as well as 55 recommendations covering eight key areas, namely target; lifestyles; education, training and research; built environment; energy; transport; city planning and management; and finance; with a view to driving all sectors and individuals in the community and the Government to take concerted action.

3. Members had the following views on the draft report:

#### Overall Strategy

- (a) It would be worthwhile to review the outcome of the short-term targets and set medium-term ones if necessary. Also, suggested including the carbon emissions of local products in order to reflect the full picture;
- (b) Suggested establishing a central database containing carbon emissions data of buildings and organising decarbonisation competitions among building owners;
- (c) Suggested devising a long-term action plan on green and sustainable finance;
- (d) Asked if the report would propose any scheme to motivate the public to change their behaviour and take further steps to reduce carbon emissions;

- (e) Asked what follow-up action the SDC would take after publishing the report, and how it would encourage government departments to take the lead in decarbonisation and implement the recommendations;
- (f) Opined that the report covered cross-bureaux policies that would take some time to implement. While there would be regular reviews of Hong Kong's progress in achieving the decarbonisation target, it would be important to ensure that both the Government and the community understood that decarbonisation was critical to Hong Kong's long-term development;
- (g) To facilitate the public in choosing smartly and changing their daily habits, it was vital to provide more information on the carbon emissions embedded in local and imported goods;
- (h) Enquired how the relatively complex and comprehensive report could be easily comprehended by the general public and whether there were priorities amongst the recommendations;
- (i) Conveyed that drafting the report was not an easy task as it had to balance views from different stakeholders and sectors;
- (j) Suggested requiring all government bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") in Hong Kong to conduct climate change assessment for all their policies/programmes/operation, and adding a climate change element to sustainability assessment; and
- (k) Enquired if the climate change element could be added to the existing sustainability assessment framework.

Education, research and publicity

- (a) SDC could also conduct relevant education and publicity programmes on climate change;
- (b) Considered it necessary to incorporate the topic of climate change and relevant international agreement(s) into the school curriculum;
- (c) Noted that the current PE had held a youth forum, and said it would be useful if Hong Kong's young people could participate in international climate change conferences in the future and suggested providing more platforms for them to voice their views in future PEs;
- (d) As climate change affected our future generations, there was an imminent need to educate the students as soon as possible;
- (e) Proposed providing the much needed research and development support to local start-ups;
- (f) The report called for a lifestyle change. Carbon footprint of goods and services should be easily available so that the general public knew what to do to offset their carbon emissions, and hence could change their lifestyle;
- (g) Opined carbon audit was too academic and technical for the general public. To induce their behavioural change, non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") could adopt a social marketing approach in educating them. Similar to the concept of occupational safety and health which was now commonly known by the workforce, climate change should also be widely publicised and low-carbon living practised on a daily basis; and

- (h) Suggested the Government might consider collaborating with the private sector to implement a territory-wide reward system to promote low-carbon lifestyles such as walking and local travel.

### Transport

- (a) Agreed with the report that electric vehicles, including commercial ones, should be more widely used as they were getting increasingly popular in the Mainland and overseas;
- (b) Suggested limiting the growth of private vehicles and designating low-emission zones to tackle the problem of air pollution. Imposing tax for additional cars bought could be one of the possible measures;
- (c) Enquired if there would be decarbonisation measures for the shipping and aviation industries. The COVID-19 pandemic provided a good opportunity to encourage local travel; and
- (d) Suggested in addition to tax and electronic road pricing scheme, different government departments should align their policies on bike/car sharing in order to provide the necessary infrastructure and support. NGOs which knew very well the needs of the community could be mobilised to educate the general public on low-carbon lifestyle.

### Electricity generation

- (a) Remarked that as electricity generation contributed most to carbon emissions, the two power companies should be requested to step up their decarbonisation efforts and the report had to strongly emphasise their roles in this regard; and

- (b) Opined the demand for electricity had to be managed, for example, by promoting the use of smart meters.

#### Waste management

- (a) Commented that besides zero waste, the report should also cover the recycling facilities and infrastructure in Hong Kong. It was difficult to find glass bottles collection points in the community recently; and
  - (b) The release of the report might invite queries about the implementation of municipal solid waste charging and also arouse concern from certain stakeholders.
4. The meeting noted the following response:
- (a) Since the Climate Action Plan 2030+ had already spelt out a carbon emissions reduction target for 2030, setting other medium-term targets in the report would be confusing. As the Paris Agreement required the signatories to review their progress every five years, Hong Kong would also carry out regular reviews to keep track of the progress against the target. For example, though the recommendations on green and sustainable finance did not specify a time frame, it could be formulated after the regular reviews;
  - (b) Noted that Hong Kong mainly relied on imported goods and local production scale was relatively small. Nonetheless, it was considered still feasible to include local goods and services in the recommendation;
  - (c) Subject to Members' agreement, the report would be submitted to the



Secretary for the Environment, who would assess the feasibility and priority of all recommendations and formulate a comprehensive decarbonisation plan;

- (d) Pointed out that the SDC's PE exercises were held in high regard and most of the recommendations were accepted by the Government. The finalised report would then be deliberated by the high-level Steering Committee on Climate Change which was chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and underpinned by a number of principal officials;
- (e) Responded that an e-learning platform was being developed in collaboration with the Education Bureau. Teaching aid, reference materials and games for three classroom lessons would be incorporated, under the theme of environment and sustainable development. A pilot run would be conducted in two secondary schools (including one with ethnic minority students). Furthermore, PD had visited 14 secondary schools and collected the students' feedback with the aid of an interactive drama about decarbonisation, which was a new attempt of the current PE in promoting youth engagement;
- (f) A review should be conducted after the pilot run of the e-learning platform to assess if more lessons could be allocated for this purpose and suggested integrating the teaching materials into the curricula of other subjects such as Geography, Life Science, English Language, etc.;
- (g) Advised that upon completion of SDC's PE exercises, the Government's sustainability assessment would be updated by making reference to the recommendations in the reports, as in the case of the checklist questions on waste recycling, climate change impact and

biodiversity had been added following previous PE exercises. A similar review would also be conducted after the release of the report on long-term decarbonisation strategy;

- (h) Sustainable development aimed at harmonising its three core elements, namely the social, environmental and economic aspects of development. Of the eight key areas in the report, two were related to the social aspect, namely, lifestyle and education, training and research. The areas of energy, transport, built environment, and city planning and management were related to the environment, while finance was related to the economy. All these seven key areas worked towards the target set in the report. While the current PE focused only on the mitigation of climate change, the Climate Action Plan 2030+ to be reviewed next year would cover also the other two areas of climate action, namely, resilience and adaptation. B/Ds concerned had already worked together and conducted relevant studies on the latter two areas;
  
- (i) On waste reduction and recycling, the Government had already formulated a policy on the regulated electrical equipment (i.e. air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors). Besides the three service contractors across the territory that collected waste glass containers and turned them into resources, there were also contractors recently appointed to collect waste paper at the designated recovery price of not less than \$0.7 per kg, thereby providing support to the entire waste paper recycling industry, including frontline collectors. A pilot recycling scheme on waste plastics had also been rolled out in the Eastern, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin Districts. Contractors provided free

collection services for plastic waste;

(j) Supplemented that an International Expert Panel comprising overseas members had shared its experience and offered advice on the electronic road pricing scheme earlier this year; and

(k) Advised that during the drafting stage of the report, relevant departments were consulted and aware of the need of interdepartmental collaboration in decarbonisation.

5. The meeting noted that the finalised report would be submitted to the Government and a press conference would be held on 13 November 2020.

**Agenda Item 3 – Any other business**

6. There was no other business raised.

**Agenda Item 4 – Date of the next meeting**

7. The Secretary would confirm the date of the next meeting nearer the time.

**Secretariat  
Council for Sustainable Development**