

## **COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy**

#### **Purpose**

This paper updates Members on the progress and work plan of the Council for Sustainable Development (“SDC”)’s public engagement (“PE”) on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy, and seeks Members’ endorsement of the draft PE document at **Annex A**.

#### **Background and Progress**

2. At the last meeting on 26 January 2018, Members agreed to conduct a PE on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy. After the meeting, a Support Group on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy (“SG”) was formed to assist in the planning and implementation of the PE exercise. The terms of reference and membership of the SG are at **Annex B**.

3. The SG held its first meeting in June 2018 to deliberate on the subject and agreed on a work plan. With the assistance of a Programme Director (“PD”) it appointed (i.e. Policy for Sustainability Lab, Centre for Civil Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong), the SG held six focus group meetings with stakeholders from various sectors including green groups, non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”), youth groups, professional organisations, the academia, chambers of commerce, energy audit-related organisations, energy technology-related organisations, the transport sector, property management companies, District Councils and advisory bodies on matters relating to environmental protection. More than 100 participants from 88 organisation attended the focus group meetings.

4. Having considered the views of the focus groups, the PD has prepared a draft document for the public interaction phase of the PE. The latest draft at **Annex A** has reflected comments provided by the SG at its meeting on 17 May 2019.

### **The Public Engagement Document**

5. The draft PE document consists of four chapters. The first chapter introduces the concept of climate change, including the causes of climate change as well as its impacts on Hong Kong and the world, and key points of the Paris Agreement. This chapter also brings out the importance of taking immediate climate mitigation actions and explains the purposes of the PE.

6. The second chapter summarises the sources of carbon emissions in Hong Kong so as to help the public understand how to deal with the issue that is directed at our carbon emission characteristics.

7. The third chapter first explains that a comprehensive package of actions in various fields needs to be taken together, including ways to adopt low-carbon lifestyles by individuals, enhance energy saving measures and pursue further decarbonisation of the energy sector, enhance energy efficiency in buildings, and transit to low-carbon transport, in order to achieve carbon reduction targets at varying levels. The chapter then quotes overseas experiences in reducing carbon emissions. Furthermore, this chapter introduces ways to promote carbon reduction in Hong Kong.

8. The fourth chapter is a views collection form.

9. There is a key message in the PE document: to meet the target under the Paris Agreement (i.e. holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels), the whole society needs to step up efforts, especially by adopting low-carbon living lifestyles in terms of clothing, food, living and travel in order to further reduce carbon emissions. In the long run, to comply with the decarbonisation target, it is inevitable that Hong Kong has to increase the proportion of zero carbon energy in our fuel mix

through closer regional cooperation, including importation of more electricity from renewable and / or nuclear energy.

10. A leaflet (**Annex C**) has also been produced to help the public grasp the key messages at ease.

### **The Public Interaction Phase**

11. The SG's plan is to release the PE document and launch the three-month public interaction phase through a press conference on 14 June 2019. During this phase, there will be a range of engagement activities including regional forums, visits to secondary schools, consultations with relevant advisory bodies (such as the Advisory Council on the Environment and the Town Planning Board), meetings with different stakeholders including green groups, chambers of commerce, relevant trades and NGOs, etc.

12. Publicity will also be done through the networks of about 120 Supporting Organisations (listed at the Annex of the draft PE document).

13. Other publicity activities include producing TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest ("APIs") and posters; organising roving exhibitions, as well as launching a dedicated website for the public to browse relevant information and give their views. The APIs and other useful publicity materials will be placed on online social media including the Big Waster's Facebook and YouTube. Advertisements can also be placed on the online platforms (including Facebook, website and/or mobile app) of the print media.

14. Following the public interaction phase, an Independent Analysis and Reporting Agency will help the SG analyse all the views collected. In consultation with the Strategy Sub-committee, the SG will then discuss with the SDC the findings and recommendations to be included in the report to the Government. The timeframe for the remainder of the PE process is as follows:

<b>Milestones (2019)</b>	<b>Activities</b>
14 June	Release of PE document and launch of public interaction phase
June to September	Various public interaction and publicity activities
November	Analyse findings, formulate recommendations and prepare report
Late November to early December	Finalise and release report

### **Advice Sought**

15. Members are invited to note the progress and work plan in conducting the PE, and endorse the draft PE document for release at the public interaction phase.

### **Secretariat**

**Council for Sustainable Development June 2019**