



## Alternate Energy

The Government has been actively promoting the generation and use of renewable energy (RE). The two local power companies have been given incentives to enable them to gain higher returns on their investment on renewable energy capabilities and resulting production.

The two local power companies have set up photovoltaic panels to generate electricity to feed their power grids. HK Electric has installed a photovoltaic system of 550kW at its Lamma power station to provide electricity for about 150 households every year.

Both power companies in Hong Kong have also started to explore the feasibility of offshore wind farm projects, and are planning to install a total of about 100 wind turbines in the waters of Hong Kong to generate electricity of up to 560 million kWh. If all goes according to plan, wind farms are expected to meet 1 to 2 per cent of our total demand for electricity by 2020.

## Country and Marine Parks

Hong Kong has 24 country parks and 22 'special areas' dedicated to conservation and recreation, covering 40 per cent of our land area, including scenic uplands, mountains, forests, marshes, coastline and islands. There are also four marine parks and one marine reserve covering a total of nearly 2 500 hectares, including scenic coastal areas and important marine habitats.

Hong Kong people take great pleasure in their natural environment, paying some 12 million visits a year to country parks to hike, camp and picnic. Well maintained footpaths and country trails provide easy access. Four long distance hiking trails are especially popular: MacLehose Trail (100km), the Lantau Trail (70km), the Hong Kong Trail (50km) and the Wilson Trail (78km). The Dragon's Back Trail on

Hong Kong Island has been voted one of Asia's best 'urban hikes' by the Asian edition of *Time* magazine.

## Urban Parks

Parks and gardens are abundant in Hong Kong's urban areas. From large parks to the smaller gardens surrounding historic temples, these open spaces serve as green lungs in the busy city.

## Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site is an internationally important wetland listed under the Ramsar Convention. The site comprises 1 500 hectares of mudflats, fish ponds, reed beds and mangroves and is a feeding and resting ground for over 380 species of birds, including rare and endangered species.

Within the Ramsar Site, the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong manages the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve – an outstanding example of a non-governmental organisation working in partnership with the Government for wetland conservation. In winter, 80 000 birds migrating from the Southern Hemisphere to the North stop over and nest in the reserve and its surrounds, one of the world's key transit points for many migratory bird species.

## Hong Kong Wetland Park

With such a wealth of natural assets, both the Government and the Hong Kong Tourism Board are keen to promote ecotourism. Most ambitious among the initiatives is the Hong Kong Wetland Park. With 60 hectares of reserve and a 10 000 square metre visitor centre, it is the first and largest of its kind in Asia.

## Hong Kong Geopark

With a land area of 50 square kilometres, Hong Kong National Geopark is made up

of two regions covering eight geo-areas in the eastern coastal area of Hong Kong, each with unique geological features. The Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region showcases spectacular hexagonal volcanic columns, providing a record of geological changes and ancient volcanic activity dating over hundreds of millions of years.

The Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region represents the most comprehensive stratigraphy of sedimentary rocks in Hong Kong, ranging from 400-million-year-old Devonian sandstone and conglomerate to 55-million-year-old Tertiary siltstone. Other exceptional features include diverse coastal landscapes and tectonic relics.

## Biodiversity

Within its comparatively small size, Hong Kong is rich in biodiversity. It has:

- About 3 100 species of vascular plants
- About 400 species of native trees
- About 500 species of birds – over a third of the total bird species in China
- Over 50 species of mammals
- Over 100 species of amphibians and reptiles
- Over 230 species of butterflies
- Over 110 species of dragonflies
- About 1 000 species of marine fish – 30 per cent of the species found in the South China Sea
- Over 180 species of stony coral

For more information, please visit [www.afcd.gov.hk](http://www.afcd.gov.hk) and [www.discoverhongkong.com](http://www.discoverhongkong.com)