

Green living

Overview

Hong Kong abounds in unexpected and delightful contrasts. Although renowned as a fast-paced business hub, Hong Kong offers a variety of landscapes and scenic vistas rarely matched in such a compact city, ranging from sandy beaches and rocky foreshores to open grasslands and mountain ranges.

Countryside and Hiking

- Around **40%** of Hong Kong's 1,108 square kilometres of land is **protected country park and special areas** for the purpose of nature conservation.
- Hong Kong has **five Marine Parks** and **one Marine Reserve** to conserve local marine environments.
- Many Hong Kong **hiking trails** are near urban areas and easily accessible. For example, it takes less than 20 minutes by bus from the bustling downtown area on eastern Hong Kong Island to reach the start of the Dragon's Back trail, which has been rated Asia's "Best Urban Hike".

Astonishing Biodiversity

- Hong Kong has over 3,300 species of vascular plants; 55 species of terrestrial mammals; 550 species of birds (one-third of all bird species recorded throughout China); 110 species of amphibians and reptiles; 240 species of butterflies and 125 species of dragonflies.
- There are more than 1,000 species of marine fish and 84 species of hard corals – a greater number of hard coral species than there is in the Caribbean.
- Some species are endemic to Hong Kong, such as the Hong Kong Balsam (*Impatiens hongkongensis*), the tiny Romer's Tree Frog (*Liuixalus romeri*), the rare Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard (*Dibamus bogadeki*) and the Hong Kong Tuskail dragonfly (*Fukienogomphus choifongae*).
- **Rich and wonderful biodiversity** is a precious natural resource. The Government on average plants more than one million trees and other plants in the countryside and urban areas annually to green Hong Kong.

Low Carbon and Emission Reduction

- A range of environmental protection policies and measures mitigate environmental pollution, promote environmental technology and green building, advocate energy saving and "waste less", and strengthen environmental education to build a sustainable future.
- Major strides are being made to achieve the ambitious target of **reducing Hong Kong's carbon intensity by 65% to 70%** in 2030 compared to the 2005 level.
- Measures to **improve air quality** include phasing out 82,000 old diesel commercial vehicles by end-2019 (over 80% are already off the road), promoting the use of electric vehicles, requiring ocean-going vessels to switch to low-sulphur marine fuel, and strengthening co-operation with the Mainland.
- These measures are bearing fruit, particularly at the roadside. Since 2013, levels of **major air pollutants** (including roadside nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5) have been **reduced by around 30%**.
- **The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme** is extended to March 2025 with funding of about

\$300 million to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories to adopt cleaner production technologies, thereby continually improving regional environmental quality.

Green Building Design and Technology

- Target of reducing Hong Kong's energy intensity from the 2005 level by 40% by 2025.
- Measures outlined in "**Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+**" include: setting an energy saving target and timeline; development of green buildings; tax concessions; expanding the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme; running the "Energy Saving for All" campaign.
- Upon completion of all energy saving measures, the annual reduction in CO2 emissions will be about 1.7 million tonnes, equivalent to about 4% of Hong Kong's total emission in 2016.
- Formulate the first "**Green Energy Target**" in 2019 with a view to further improving the use of energy within Government by 6% in five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- "**Green School 2.0**" to enhance energy efficiency in schools.
- Opened in 2012, the **Zero Carbon Building** at Kowloon Bay was the city's first building with a zero carbon footprint. It has over 80 types of green technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **The T-PARK** sludge treatment facility at Nim Wan, Tuen Mun, opened in 2015 and is one of the most technologically advanced facilities of its kind in the world.
- Heat produced from incinerating sludge at T-PARK is recovered for electricity generation, thus **transforming waste into energy**, which is also used to provide heating for spa pools established within its Environmental Education Centre at T-PARK, for the public to enjoy free of charge.
- A \$2 billion pilot subsidy scheme promotes installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings.

Innovation and Technology (I&T) for a Green Future

- **The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)** has been collaborating with the trade and academia to promote I&T related to electrical and mechanical services.
- The EMSD signed **Memoranda of Co-operation** in 2019 with 15 organisations to establish strategic partnership and thereby foster collaboration with the E&M trade.

Waste Management

- **The Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme** was introduced in 2009 to reduce the use of PSB by providing economic incentive at retail level.
- Premised on the "polluter pays" principle, the **Producers Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment** was implemented in August 2018, while the PRS on glass beverage containers is being implemented progressively to promote recycling and resource recovery.
- The Government is preparing to introduce the PRS on plastic beverage containers, and is considering the application of Reverse Vending Machines on recovery of used plastic beverage containers.
- There are plans to introduce municipal solid waste charging to drive behavioural change in waste reduction, and develop "**Community Green Stations**" in each district to enhance support for waste reduction and recycling.
- A "**food wise**" culture is being promoted to reduce food waste.
- Under the Food Waste Plan, **the Organic Resources Recovery Centre** Phase 1 (O-PARK1) started

receiving commercial and industrial food waste since July 1, 2018. O·PARK1 can treat 200 tonnes of food waste per day and convert it into biogas for power generation, and process the digestate to produce compost. About 14 million kWh of surplus electricity, enough to power about 3 000 households, can be generated by O·PARK1 and transmitted to the grid annually.

- Substantial investment in sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure has vastly improved the water quality of Victoria Harbour.

Ecological Protection

- To phase out the local ivory trade and deter illicit trade in endangered species, the Government is imposing heavier sentences and stepping up co-operation with Mainland authorities under the new Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 that came into effect on May 1, 2018.
- A new **Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021** is being implemented to strengthen conservation of biodiversity.

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