

Citizenship and Social Development

Theme 3: Interconnectedness and Interdependence of the Contemporary World

Topic: Sustainable Development

Learning Focus:

The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders
in promoting environmental conservation

December 2023
(Translated version)

● Learning Objectives ●

Knowledge

- To understand the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in promoting environmental conservation
- To understand the importance of all members of society working together to achieve sustainable development

Skills

- To analyse the complications of the interactions, influences and interests of different stakeholders in environmental conservation, to enhance problem-solving skills and to make judgements based on facts and evidence, as well as to make feasible recommendations based on law, reason and compassion

Values

- To recognise the importance of environmental conservation
- To promote one's awareness of our responsibility to the environment and the importance of its sustainable development to our daily lives and put it into practice
- To recognise the importance of collaboration and co-operation among stakeholders in promoting sustainable development, and of one's participation

The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in promoting environmental conservation

Lead-in

Watch the video: Crisis (recommended clips 4:04 – 12:45)

Click on the images to watch the videos



Source: EDB Educational MultiMedia

(https://emm.edcity.hk/media/%E7%92%B0%E5%A2%83%E8%88%87%E5%8F%AF%E6%8C%81%E7%BA%8C%E7%99%BC%E5%B1%95/0_a01ur47c)



Watch the videos and think about it: Who is/ are responsible for environmental issues?



Environmental conservation is a challenge and opportunity for humankind. In order to better address global environmental issues and achieve sustainable development of human society, different stakeholders should fulfil their environmental responsibilities and work together for environmental conservation.

The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in promoting environmental conservation

From the experience of environmental conservation around the world, stakeholders, for instance, governments, the education sector, enterprises, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and individuals have different roles to play in promoting environmental conservation in a complementary manner. Thus, everyone has to shoulder the responsibility and get involved in sustainable development.



The roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in promoting environmental conservation

In March 2021, the United Nations Environment Programme released a report, “Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity and pollution emergencies”, emphasising that it is important for all relevant stakeholders to play complementary and nested roles in bringing about a sustainable future. For example:

- **Governments** initiate and lead in intergovernmental co-operation, policies and legislation that transform society and the economy;
- **Inter-governmental organisations** facilitate international co-operation;
- **Financial institutions** facilitate investment in economic activities that enhance the stock of natural assets;
- **Enterprises** continue to pursue and apply innovative technologies;
- **Non-governmental organisations** develop and implement such initiatives;
- **Individuals, households, civil society, and local communities** help put theories into practice;
- **Scientific and educational organisations** help promote education, information and awareness on sustainable development.
- **Media and social networks** spread ways to improve one’s health



Click on the image to read the report

Click on the image to watch the video “Making Peace with Nature”



Source: United Nations Environment Programme
(<https://www.unep.org/zh-hans/resources/making-peace-nature>)

Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government

Formulating and implementing policies

To formulate and implement legislation, policies, measures and programmes for environmental protection, energy, nature conservation and promotion of sustainable development.

Regulation by law

To monitor the implementation of environmental legislation; to carry out environmental assessments and planning; to handle public opinions on environmental issues, etc.

Improving Infrastructure

To establish and enhance public facilities for environmental protection; to improve environmental technology; to raise the standard of public services, etc.

Promotion

To provide information and raise public awareness on environmental protection, encourage public participation, promote corporate environmental management and assist industries to comply with relevant legislation, and provide funding for environmental research projects.

Collaboration

To participate in international conferences, promote and participate in national, regional and international cooperation, evaluate and co-ordinate interests of different stakeholders, improve existing programmes and support environmental protection work at different levels, etc.

Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government

Governments around the world all have prepared plans and policies for sustainable development.

For example, the state has formulated a master plan for the development of ecology conservation and a national policy on environmental protection. In Chapter 11 of the 14th Five-Year Plan*, the theme of “promoting green development and harmonious co-existence between humans and nature” emphasises respecting nature, adapting to nature, protecting nature and giving priority to conservation, with a view to implementing sustainable development, promoting a comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development, thereby building a beautiful China.

► Examples of environmental protection highlights in the 14th Five-Year Plan:

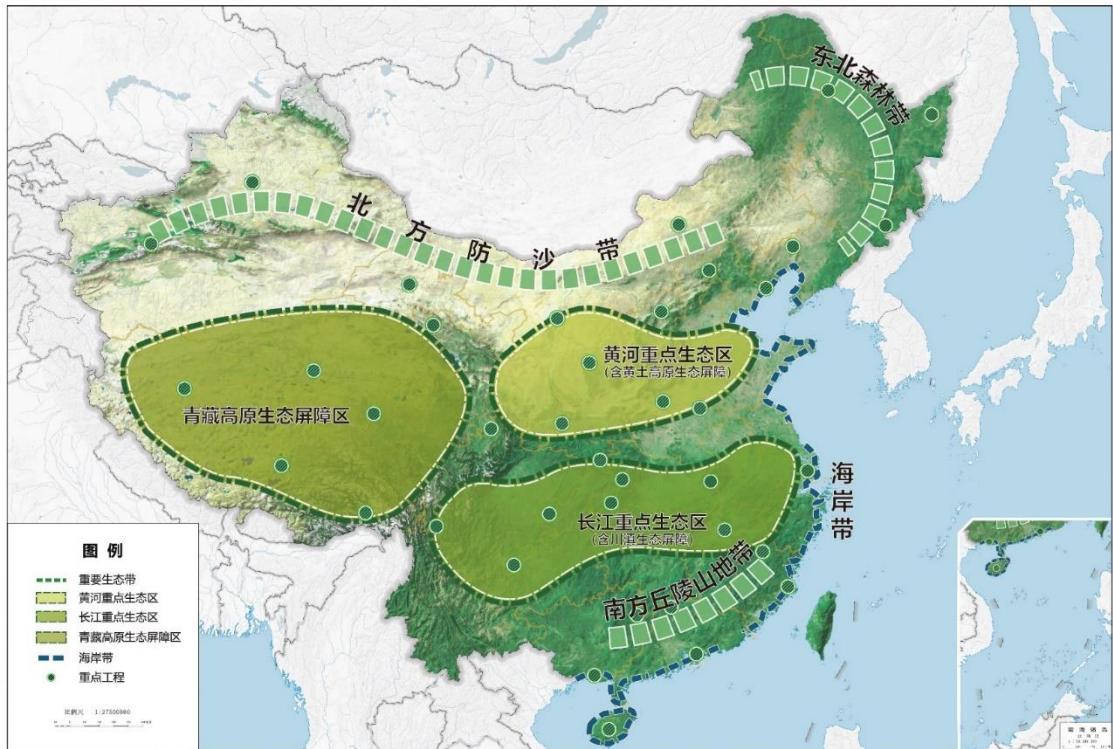
- Environment: Reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 13.5% and 18% respectively, continue to reduce total emissions of major pollutants, and increase forest coverage to 24.1%
- Improving the ecology in response to climate change: formulating an action plan to achieve the peak of carbon emissions by 2030
- Improving the eco-security system: focusing on national key ecological areas, red lines for ecological protection, national nature reserves etc., implementing major projects to protect and restore important ecosystem, consolidating the achievements of returning farmland to forests and grasslands, returning farmland to lakes and wetlands, and embankments into parts of beaches and seas
- Establishing a nature reserve system: integrating the establishment of national parks.

*“Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035”

Source: "Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035":
(http://www.xinhuanet.com/fortune/2021-03/13/c_1127205564.htm)

Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government

Layout of major ecosystem protection and restoration projects in the 14th Five-Year Plan



Source:

- “Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035” (http://www.xinhuanet.com/fortune/2021-03/13/c_1127205564.htm)
- The China Current (<https://chinacurrent.com/hk/story/22722/china-national-parks>); (<https://chinacurrent.com/hk/story/23219/10-green-gains-for-china>)

Focusing on the national key ecological areas, red lines for ecological protection and national nature reserves etc., we will implement major projects for the protection and restoration of important ecosystems, and accelerate the construction of protective barriers for eco-security in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the important ecological areas along the Yellow River and the Yangtze River, the northeast forest belt, the sand control belts in the north, the hilly and mountainous areas in the south and the coastal zones.

Click below to watch the videos to learn more about the country's role and work in promoting environmental conservation



Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government

► Achieving the Goals of Carbon Emissions Peaking and Carbon Neutrality

By 2050, the state has set the share of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption will reach around 20%, while energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will drop by 13.5% and 18%, respectively, compared with 2020 levels, laying a solid foundation for carbon emissions peaking. By 2030, the share of non-fossil energy consumption will reach around 25%, and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will have dropped by more than 65% compared with the 2005 level, successfully achieving carbon emissions peaking by 2030. By 2030, the proportion of non-fossil energy consumption will reach around 25%, and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will drop by more than 65% as compared to 2005, so as to successfully achieve the peak carbon target by 2030. The state also aims to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Source: National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), People's Republic of China (https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/policies/202110/t20211027_1301020.html)



落实碳达峰行动方案。



Carbon emissions peaking refers to the process by which carbon dioxide emissions continue to decline after reaching a historic high. Achieving carbon emissions peaking means decoupling the economic and social development of a country or region from carbon dioxide emissions, i.e. economic growth no longer comes at the cost of increased carbon emissions. It is therefore considered to be a signature event in the green and low-carbon transformation of an economy.

Source: Gov.cn (http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-10/27/content_5645109.htm)

Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government



Circular on further promoting the nationwide battle to prevent and control pollution

The state sets a higher standard to keep its skies blue, waters clear and lands pollution-free by 2025, the first stage and 2035, the second stage.

- By 2025, improving the country's ecological environment, with the total discharge of major pollutants continuously declining, heavily polluted weather and urban black and malodorous water bodies in the urban area will be cleaned up, the risk of soil pollution will be effectively controlled, solid waste and new pollutants management will be significantly enhanced, the quality and stability of the ecosystem will continue to improve, the ecosystem governance system will be improved, and new progress can be seen in ecological construction.
- By 2035, a green way of life and production will be formed, carbon emissions will stabilize and decline after reaching a peak, and the country's ecological environment will see fundamental improvement. The objective of building a beautiful China will be basically achieved.

Source: Gov.cn (http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-11/07/content_5649656.htm)



Please visit the following website to learn more about our country's efforts and objectives in building a beautiful China.

Source: Gov.cn (<http://finance.people.com.cn/BIG5/n1/2022/0307/c1004-32368790.html>)



Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government



Environmental work and policies in Hong Kong

The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to environmental protection and supports our Country's and United Nation's environmental policies and objectives. The relevant government departments include:

- **Environment and Ecology Bureau** consolidates the policies and work related to environmental protection, conservation of natural ecology, as well as environmental hygiene, food safety, agriculture and fisheries and animal welfare, etc. to achieve a synergy in enhancing Hong Kong's overall environment and maintaining environmental hygiene, as well as work related to driving climate action, promoting biodiversity, etc.
- **Environmental Protection Department** is responsible for implementing Government's environmental policies;; enforcing environmental legislation; monitoring environmental quality; providing collection, transfer, treatment and disposal facilities for various types of waste; advising on the environmental implications of town planning and new policies; handling pollution complaints and incidents; and raising awareness and support in the community for environmental initiatives. These responsibilities are spread across the five following programme areas: Air Programme; Environmental Assessment and Planning Programme; Noise Programme; Waste Programme; Water Programme.

Source:

- Environment and Ecology Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (https://www.eeb.gov.hk/tc/message_index.html)
- Environmental Protection Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/tc_chi/about_epd/epd_work/epd_work.html)

Examples of the roles and responsibilities of the Government



Examples of the missions of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department

To formulate policies and plans on environmental protection, energy, conservation and the promotion of sustainable development; to provide first-classed physical infrastructure for the treatment and disposal of waste and wastewater, to raise community awareness of and promote public support for issues related to environmental protection, energy, conservation and sustainable development; to promote collaborative efforts through regional and international co-operation; to implement environmental protection and energy related legislation and plans; to administer robust environmental impact assessment in the planning of new developments and major projects.



Roadside air quality monitoring (left) and ambient air quality monitoring (right) by the Environmental Protection Department



Environmental Protection Department steps up publicity and enforcement activities on idling engine ban

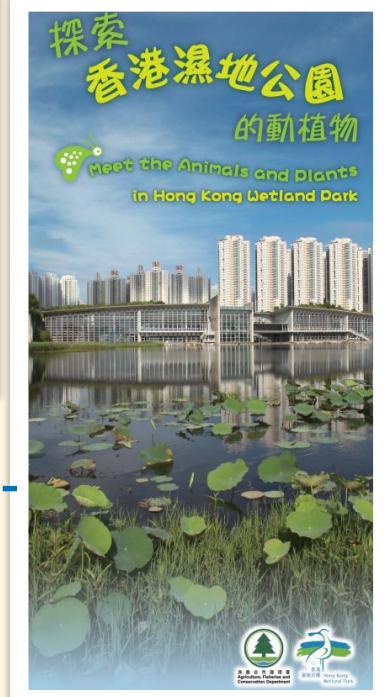
Environmental protection work of other government departments



Do you know of any other government departments that are also related to environmental protection?



- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
- Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
- Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
- Architectural Services Department
- Transport Department
- Education Bureau, etc.



Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



Environmental work and policies in Hong Kong

Examples of strategies for implementing and launching “Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050” in “The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address”

- To reduce the total carbon emissions by 50% before 2035 (from the 2005 level) in order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality before 2050, the Government implemented relevant measures, such as: (i) conserving energy; (ii) promoting green transport; (iii) promoting waste reduction in the community
- To strengthen collaboration among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in combating climate change as well as joint prevention and control of air pollution in the GBA, the Government is preparing to set up a supersite for GBA air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring in Hong Kong to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services.



The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China

**The Chief Executive's
2022 Policy Address**

2022.10.19

For details, please visit the following website:

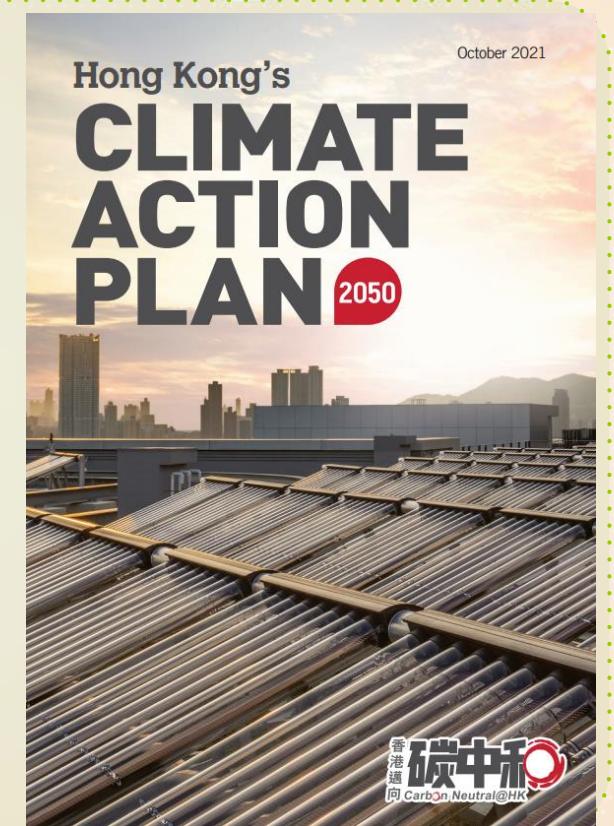
- The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address
(https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2022/public/pdf/policy/policy-full_en.pdf)
- HKSAR Government Press Releases
(https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2022/10/20221031/20221031_193026_327.html)

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



Carbon reduction strategies and measures of the “Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050”

The state aims to reach carbon dioxide emissions peaking by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. To signify Hong Kong's commitment, Hong Kong is one of the first Asian cities to take action on climate change and has been actively involved in efforts to combat climate change. In 2021, the Government set out the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.



Click on the image to read the report

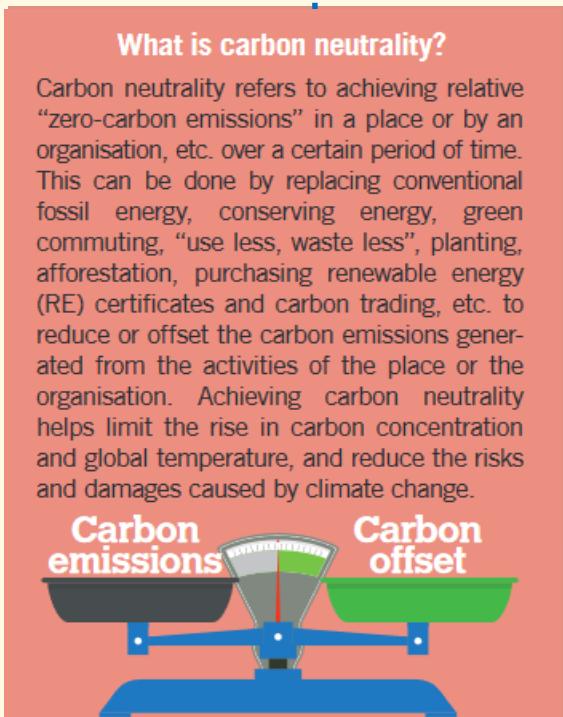
Source:

- Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/SEA/tc/files/CAP2050_booklet_en.pdf
www.climateready.gov.hk/files/pdf/CAP2050_leaflet_tc.pdf)
- Long-term Decarbonisation E-Learning Platform
(<https://www.susdev.org.hk/elearning/tc/cap2050.php>)

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government

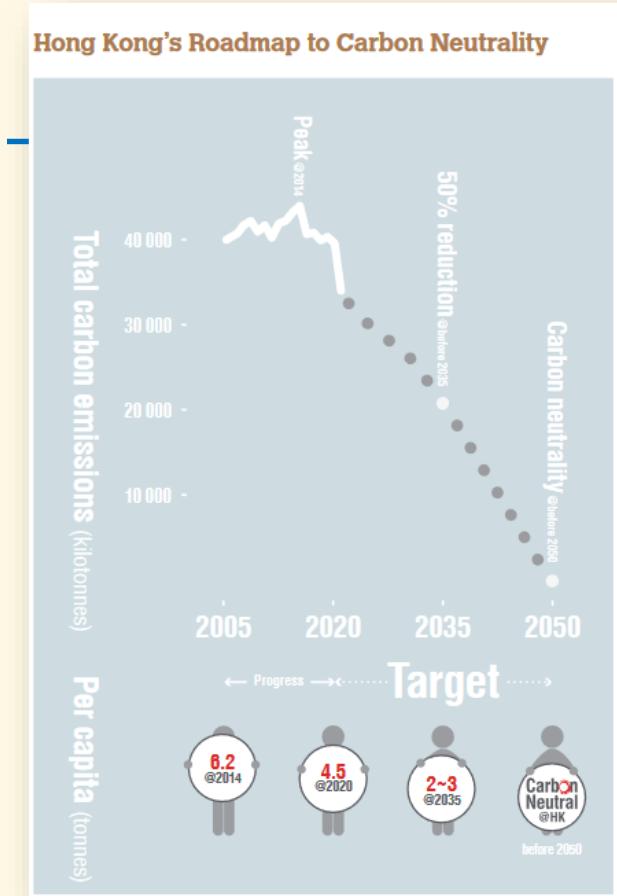
► The “Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050” - carbon reduction strategies and measures

The “Action Plan2050” outlines the four major decarbonisation strategies and measures, namely net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction leading to carbon neutrality. For details, please refer to the relevant planning documents.



What is zero-carbon energy ?

Zero-carbon energy refers to energy which does not generate carbon emissions during their production or usage. Zero-carbon energy under application in Hong Kong currently includes solar, wind and nuclear energy. We are also closely monitoring the development of new zero-carbon energy (e.g. green hydrogen), and will seize the opportunity to adopt such energy as the technologies become relatively mature.



Source: Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050
(www.epd.gov.hk/epd/SEA/tc/files/CAP2050_booklet_en.pdf
www.climateready.gov.hk/files/pdf/CAP2050_leaflet_en.pdf)

➤ Government promote public participation

Public participation involves different stakeholders in the community to fulfill their responsibility in promoting environmental protection. One of the key roles of the Government is to promote public engagement, facilitate collaboration among different stakeholders and encourage public participation in environmental protection activities through various means, such as:

- Developing partnerships in various sectors through different consultation channels
- Promoting public participation in environmental protection by educating the public on environmental issues
- Organising outreach activities, etc.



Source: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(<https://www.eeb.gov.hk/tc/sens-blog/blog20211113.html>)

Click on the image to watch the video. As far as you know, what are the stakeholders involved in promoting Hong Kong towards carbon neutrality?

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government

➤ Government promote public participation

In response to the Paris Agreement and to encourage different sectors to participate in low-carbon transformation, the Government launched a “4T” partnership dialogue platform in 2016 to encourage partnering organisations to save energy and reduce carbon emissions together by drawing up plans under a “4T” framework, i.e. "Target", "Timeline", "Transparency" and "Together". In 2016, about 40 “4T” partners took part in the programme.



Environmental Protection Department’s “Green Outreach” develops and maintains a green waste reduction network to support community participation and enhance waste reduction at source and clean separation and recycling



Government produced a promotional video to collect public views on the control of disposable plastics

Click on the images to watch the videos



“GREEN@COMMUNITY” will visit housing estates to help recycle glass bottles, waste electrical appliances and other recycled materials and encourage community participation.

Source:

- HKSAR Government Press Releases (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202110/29/P2021102900604.htm>); (https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2020/10/20201029/20201029_123949_686.html)
- Information Services Department (https://www.isd.gov.hk/chi/tvapi/21_ep202.html)

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



HKSAR Government Public Consultation

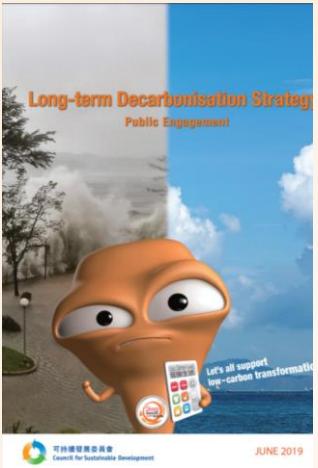
Council for Sustainable Development

The Council for Sustainable Development was established by the Chief Executive as one of the initiatives to promote sustainability in Hong Kong. The terms of reference of the Council were :

- To advise the Government on the priority areas it should address in promoting sustainable development;
- To advise on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- To facilitate community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
- To promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.



Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



Examples of the work of the Council for Sustainable Development

Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy (2019)

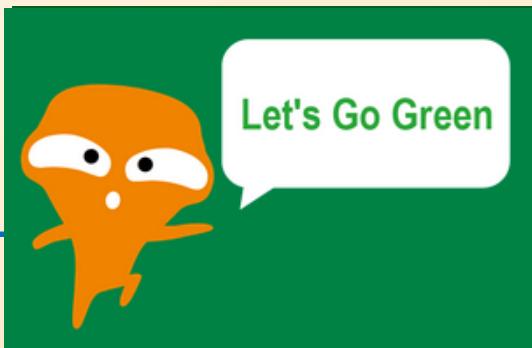
In line with the Paris Agreement, the HKSAR Government has invited the Council for Sustainable Development to launch a bottom-up and stakeholder-oriented public engagement exercise to raise public awareness of the impact of carbon emissions and gauge the views of the community with a view to formulating a feasible long-term carbon reduction strategy.

Public engagement on control of single-use plastics (2021)

To provide every member of the community with information on the subject of plastics and explore relevant issues with a view to identifying ways to move away from non-essential and hard-to-recycle single-use plastic items.

Which single-use plastic products to tackle, the approach of managing them and the timeline, e.g.:

- Views on the management priority;
- Views on the approach on management, e.g. voluntary measures, regulation, etc.



Explore ways to go green from consumer angle with a view to revolutionising the market, e.g.:

- Views on degree of public acceptance (e.g. willingness to bear additional cost for reducing the use of single-use plastics, acceptable range of additional cost, etc.);
- Views on choosing which "greener" products (e.g. re-use potential, green packaging, the brand's "corporate environmental responsibility", etc.)

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government

► Other public engagement launched by the Council for Sustainable Development (examples)

- “Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources” (2016)
- “Municipal Solid Waste Charging” (2013)
- “Combating Climate Change: Energy Saving and Carbon Emission Reduction in Buildings”(2011)
- “Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment” (2009)
- “Clean Air – Clear Choices” (2007)
- “Enhancing Population Potential for a Sustainable Future” (2006)
- “Making Choices for Our Future” (2004)



For details, please refer to the Council for Sustainable Development website: (<https://www.eeb.gov.hk/en/susdev/council/index.htm>)

Click on the image
to visit the website

Waste Reduction by Waste Charging . How to Implement?

Share your Views on
Implementing Quantity-based
Municipal Solid Waste Charging



Invitation for Response
Document
2013



Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government

The importance of environmental assessment

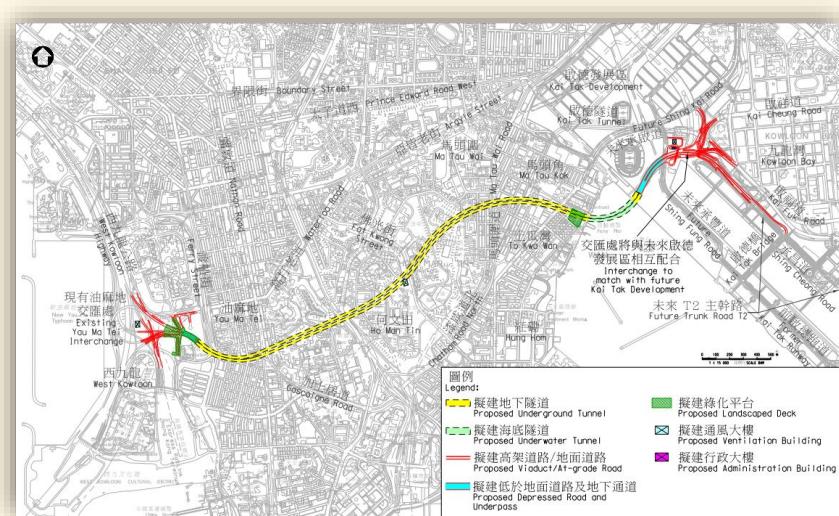
“The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance” was implemented in Hong Kong in 1998, is to avoid, minimise and control the adverse impact on the environment of designated projects through the application of the statutory environmental impact assessment process and the environmental permit mechanism for striking a balance between the need of environmental protection and development. The environmental impact assessment studies are also a fundamental step in the development of major projects to avoid, reduce and control the adverse environmental impacts of designated projects through the application of the environmental impact assessment process and the environmental permit system. The Environmental Protection Department has reviewed and refined the environmental impact assessment mechanism from time to time while optimising the environmental impact assessment process.

Taking the Central Kowloon Route project* as an example, an environmental impact assessment has been carried out for air quality, noise, water quality, waste management, land contamination, landscape and visual, and cultural heritage, etc. to meet the environmental monitoring and audit requirements.

*The main objective of the Central Kowloon Route is to relieve traffic congestion at peak hours on the existing east-west corridors (including Lung Cheung Road, Boundary Street, Prince Edward Road West, Argyle Street, Waterloo Road, Gascoigne Road Flyover and Chatham Road North). The construction works began in December 2017, and the Central Kowloon Route is anticipated to commission in 2025.

Source:

- Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
(<https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2022/chinese/panels/ea/papers/ea20220228cb1-92-2-c.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2uxonVrcuGjrRI3sRIUkNtzEmL71Erzsfpwy9SBxxO2likx3KY-MJHfxk>)
- Highways Department (https://www.hyd.gov.hk/sc/our_projects/road_projects/6461th/HMW6461TH-SK0765_20160125.pdf)
- Environmental Protection Department
(https://www.epd.gov.hk/eia/register/report/eiareport/eia_2082013/1_ExSummary/Chinese/PDF/ES_Chi.pdf)



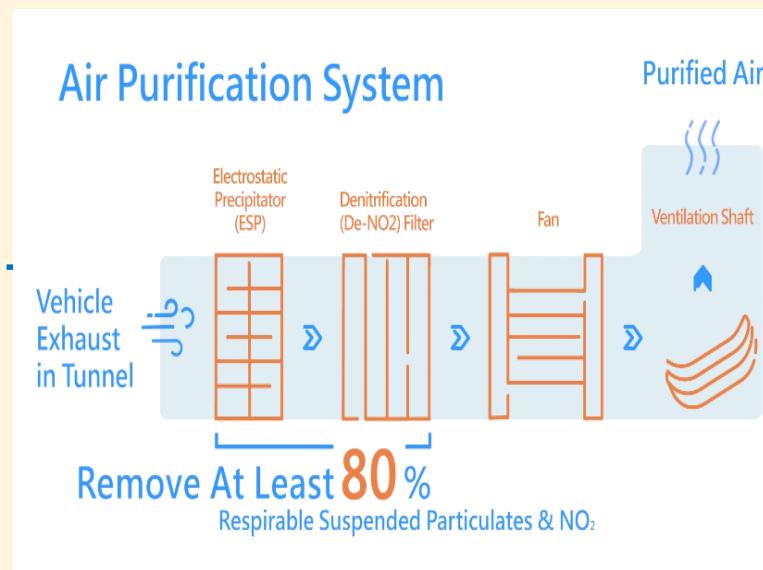
Learn about the Central Kowloon Route project by clicking and enlarging the map

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government

Environmental Assessment and Public Engagement for the Central Kowloon Route

To understand the impact on traffic, land use and environment of the Central Kowloon Route project, a community-based public engagement campaign was launched to engage stakeholders and allow the Government to collect opinions and discuss the alignment options of the route, socio-economic and environmental impacts and mitigation measures for assessment purposes.

- The Central Kowloon Route aims to relieve traffic congestion and improve the environment of the surrounding community, including greening and landscaping, reprovisioning of public facilities, culture and conservation.
- Click on the image to go to the website to learn more about the project's green landscape, environmental initiatives, heritage conservation and sustainable development.



Source:

- Public Engagement Programme Report for Central Kowloon Route (<https://const-infobank.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Central-Kowloon-Route-Public-engagement.pdf>)
- Highways Department (<https://ckr-hyd.hk/benefit/>)

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



Policy practices in other countries or regions (examples)

Governments of many countries/ regions around the world are also promoting environmental protection and sustainable development in various ways, focusing mainly on setting long-term policy goals, enhancing education and public awareness, enhancing building energy efficiency, deep decarbonisation in the energy sector and promoting green transport, as well as other measures such as industrial upgrading (e.g. use of low-carbon materials and production methods), better waste management (e.g. waste reduction, waste-to-energy technologies) and adoption of carbon removal measures (e.g. carbon capture and storage technologies, reforestation and afforestation), etc.

Berlin promotes public education by launching pilot projects and initiatives, e.g. “climate-neutral campus”; turn climate neutrality into communications concept and through communication activities and campaigns, e.g. “Energy Efficiency Campaign for Berlin” targeted at the general public to promote the related messages. In January 2019, the German government announced that coal power will be completely phased out by 2038 at the latest. The decision will be reviewed in 2032.

Source:

- Retrieved from the introduction and sources provided by Council for Sustainable Development https://www.info.gov.hk/tpb/tc/papers/TPB/1205-tpb_10565c.pdf
- Sources provided by Council for Sustainable Development: Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment. (2016). Climate- Neutral Berlin 2050: Recommendations for a Berlin Energy and Climate Protection Programme (BEK). https://www.berlin.de/sen/uvk/_assets/klimaschutz/publikationen/broschuere_bek_en.pdf

Examples of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Government



Policy practices in other countries or regions (examples)

The European Union has unveiled its new emissions reduction targets and the European Green Deal, an emission reduction blueprint to make Europe the world's first continent to be carbon neutral by 2050 through a shift to clean energy and a circular economy, in order to combat climate change and promote stable and sustainable economic development in Europe.

Source: European Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2050-long-term-strategy_en)

In 2010, Tokyo launched its Cap-and-Trade Program. It is the world's first urban Cap-and-Trade Program at the city level, requiring carbon reduction from large commercial and industrial buildings (i.e. CO₂ emitting facilities that consume energy in the amount of 1,500 kiloliters or more (crude oil equivalent) per year).

Council for Sustainable Development's Public Engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy (https://www.eeb.gov.hk/sites/default/files/susdev/html/en/council/lds_ped_e.pdf)

The Norwegian government is also committed to reducing emissions by making Oslo the European green capital, and plans to increase the use of bicycles and gradually reduce the number of cars.

Source: <https://www.oslo.kommune.no/getfile.php/13319592-1553857948/Content/Politics%20and%20administration/City%20development/Car%20free%20city/The%20Car-free%20Livability%20Programme%202019.pdf>

For more examples of other overseas environment agencies, please refer to the following website: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/water/beach_quality/overseas.html

The Roles and Responsibilities of Intergovernmental Organisations



How can co-operation between governments in countries or regions be more effective in implementing environmental policies and achieving sustainable development?



- Intergovernmental organisation is an organisation formed by the governments of a country or region through formal treaties or other means, with the aim of working together to achieve goals in the common interest. In fact, issues such as environmental protection and health cannot be adequately addressed by a single government in a country or region and must be addressed together.
- Intergovernmental organisations such as the United Nations have been established to meet the needs of their members for international co-operation in certain areas and to fulfil their international functions. They also play an important role in promoting the awareness of their members for the common themes faced by the humankind, including politics, economic and trade, public health and environmental conservation, as well as the pursuit of more global strategies and plans based on co-operation and the exchange of experience in solving problems.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Intergovernmental Organisations

United Nations Environment Programme

The entire United Nations system is involved in environmental protection in various ways. Established in 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme is the environmental authority of the United Nations system and the intergovernmental organisation for environmental protection. It promotes the involvement of business, science and academia, non-governmental organisations and community groups in promoting the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

The role of the United Nations Environment Programme is to monitor and assess global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends; to develop international and national environmental instruments; to strengthen institutions for the wise management of the environment; and to promote and support comprehensive international co-operation.



In 2019, the Second Global Session of the UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment, organised by the United Nations Environment Programme, brought together government officials, technology and business representatives from around the world to discuss topics such as green technology, environmental policy and climate change to promote global environmental sustainability.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Intergovernmental Organisations

► United Nations Environment Programme and World Environment Day

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment recommended that the United Nations General Assembly designate 5 June, the first day of the Conference, as World Environment Day. In December 1972, the United Nations General Assembly at its 27th session adopted two resolutions by creation of the United Nations Environment Programme and designating 5 June as World Environment Day.

Year	Themes for World Environment Day in recent years
2023	Solutions to Plastic Pollution
2022	Only One Earth
2021	Reimagine, recreate, restore

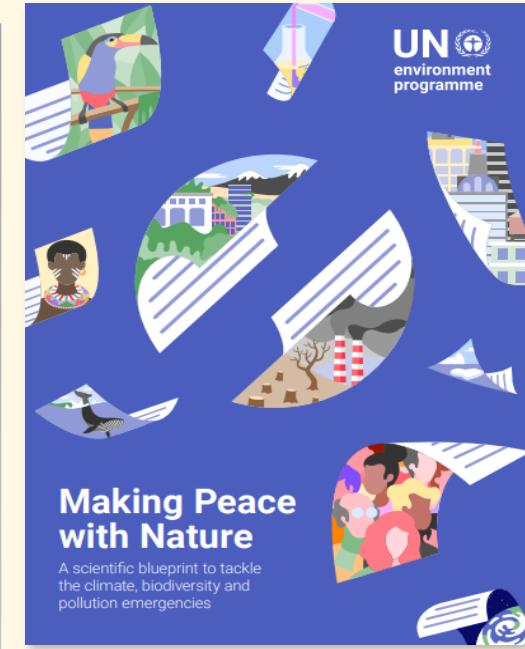


Click on the image to learn how the United Nations Environment Programme promotes environmental conservation.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Intergovernmental Organisations

The United Nations Environment Programme recommends that intergovernmental organisations promote sustainable development through actions such as:

- To facilitate international co-operation in science-policy interfaces including by promoting synergies through norms, implementation, financing, capacity-building and technological co-operation.
- To advance international co-operation on addressing the biodiversity emergency and promote biodiversity and land neutrality.
- To promote the coordination and implementation of existing chemicals conventions, implement monitoring, surveillance and early warning systems, and facilitate international co-operation on protecting the health of the planet.
- To promote sustainable town planning in urban areas.
- To promote a circular economy and schemes for offsetting nature to support the creation of sustainable global supply chains.
- To encourage healthy diets and reduce waste; support the transition to a low-carbon economy, etc.



Click on the image
to read the report
(Page 38-39)





International Maritime Organization

As a specialised agency of the United Nations, it has been addressing international maritime co-operation among governments since 1959. It is responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships, and to encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety, navigation efficiency, and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships.

The International Maritime Organization has introduced a number of measures to prevent and minimise the impact of tanker accidents. For example, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 1973, as amended in 1978, covers not only accidental and operational oil pollution, but also pollution by chemicals, goods in packaged form, sewage, garbage and air pollution. Other conventions are also in place to prevent pollution of the sea.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Intergovernmental Organisations



Examples of other Intergovernmental Environmental Organisations

The Belt and Road Initiative* is a significant initiative launched by the Chinese government for external development with the intention of promoting economic co-ordination among countries along the Belt and Road routes. It is also intended to build an open, inclusive, balanced and regional economic co-operation architecture that benefits all, actively promote green development policies, strengthen the building of the Belt and Road Big Data Service Platform on Ecological and Environmental Protection, enhance co-operation on information sharing and technology exchange on ecological environment and climate change related matters, and enhance research on ecological and environmental protection laws and regulations and international rules.

Source: National Development and Reform Commission (https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tz/202203/t20220328_1320629.html?code=&state=123)

*refers to the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Silk Road Economic Belt

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union to monitor and analyse the environment in Europe. With its headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, it delivers knowledge and data to support Europe's environment and climate goals to promote sustainable development in Europe.

Source: EEA (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/>)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional alliance of countries working together to develop their economies and promote environmental conservation among member countries. In 2015, ASEAN leaders adopted a blueprint which guides ASEAN co-operation to include promotion of sustainable production and consumption towards circular economy, etc.

Source: ASEAN (<https://asean.org/our-communities/asean-socio-cultural-community/environment/>)

The Roles and Responsibilities of Non-governmental Organisations



Which NGOs do you know that promote environmental conservation? What role do they play in promoting environmental conservation for sustainable development?



- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are non-profit, voluntary civil organisations at the local, national or international level. Those with the aim of protecting the world's natural resources and the ecological environment, and carrying out environmental activities worldwide are environmental NGOs (ENGOs).
- As co-ordinators, monitors and educators in environmental conservation, ENGOs play an important role in promoting environmental conservation by supporting government policies, facilitating interaction between the government and the community, providing advice to the government, helping enterprises to implement environmental protection actions, promoting and organising community participation in environmental protection activities, and raising public awareness through education and publicity.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Non-governmental Organisations

Example

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the world's most representative ENGOs. Since its establishment in 1961, WWF has been committed to environmental causes, promoting environmental projects related to wildlife, freshwater, climate and energy, forests, oceans, food, environmental policy, sustainable finance and nature conservation.

Source: WWF (<https://wwf.panda.org/>)



Earth Hour is a global movement organised by the WWF to support efforts to tackle climate change by turning off non-essential lights from 8.30pm to 9.30pm on the last Saturday of March each year.

Video Source: <https://earthhour.wwf.org.hk/>

Click on the image
to read the report

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a global non-profit environmental organisation and the only international organisation in the field of conservation and sustainable development to be a permanent observer at the United Nations General Assembly. It is also one of the few international organisations in which both governmental and non-governmental organisations can participate in. Its members are sovereign states and non-profit organisations.

Source: IUCN (<https://www.iucn.org/about/>)



The Roles and Responsibilities of Non-governmental Organisations

Example

The China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) was established by the State Council to promote sustainable development in various ways through the strengths of social organisations, focusing on biodiversity conservation and promoting green economic development in the country. CBCGDF focuses on national biodiversity conservation and economic green development, participates in global environmental governance and conducts international exchanges. It also advocates for environmental policies, such as promoting plastic reduction and waste reduction, convincing the Ministry of Education that schools must not compel students to use plastic book covers, and promoting “Plastic-free Back-to-School Seasons”. CBCGDF has also promoted “Green Consumption Rights”, by pushing takeaway platforms to add the option of “no disposable utensils”, as well as promoting green work and living through releasing National Group Standards such as the “Green Meeting Index” and “Green School Standards”.

Source: CBCGDF (<http://www.cbcgdf.org/English/NewsShow/5012/23289.html>)



Friends of Nature volunteers took “body temperature” measurements in various public buildings such as the National Centre for the Performing Arts and the National Museum of China to call for indoor temperature control and promote a low carbon footprint.

Friends of Nature is a Chinese national environmental organisation, promoting public awareness and participation in biodiversity conservation. In 2020, Friends of Nature worked with a number of partner organisations to develop ideas and proposals for amendments to the Wildlife Protection Law, which were submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Source: Friends of Nature (<http://www.fon.org.cn/about>)

The Roles and Responsibilities of Non-governmental Organisations



Non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong

Environmental organisations are a major environmental force outside of the Government in promoting environmental protection in Hong Kong and raising public awareness of pollution. They are active in promoting environmental awareness and organising recycling programmes to demonstrate to the public the importance of green living. NGOs in Hong Kong include Clean Air Network, World Green Organisation, EarthCare, Green Peng Chau Association, Green Power, Green Sense, etc.

Example

The World Green Organisation, for example, is an independent, non-governmental organisation concerned with environmental conservation, environmentally related livelihoods and economic affairs. It provides a holistic approach to a fully integrated three-pronged solution that combines social, environmental and economic dimensions to enhance the quality of the environment, promote a greener economy, and improve people's livelihoods for a paradigm shift towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways.

Source: World Green Organisation
(<https://thewgo.org/website/chi/introduction/>)



Source: World Green Organisation
(<https://thewgo.org/>)

The World Green Organisation has designated 15 July as "Paper Saving Day", calling on businesses, industrial and commercial organisations, schools, NGOs and members of the public to reduce the use of paper, tissue paper and unnecessary paper products in order to conserve the planet's resources and build a green city.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Non-governmental Organisations

Example



Non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong

Concerned with environmental issues in the community, Greeners Action is a local environmental organisation that aims to raise public awareness on environmental issues. Its work includes:



Lai See Reuse and Recycle Program

Source: Greeners Action (<https://www.greeners-action.org>)



Providing views on public engagement on control of single-use plastics



Umbrella Bags Reduction Accreditation Program

The Roles and Responsibilities of Enterprises

Enterprises also have a role and responsibility in environmental conservation. While pursuing profits and economic development, enterprises should also take responsibility for environmental protection and sustainable development, which will help them build a positive social image and benefit the community.

The responsibilities of enterprises in environmental conservation mainly include fulfilling their legal and ethical responsibilities in environmental protection, making pollution prevention and control, energy saving and emission reduction, and environmental policies key indicators of corporate development, supporting research and development in environmental technology, etc., thereby promoting corporate development while taking into account economic and social benefits, and safeguarding intra-generational equity, international equity, and inter-generational equity.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Enterprises



The concept of ESG

Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) are the main pillars of corporate sustainability in which it concerns organisations' behaviour and non-financials, ranging from topics like carbon emissions, diversity and equal opportunity.

- With the introduction of carbon peak and carbon neutrality in China, ESG has become an increasingly important investment trend for enterprises. In June 2022, the country's first "Guidance for enterprise ESG disclosure" was published, with 118 indicators in three dimensions: environmental, social and governance. Enterprises can choose to disclose all or some of these indicators according to their actual situation.
- As an international financial centre, Hong Kong has been following the development of international standards and requirements on ESG for enterprises. For example, with effect from 1 January 2017, listed companies in Hong Kong are required to disclose their ESG information in accordance with the ESG Reporting Guide issued by HKEX. HKEX also encourages listed companies to seek independent assurance of their ESG reports to enhance the credibility of the ESG information disclosed.

Source:

- Xinhua Net (<http://www.xinhuanet.com/tech/20220607/6dc0b50941954bc7be9fc3c23812e029/c.html>)
- HKSAR Press Release(<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201906/26/P2019062600594.htm>)
- HKEX (<https://cn-rules.hkex.com.hk/%E8%A6%8F%E5%89%87%E6%89%8B%E5%86%8A/%E9%99%84%E9%8C%84-%E4%BA%8C%E5%8D%81%E4%B8%83-%E7%92%B0%E5%A2%83%E3%80%81%E7%A4%BE%E6%9C%83%E5%8F%8A%E7%AE%A1%E6%B2%BB%E5%A0%B1%E5%91%8A%E6%8C%87%E5%BC%95>)



Click on the image to learn more about HKEX's Rules and Guidance Appendix 27 "Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide"

The Roles and Responsibilities of Enterprises

The HKSAR Government attaches great importance to ESG while actively developing green and sustainable finance.

- Since 2019, the HKSAR Government has issued a total of nearly US\$10 billion equivalent of government green bonds, including HK\$20 billion of retail green bonds.
- In order to train talents in relevant fields, the Government is considering to include more ESG-related courses in the list of reimbursable courses under the Continuing Education Fund, while including more ESG topics in business and finance courses. Meanwhile, we have added ESG-related financial professionals to the list of talents last year, with a view to attracting more talents in relevant fields to Hong Kong.

For details of the three ESG dimensions, please refer to Table 1 of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's ESG Strategy for Hong Kong



Environmental responsibility factors for businesses to consider in their operations (example)

- Air and Water Pollution
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Deforestation
- Ecosystem services
- Energy efficiency
- Hazardous materials
- Land degradation
- Resource depletion
- Waste Management
- Water Scarcity

The “E” dimension of the ESG evaluation system

Source:

- Hong Kong Monetary Authority (<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/insight/2018/06/20180620/>);
<https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/key-functions/reserves-management/responsible-investment/>);
https://www.fsdc.org.hk/media/yawlfqwd/esg-paper-eng_final_0.pdf
- HKSAR Press Release (https://www.news.gov.hk/chi/2022/05/20220527/20220527_154017_068.html)

The Roles and Responsibilities of Enterprises

➤ Corporate ESG practices

ESG considerations are being adopted by more enterprises and investors as a consideration for investment and business operations, and the ESG concept has become an effective management tool to measure the overall effectiveness of ESG investments, providing a basis and guidance for business operation and investment decisions, as well as a tool to help the public monitor corporate development.

HKEX has provided examples of corporate ESG implementation in the following focus areas, with a number of examples of corporate practices. The focus areas include: (i) board and governance, (ii) materiality assessment, (iii) climate change and TCFD*, (iv) stakeholder engagement and (v) social issues.

Find some examples of corporate ESG implementations and practices from the HKEX website below and think about the following:

- How can enterprises implement ESG practices to achieve sustainable development?
- What is/are the role(s) of enterprises in promoting sustainable development?

*Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures



Click on the image to view examples of corporate ESG practices provided by HKEX.

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

➤ Promoting Sustainable Development through Education

Education is a major channel for enhancing the community's ability to address environmental issues by raising the environmental awareness of the public and encouraging their participation so as to achieve sustainable development. It enables the public to gain a holistic understanding of environmental issues, to understand the interactions between the economic, social and environmental spheres, to acquire knowledge, skills, values and attitudes regarding environmental conservation, and to participate in a responsible and viable manner in addressing environmental issues and managing environmental quality.

Reference

Education for Sustainable development

At the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization launched the “Learn for our planet” campaign, calling on the world to invest in education for sustainable development and ensure that it is embedded in learning systems globally. Cultivation of related knowledge, skills, values and attitudes in learners help individuals and communities take responsible action to promote social transformation towards sustainable development.



**Click on the image to watch a video
about the UN campaign**

Examples of roles and responsibilities of the education sector

The post-secondary education sector, schools and educational organisations play a publicity role in environmental conservation. They promote learners' awareness of sustainability issues and develop their proper attitudes, skills and behaviours in participation and problem solving through formal and non-formal education and various environmental education activities, etc.

Examples of roles of the education sector

To incorporate elements of environmental policies and legal knowledge into the curriculum and learning activities to cultivate environmental awareness and values

To promote environmental protection activities to foster and raise awareness of participation in environmental conservation

To enhance skills in environmental conservation and problem solving of environmental problems

To carry out environmental research and cultivate innovative research talents in environmental management and conservation for sustainable development

To provide professional advice and recommendations

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

Examples of environmental education practices in our country

The state emphasises that ecological and environmental education is not only part of the school curriculums, but also a part of life and skills to be developed.

- Parents are responsible for teaching their children to care for the environment and to conserve energy and resources through their daily lives.
- Environmental protection departments, museums, libraries and the film and entertainment industry can all play a unique role complementary to school education.
- Parents and teachers can encourage and support students to practise ecological conservation in their daily lives, thereby broadening their horizon and experience, cultivating the unity of their knowledge and actions.

Source: Ministry of Education (http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/s5148/201903/t20190311_372926.html)

Reference

According to the revised Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China, which came into effect on 1 January 2015, the people's governments at various levels should strengthen the publicity and popularisation of environmental protection. The educational departments and schools should incorporate environmental protection knowledge into the curriculum to raise students' awareness of environmental protection. News media should publicise environmental protection laws and regulations and environmental protection knowledge, and monitor the environment-related illegal acts.

Source: Gov.cn (http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2014-04/25/content_2666434.htm)



Mainland school students participating in planting activities on National Tree Planting Day, which is celebrated on 12 March every year.

Source: People's Government of Hainan Province (<https://www.hainan.gov.cn/hainan/5309/202103/376ca87804b54d2db59b16a678689197.shtml>)

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

► Examples of the environmental education practices in our country

In line with the ecological environmental protection work in the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Ministry of Education, All-China Women's Federation and six other departments have jointly formulated the “Beautiful China, I'm a Contributor - Action Plan to Raise Public Awareness of Ecological Conservation (2021-2025)” to promote the participation of all sectors of society through education and publicity.



Click on the image to read about
the “I Take Action for a Beautiful China” Action Plan

Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment General Office
https://www.mee.gov.cn/xxgk2018/xxgk/xxgk03/202102/t20210223_822116.html

Four departments, including the Ministry of Education, are strengthening citizens' awareness of the ecology and environment, advocating conservation, green and low-carbon consumption, and co-operation between education, ecology and environment departments at all levels to strengthen ecological conservation among primary and secondary school students, incorporating the protection of the ecology, saving resources and caring for the environment into their daily learning life. A “Plastic-free Back-to-School Seasons” should be promoted and schools should not force students to use plastic book covers, especially those with plastic wraps. (See the next page for the introduction of the practice)



Click on the image to read about
the circular document of the Ministry of Education

Source: Ministry of Education
http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A26/s7054/201910/t20191022_404746.html

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

► Examples of the environmental education practices in our country

The use of plastic can easily cause white pollution. Some substandard plastic book covers contain formaldehyde and benzene, which may cause harm to nervous systems and physical development. In this regard, in accordance with the national "plastic limit order", schools are working hard to implement the "Plastic-free Back-to-School Seasons" advocated by the Ministry of Education.



At the beginning of the school year, a primary school in the Mainland started a "Plastic-free Back-to-School Seasons", advocating students and their families to wrap books with kraft paper, old calendars, old posters, etc. This is a great way to reduce environmental pollution by using waste, practise hand-crafting skills and increase parent-child interaction.

Source:

- Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China
(http://www.moe.gov.cn/srccsite/A26/s7054/201910/t20191022_404746.html)
- Hunan Daily (<https://m.voc.com.cn/wxhn/article/202202/202202181453323964.html>)

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

Examples of Environmental Education in Hong Kong

Various departments of the HKSAR Government are committed to promoting environmental education, including the Education Bureau, through school programmes and activities, as well as in collaboration with other government departments and green organisations to raise the environmental awareness of students and the general public.

a) Providing professional development programmes for teachers on environmental issues.

b) Providing learning resources for schools:

- **“Learning and Teaching Exemplar: Long-term Decarbonisation strategy”** in collaboration with the Environment Bureau¹ to promote enhance the learning and teaching effectiveness of sustainable development.
- Development of education for sustainable development related “life events” exemplars. For details, please refer to the following website: (https://www.edb.gov.hk/tc/curriculum-development/4-key-tasks/moral-civic/L_and_T/ESD/ESD_index.html)

Learning and Teaching Exemplar: Long-term Decarbonisation strategy

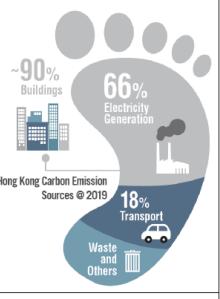
Activity Worksheet (2)

I. Introduction: Hong Kong’s Major Carbon Emission Sources and Decarbonisation Strategies

Source A: Hong Kong’s Overall Strategies for Combating Climate Change

The Hong Kong economy is predominately supported by the tertiary industry without major energy-intensive industries. In 2019, electricity generation was the largest source of carbon emissions (66%), followed by transport (18%) and waste (7%). These three major emission sources together accounted for over 90% of the total emissions, and are therefore the three most critical areas of our decarbonisation work.

Currently, the local fuel mix for electricity generation mainly relies on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas. We can remove most of the carbon emissions if we increase the use of zero-carbon energy for electricity generation and gradually phase out fossil fuel vehicles by electrifying the transport sector. For carbon emissions from waste, they are mainly greenhouse gases generated by the decomposition of municipal waste in landfills. As such, we will have to break away entirely from landfilling for municipal waste disposal in order to reduce carbon emissions and avoid utilising our precious land for developing new landfills. As for the remaining carbon emission sources, such as non-road vehicles and refrigerants, we have to identify suitable zero-carbon energy or alternative technologies.



Click on the image for the resources

Source: Education Bureau

(https://cs.edb.edcity.hk/file/teachers/lt_resources_for_ts/20230612_en.zip)

¹ The Environment Bureau is re organised as the Environment and Ecology Bureau with effect from 1 July 2022.

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector

► Examples of Environmental Education in Hong Kong

(c) Enhancing students' environmental awareness

- Providing funding support for students to visit Mai Po Nature Reserve.
- Organising the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme with the Environmental Protection Department and the Environmental Campaign Committee
- Organising the School Waste Separation and Recycling Scheme with the Environmental Campaign Committee.



Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme



Students participating in the Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme

Click on the image to read the Education Bureau Environmental Report 2021 to learn more about the Education Bureau's areas of work and environmental policies.



Source:

- news.gov.hk (https://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/environment/html/2016/12/20161215_123709.shtml)
- Education Bureau(<https://www.edb.gov.hk/en/about-edb/publications-stat/environmental-report/index.html>); (https://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/about-edb/publications-stat/environmental-report/Environmental%20Report%20202021_TC.pdf)

The Education Bureau organising environmental education activities



Schools committed to promoting environmental education



Click on the image to watch the video

Examples of roles and responsibilities in the education sector



The process of sustainable development for all

The education sector, including teachers, students, scholars, staff, parents and stakeholders, have joined hands to work together for “sustainable development”.

Schools	To work with students, teachers, parents and stakeholders to set “sustainable development” targets and implement relevant policies; and to maintain close contact with parents and stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and provide appropriate support to frontline teachers and staff
Students	To learn the knowledge and skills related to sustainable development and to participate in learning activities that promote sustainable development , thereby enhancing their related values and ethics.
Teachers	To raise awareness of sustainable development and continue to enrich themselves by actively incorporating sustainable development concepts into their teaching activities
Parents	To work with the school to develop a sustainable development education strategy, and work with their children to put it into practice in their daily lives and set an example
Stakeholders	(including: community organisations, District Councils, government departments and professionals) To build partnerships with schools to educate the public that “sustainable development” is a civic responsibility that requires the participation of all

Source:

- HKSAR Education Bureau
- (https://cd1.edb.hkedcity.net/cd/mce/ESD/sugg-3guidelines_c.htm)
- HKUST (<https://hkust.edu.hk/zh-hant/news/community-and-sustainability/hkust-launches-largest-scale-solar-power-system-hong-kong>)
- Faculty of Science, CUHK
- (<http://www.sci.cuhk.edu.hk/zh-tw/faculty/faces-of-cuhk-science/article/547-20-11-cmyu>)

Examples of environmental technology research results from tertiary institutions



Click on the image to watch the video

HKUST and CUHK scholars promoting research to address environmental issues



Activity

Roles and Responsibilities of the Individual



Watch the video and answer the question:

What is our personal responsibility in environmental conservation? What inspiration does it give us?



Click on the image to watch the video



Hint:

Environmental conservation depends on the co-operation, co-ordination and practice of everyone. One's behaviour has a significant impact on environmental conservation. We are all interconnected and interdependent with the environment. We should contribute to the conservation of the environment and society by practicing green production, green living and consumption patterns in our daily lives.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Individual



Do you know what we can do to promote environmental conservation?



Everyone is a member of society and an important participant in promoting environmental conservation. Environmental conservation requires not only the efforts of the government, the education sector and enterprises, but also the participation of individuals. It is our responsibility to understand the relationship between the environment and us, such as the impact of our living habits on the environment and the relationship between the environment and development. To be aware of environmental issues, to enhance our awareness of participation in environmental conservation, to actively fulfil our environmental responsibilities, to practise green lifestyles, and to join hands in promoting a sustainable development in our society, so that we and our next generation can enjoy a better quality of life.



Roles and Responsibilities of the Individual



Examples of individual responsibilities for the environment

Practising a green and low-carbon lifestyles

Concerning for environmental issues

Green consumption	To consider buying seasonal and local ingredients to reduce carbon footprint and choose eco-friendly products where possible.	To pay attention to environmental information;
Saving resources	To care for the nature by shortening of showering time, using rechargeable batteries, eating more vegetables and less meat, and produce less waste	To co-operate with the government and advise on environmental measures;
Recycling	To try using more recyclable things. For example, to bring your own bottle and tableware and donate unwanted clothing to the needy where possible	To participate in or initiate actions in environmental protection, etc.
Green travel	To use public transport as often as possible	Acquiring environmental knowledge, skills and attitudes
Waste separation and recycling	To develop a habit of domestic waste separation	To learn about waste separation and recyclable resources; To learn about the relationship between humans and nature; To learn to plant; To learn to appreciate biodiversity, care and respect for life, etc.

Referenced and adapted from the following sources:

- GovHK (<https://www.gov.hk/en/residents/environment/public/?subcat=green>)

Roles and Responsibilities of the Individual

- Do you practise a green lifestyle shown in the picture in your daily lives?
- Suggest what we can do to protect the environment.

Source: WWF Hong Kong

(https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/reslib/education/green_cities/)



Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

Governments, intergovernmental organisations, the education sector, enterprises, NGOs and individuals, regardless of their scale, should take up the responsibility of promoting environmental conservation. They should pay attention to environmental issues, enhance their awareness of environmental protection, take the initiative to fulfil their environmental responsibilities; strengthen communication and co-operation, honour their commitments, join hands to promote environmental conservation actions, fulfil their international environmental protection commitments, foster close co-operation between countries and international organisations, actively take up their international environmental obligations and responsibilities, and achieve sustainable development of the global environment.

Lai Chi Wo Village is a 300 year old Hakka village in Sha Tau Kok, rich in ecological and cultural resources. The Lai Chi Wo Village revitalisation project was awarded the first Special Recognition for Sustainable Development in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation and UN-Habitat's 2021 Asian Townscape Awards in 2021.

Note: For an introduction to the Lai Chi Wo revitalisation project, please refer to the presentation of another learning focus of this topic: "Rationale of Sustainable Development and Practical Experiences of Environmental Conservation of Our Country, Hong Kong and Other Regions".

Lai Chi Wo Rural Cultural Landscape wins UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation



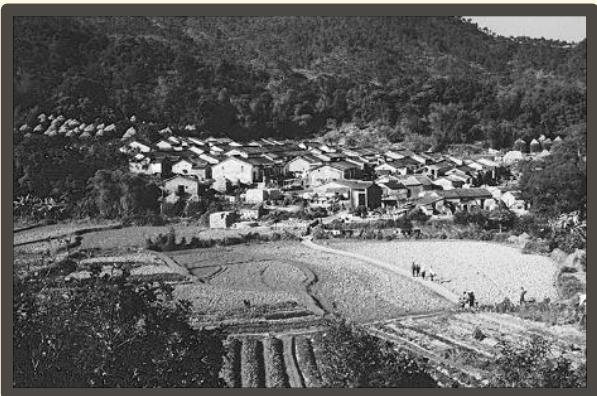
Source:

- [news.gov.hk](https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2021/02/20210227/20210227_183548_588.html)
(https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2021/02/20210227/20210227_183548_588.html)
- [Commissioner for Heritage's Office](https://www.heritage.gov.hk/filemanager/heritage/en/content_46/Heritage_Newsletter_75.pdf)
(https://www.heritage.gov.hk/filemanager/heritage/en/content_46/Heritage_Newsletter_75.pdf)
- [Hong Kong Tourism Board](https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/explore/great-outdoor/wellness/lai-chi-wo.html)
(<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/explore/great-outdoor/wellness/lai-chi-wo.html>)

Learning Task: Use the information and videos provided on the next page, as well as your own research, understand how different stakeholders can work together to promote environmental conservation under the sustainable rural revitalisation project.

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

1: Click on the image below to see the information provided by the Hong Kong Geopark website on the following aspects of Lai Chi Wo.



History and culture



Lai Chi Wo Story Room



Siu Ying Story Room

2: Click on the image to watch the video to learn more about the Lai Chi Wo revitalisation project.



Source: Hong Kong Geopark (<https://www.geopark.gov.hk/en/discover/attractions/lai-chi-wo>)

Video Source:

- RTHK Hong Kong Connection on Countryside Conservation (<https://podcast.rthk.hk/podcast/item.php?pid=244&eid=195473&year=2022&lang=zh-CN>)
- HKU Sustainable Solutions for Hong Kong's Villages (www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y15kSIuuSY)
- Environment and Ecology Bureau Countryside Conservation Office: A remote rural "paradise" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP-4VQ7m4Pc)

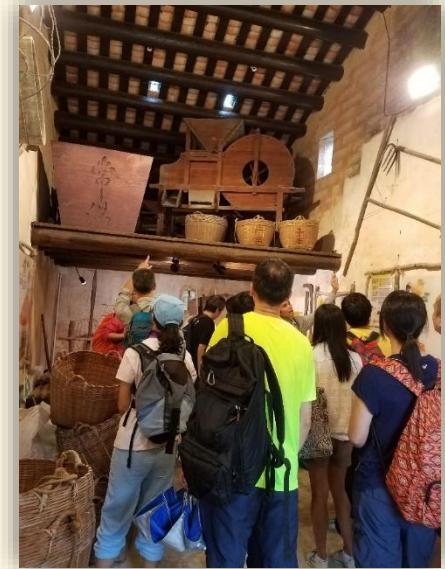
Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders



How can stakeholders promote public awareness of environmental conservation?



For example, the Education Bureau has organised a guided tour of Lai Chi Wo so that teachers could learn about the cultural and natural resources of Lai Chi Wo while exploring sustainable development for Hong Kong villages.



Global Plastics Reduction Initiative

Background

Plastic is ubiquitous in our modern lives. As it is cheap, waterproof, light, durable and can be made into different shapes for various usage, it can meet not only the needs of daily life, medical and health care and various aspects of life, but also the technical requirements of industrial and agricultural production, transportation, electronic communication and other fields. However, plastic is an artificial product that is not completely biodegradable and can only be broken down into microplastics. While people enjoy the convenience of plastic, they also suffer from the negative effects of plastic pollution on the natural environment and human health. In recent years, there has been much concern around the world about the impact of this problem on us and our future generations.

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

International Plastic Issues and Solutions

- Plastic pollution is a growing problem causing serious social, ecological and health problems. Exposure to plastics can harm human health, potentially affecting fertility, hormones, metabolic and neurological activity, while open burning of plastics contributes to air pollution. More than 800 marine and coastal species are affected by plastic pollution through ingestion, entanglement and other dangers. Some 11 million tons of plastic waste flow annually into oceans.
- On 2 March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly endorsed a historic resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally-binding agreement by 2024 . The resolution addresses the full life cycle of plastic, including its production, design and disposal.
- A shift to a circular economy can reduce the volume of plastics entering oceans by over 80 per cent by 2040; reduce virgin plastic production by 55 per cent; save governments US\$70 billion by 2040; reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent; and create 700,000 additional jobs – mainly in the global south.



India's campaign against single-use plastics



Plastic bottles and garbage waste pollute river and ocean

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

Examples of national policies to address the plastics issue

As of January 2021, 31 provinces in China have released their implementation plans or action plans on plastic pollution control. For example, the Beijing Action Plan for Plastic Pollution Control (2020-2025) focuses on six key industries: food and beverage, takeaway platforms, wholesale and retail, e-commerce and express delivery, accommodation and convention, and agricultural production, to strengthen plastic reduction efforts. Currently, the use of non-degradable single-use plastic straws is banned in Beijing's catering industry; the use of non-degradable plastic bags is banned in takeaway services (including dine-in packaging) in urban areas; and the use of non-degradable disposable plastic tableware is banned in dine-in services in urban areas and scenic spots.

Source: Gov.cn (https://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202001/19/content_WS5e243ea1c6d0db64b784ccd1.html)

Examples of Hong Kong's response to the plastics issue

Starting from January 2019, the HKSAR Government has taken the initiative in banning plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in canteens mainly serving government staff. It also collaborates with the catering sector to promote and encourage reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware. The efforts include formulating guidelines for the catering sector and co-organising the “Plastic-Free Takeaway, Use Reusable Tableware” campaign with the trade, encouraging customers to bring their own tableware, etc. The Government plans to consult the public on the proposal to ban the provision of certain types of non-expanded polystyrene disposable plastic tableware to dine-in and takeaway customers in all catering premises starting from 2025.

Source:

- Legislative Council (<https://www.legco.gov.hk/research-publications/chinese/essentials-2021ise22-measures-to-curb-disposable-plastic-tableware.htm>)
- The Government Press Release (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201911/13/P2019111300428.htm?fontSize=1>)

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

Measures taken by countries around the world to deal with the plastic problem

Many countries and regions have banned the production, sale and use of plastic products, including plastic bags, micro plastic beads and polyfoam, to a certain extent. Various companies, including fast food chains, supermarkets and airlines, have also banned or no longer actively supply plastic products.

Country/region	Time	Banned products
United Kingdom	2020	Plastic straws, stirrers and plastic cotton buds
European Union countries	2021	Plastic cutlery, straws, stirrer, balloon sticks, polyfoam food containers and cups etc., of all disposable plastic products
Costa Rica	2021	Single-use plastic products
India	2022	Single-use plastic products

Source: WWF Hong Kong

https://d3q9070b7kewus.cloudfront.net/downloads/wwf_sustainablebooklet.pdf

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders

Example of how different stakeholders in Hong Kong are working together to resolve the plastics issue

Government: To promote public engagement on the control of single-use plastics. The Council for Sustainable Development submitted a report and recommendations to the Government, and joined hands with the food and beverage sector to promote the "Plastic-free" campaign, etc.



Social enterprises: Introduce detachable reusable straws to promote the reduction of disposable tableware.



Environmental organisations: To understand the views of the public and the food and beverage industry towards the statutory regulation of disposable plastic tableware through survey and interviews, and to review the pilot scheme on plastic recycling in the community and make recommendations to the Government.



Source:

- news.gov.hk (https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2022/04/20220414/20220414_151856_781.html)
- WWF Hong Kong (<https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/news/?22540/WWF>)
- HKSAR Government Press Release (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201811/15/P2018111500366.htm?fontSize=1>)

Collaboration and Joint Efforts among Different Stakeholders



Read the above information and elaborate how relevant stakeholders are addressing the global plastic pollution problem.

Hint:



- To set targets and timetables and propose visions;
- To strengthen communication and consultation, reach consensus and facilitate co-operation;
- To fulfil their respective responsibilities for environmental conservation, and monitor, supervise and co-operate with each other;
- To comply with and implement national environmental laws and regulations and support international environmental conventions and agreements;
- To be well-alert of plastic pollution and hazards, and to promote plastic reduction;
- To promote green production and consumption, such as reducing the use of disposable plastic products, choosing to use biodegradable bags, recycling plastic bags and say goodbye to plastic bottles for beverages, etc.

Extended learning task: Teachers and students can share good examples on how to save paper.

Conclusion

To succeed in environmental protection needs action. A small change in habits could create a positive impact on environmental conservation.

Each stakeholder has a role and responsibility. In order to protect our homes and create a sustainable future, different stakeholders should work together to conserve the world's biodiversity, promote sustainable use of resources, promote actions to reduce pollution and waste, advocate for the transformation of green consumption and production, and to bear and fulfil their environmental conservation responsibilities, together we build a community of life for human kind and nature.

User Guide

- The primary users of this resource are teachers. It aims to provide teachers with content knowledge relevant to the topic to enable teachers to have a deeper understanding of teaching content when preparing for their lessons.
- All data, videos, photos, pictures, questions and suggested answers can be used for multiple purposes, such as teachers' teaching materials, references for curriculum planning and learning and teaching, and student assignments, etc. To align with **Citizenship and Social Development Curriculum and Assessment Guide (Secondary 4-6) (2021) (C&A Guide)**, this resource should be adapted to cater for students' learning diversity and the needs of classroom teaching, etc.
- Teachers may provide appropriate supplementary notes/ explanations to enrich this resource in order to enhance students' understanding of the topic and information provided.
- In accordance with the curriculum rationale and aims, teachers may select other learning and teaching resources which are correct, reliable, objective and impartial to help students build up a solid knowledge base, develop positive values and attitudes as well as enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills, and various generic skills.
- If some information cannot be provided in this resource due to copyright issue, teachers may visit relevant websites provided.
- Some information may have been updated when being used by teachers, teachers may visit the corresponding websites to obtain the up-to-date information.
- Please also refer to the C&A Guide to understand the requirements and arrangements of the learning and teaching of the curriculum. Teachers are welcome to point out the areas need improvement, and welcome to provide updated information to enrich the content for all teachers' reference.

Notice and Disclaimer

- Some sources were not translated into English as the official English version is not available.
- In case of any discrepancy between the Chinese and English versions, the Chinese version shall prevail.