

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on global warming

**Summary of views
(as at 14 June 2007)**

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| <p>Dr K S LAM, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (CB(1)1666/06-07(03))</p> | <p>To meet the target set by the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 5% below 1990 levels, efforts should be made to improve energy efficiency, use cleaner fuels for electricity generation, and reduce vehicular emissions. Some specific measures would include switching from air-cooled to water-cooled air-conditioning systems, use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to replace coal in electricity generation, planting of trees, collection of methane in landfill sites, and use of environment friendly vehicles.</p> | <p>Many of these measures are being implemented as detailed in our information paper submitted to the Panel.</p> <p>To provide us with a solid scientific basis to develop further our adaptation and mitigation measures, the Administration will commission a new round of study to tap into the findings of all the latest international studies and assess the impacts of climate change on Hong Kong. It will also recommend further adaptation and mitigation measures to address the problem of climate change in Hong Kong.</p> |
| <p>Civic Exchange (CB(1) 1666/06-07(04))</p> | <p>Not agree that Hong Kong is a small emitter since the lower level of emission is a result of the relocation of most of its polluting industries across the border.</p> | <p>Like all other Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, we prepare Hong Kong's GHG inventories based on the guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). According to IPCC's guidelines, GHG emissions are assigned to the areas where the GHG are actually emitted into the atmosphere.</p> |

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| | <p>Given the lack of an aggressive energy policy on demand side management, a review of the Scheme of Control Agreement for the two local power companies is necessary. There is also a need to introduce a fuel mix on the use of renewable energy (RE), nuclear energy, coal, and LNG for electricity generation.</p> <p>The Administration should adopt mandatory rather than voluntary measures with a view to achieving higher energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>The proposed re-organization of Policy Bureaux allowing environment and energy policies to be placed under the same bureau would offer significant opportunities for Hong Kong to consider a policy on climate change.</p> | <p>The Administration has proposed in the Stage II Consultation Paper on the Future Development of the Electricity Market in Hong Kong that financial incentives be provided to the power companies under the post-2008 regulatory regime to further improve their performance in energy efficiency and conservation and to provide additional incentives to power companies to develop RE, including a higher rate of return for RE infrastructure.</p> <p>The Administration is also committed to a wider application of RE in Hong Kong. After considering the social, economic and environmental conditions in Hong Kong, and having regard to the outcome of the public engagement process undertaken by the Council for Sustainable Development, the Administration promulgated the First Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong in May 2005. The Strategy sets a target of having 1-2% of Hong Kong's total electricity supply met by RE by 2012.</p> <p>We will regularly review the best options to enhance energy efficiency.</p> <p>We agree that the more focused structure of the Environment Bureau should help achieve a closer interface between the policies relating to environmental protection, sustainable development and energy.</p> |

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| <p>Greenpeace China (CB(1) 1666/06-07(05))</p> | <p>As a cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong has the responsibility to reduce its GHG emissions through measures, such as large-scale development of RE and control of emissions from power plants. As a first step, consideration should be given to the mandatory replacement of tungsten light bulbs with the more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), in line with the practice in Holland, Canada and Australia. As the proposal is easy to implement on account of the wide availability of CFLs, it is hoped that the Administration would give full support to the proposal to demonstrate its commitment to energy conservation.</p> <p>It is necessary for Hong Kong to follow other major world cities, such as New York, London and Toronto, to map out its own policy to reduce global warming, including emission targets for GHG and a timetable for achieving the targets.</p> | <p>The Government has been promoting through various channels the benefits of CFLs. We will continue to do so. The EMSD has also covered the CFLs under its voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme since 1998. The Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill, which provides for a mandatory EELS covering CFLs, was introduced to the Legislative Council for first reading and commencement of second reading debate in April 2007.</p> <p>In Government departments, most of the tungsten lamps have been replaced with CFLs. Further efforts will be made to expedite the replacement of the residual tungsten lamps.</p> <p>As with other developing countries, China (including HKSAR) is not required to set an emission target under the Kyoto Protocol. That said, we are committed to playing our part in support of the international efforts in combating global warming and have put in place a string of measures to reduce GHG emissions as detailed in the information paper submitted to the Panel.</p> |
| <p>Consumers Acting for People and the Environment (CB(1) 1666/06-07(06))</p> | <p>A recent survey has revealed that the average amount of paper used by each Hong Kong resident per year is six times higher than their counterparts in the world. Amid the global warming crisis, Hong Kong would need to take proactive measures to address the problem, one of which would be to economize on the use of paper through the use of electronic means, such as promotion of online payment of bills. It is disappointed that Government departments like the Water Supplies Department has refused to arrange for the use of online payment. There is also a need for legislation</p> | <p>Reducing paper usage and promoting the use of recycled paper have always been the major focus of the Government's green management. The Environment Protection Department has provided detailed guidelines on reducing paper usage to various bureaux and departments.</p> <p>The overall paper usage of government offices has reduced by 140,000 reams over the past five years. The use of recycled paper in the same period was increased by 80% from 430,000 to 790,000 reams. These are clear indicators</p> |

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| | <p>to ban junk mails which has given rise to much wastage of papers, as most of these would be disposed of in landfills. The Administration should also take the lead in the use of recycled paper.</p> | <p>of the progress made in green management.</p> <p>The Treasury has been promoting e-payments through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) providing e-payment options (including online payment options) for payment of government bills; (b) launching promotional programmes jointly with e-payment service providers; and (c) working with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to develop more customer-oriented e-payment services. The latest initiative is the arrangement for provision of online credit card payment service for non-billed government services. <p>The Treasury will continue to promote e-payments through the above arrangements. E-payments have always been well received by members of the public. As a result of our continued efforts to promote e-payments, currently about 49% of the government bills are settled through e-payments.</p> |
| <p>Civic Party (CB(1) 1666/06-07(07))</p> | <p>To address the problem of global warming, the Government should -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) set up an inter-departmental working group led by the Chief Secretary to formulate and implement policies to reduce global warming; (b) work out an adaptation strategy to mitigate consequences associated with global warming; (c) take a partnership approach so that all stakeholders would be invited to exchange views on measures to reduce global warming; and | <p>The proposed consultancy study will also look into these suggested measures. An inter-departmental working group on climate change to be led by the Environment Bureau will steer the study and help coordinate efforts from various departments to combat climate change.</p> <p>The stakeholders will be consulted on the proposed adaptation and mitigation measures in combating climate change.</p> |

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| | <p>(d) adopt a regional perspective as global warming is a worldwide issue of international concern.</p> | |
| <p>Association of Engineering Professionals Society Ltd (CB(1) 1666/06-07(08))</p> | <p>The Government should adopt proactive and effective measures to combat global warming which has not only led to rising sea levels and climate changes but also economic, political and sustainability problems. Apart from waste management and emission control measures, the latter of which would include the use of alternative fuel for electricity generation and the use of more environment friendly vehicles, the Government should also -</p> <p>(a) undertake scientific research on global warming;</p> <p>(b) promote a Clean Development Mechanism amongst corporations with a view to reducing GHG emissions;</p> <p>(c) develop a low carbon community through environmental practices; and</p> <p>(d) establish a "climate change" environmental and financial investment products centre to encourage investments on environmental industries.</p> | <p>As noted above, we will commission a round of consultancy study on climate change. The study will also look into these suggested measures</p> <p>We are mapping out the necessary administrative arrangements in conjunction with the Central People's Government for implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in Hong Kong. We will announce these arrangements once they are finalized.</p> |
| <p>The Conservancy Association (CB(1) 1666/06-07(09))</p> | <p>The comparatively lower level of GHG emissions in Hong Kong is attributed to the relocation of manufacturing industries to the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region. To reduce GHG emissions in the PRD Region, the Government should consider -</p> <p>(a) setting GHG emissions reduction target and</p> | <p>As with other developing countries, China (including HKSAR) is not required to set an emission target under the Kyoto Protocol. That said, we are committed to playing our part in support of the international efforts in combating global warming and have put in place a string of measures to reduce GHG emissions as detailed in the information paper submitted to the Panel.</p> |

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| | <p>implementing carbon dioxide emissions trading scheme;</p> <p>(b) introducing proactive compensation schemes, such as tree planting, to offset GHG emissions and environmental degradation associated with large-scale infrastructural projects;</p> <p>(c) minimizing the demand for electricity through enhancing air ventilation and promoting energy efficient practices. Consideration should be given to allowing public officials not to wear jackets and neckties to work during the summer months in an attempt to reduce electricity consumption on air-conditioning; and</p> <p>(d) formulating a response strategy to prevent or reduce the degree of adverse effect of climate change.</p> | <p>The proposed consultancy study will also look into these suggested measures, some of which have been implemented in Hong Kong.</p> |
| <p>Green Sense (CB(1) 1666/06-07(10))</p> | <p>The Government to consider implementing the following measures to reduce global warming -</p> <p>(a) introduction of electricity generation surcharge on power companies and electricity tax on consumers as a means to reduce GHG and electricity consumption;</p> <p>(b) introduction of legislative control on advertisement/signboard lightings which consume a lot of electricity and cause nuisance to the public;</p> <p>(c) mandatory replacement of tungsten light bulbs with the more energy-efficient CFLs; and</p> | <p>The proposed consultancy study will look into these suggested measures.</p> <p>On mandatory replacement of tungsten light bulbs with CFLs, please refer to our response to Greenpeace China above.</p> |

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| | (d) implementation of greening policy on a broader scale. | |
| <p>Friends of the Earth (HK) (CB(1) 1395/06-07(01))</p> | <p>While the prevailing energy policy could ensure a ready and reliable supply of electricity to allow for greater economic development, it fails to take account of environmental concerns. It is hoped that with the proposed reorganization of Government structure to place the environment and energy portfolios under the same Bureau, the energy policy could be rectified such that cleaner fuels would be used for electricity generation, and measures to conserve energy would be put in place.</p> <p>Education on climate change should also be stepped up to apprise the general public the measures to reduce global warming. It is worth noting that apart from rising sea levels and higher temperatures, global warming could also contribute to the higher incurrence of infectious diseases.</p> <p>The Government should consider -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) restoring the Co-ordination Group on Global Climate to facilitate the communication and support among Government departments; (b) reduce the use of coal and increase in the use of RE for power generation; (c) promote energy conservation measures and introduction of the mandatory building energy efficiency labeling scheme; and (d) utilize landfill methane. | <p>The more focused structure of the Environment Bureau should help achieve a closer interface between the policies relating to environmental protection, sustainable development and energy.</p> <p>Noted. We will step up our efforts in promoting the public understanding of the challenges posed by climate change and the measures required to address the problem.</p> <p>An inter-departmental working group on climate change to be led by the Environment Bureau will steer the study and help coordinate efforts from various departments to combat climate change.</p> <p>The proposed consultancy study will also look into these suggested measures, some of which have been implemented in Hong Kong.</p> |

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| <p>The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (CB(1) 1666/06-07(11))</p> | <p>The Government should consider the following to reduce GHG emissions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) maximizing the use of RE developed from biofuels, wind and solar energy; (b) promoting LNG in electricity generation and fuel cell in commercial application as these would cut down on carbon dioxide emission and stall the global warming effect; and (c) introducing an Energy Efficient Labelling Scheme and energy tax (or carbon tax) to encourage energy conservation. | <p>The suggestions will be properly evaluated in the consultancy study.</p> |
| <p>Democratic Party (CB(1) 1666/06-07(12))</p> | <p>Hong Kong's contribution to GHG emissions is not at all small given that it is not an industrialized city. It is disappointing that the Government has been slow in developing environmental measures. Apart from signing the "Clean Air Charter", very little had been done to encourage and assist the factories set up by Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland to reduce their GHG emissions. While the Mainland is regarded as a developing country under the Kyoto Protocol and is not required to take measures to restrict GHG emissions, Hong Kong, being a developed city, should make attempts to reduce its emissions through the development of RE, use of LNG to replace coal in electricity generation, control of idling vehicles, introduction of energy tax, development of energy conservation measures and provision of green rooftops etc.</p> | <p>We have adopted a string of measures to reduce GHG emissions in support of the international efforts in combating global warming as detailed in the information paper submitted to the Panel. The proposed consultancy study on climate change will look into further adaptation and mitigation measures to combat climate change.</p> <p>We have commissioned the Hong Kong Productivity Council to embark upon a pilot project to provide technical assistance to Hong Kong-invested factories in the Pearl River Delta region in reducing their emissions and enhancing their energy efficiency.</p> |

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| <p>Clear The Air (CB(1) 1666/06-07(13))</p> | <p>Although Hong Kong is not obliged to reduce GHG emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, it should take the lead in reducing its emissions because it is capable of doing so.</p> <p>While supporting the installation of flue-gas desulphurization facilities by CLP Holdings Limited and the acceleration of LNG supply, the proposed LNG terminal on the Sokos Island is in many respects non-sustainable and contradicts with the interests of Hong Kong. More efforts should be put on demand side management of electricity generation and a review of the Scheme of Control Agreement is necessary to limit the permitted rate of return of power companies, to prevent them from selling excess electricity to the Mainland and to encourage the implementation of energy saving measures.</p> <p>Supports the use of cleaner fuels in the transport sector, implementation of emissions trading scheme and cooperation within the PRD region in emission reduction</p> | <p>Agreed. We have adopted a string of measures to reduce GHG emissions in support of the international efforts in combating global warming as detailed in the information paper submitted to the Panel.</p> <p>In the 2005/06 Policy Address, the Chief Executive called on the power companies to implement demand side management to promote energy efficiency and conservation. The Administration has proposed in the Stage II Consultation Paper on the Future Development of the Electricity Market in Hong Kong that financial incentives be provided to the power companies under the post-2008 regulatory regime to further improve their performance in energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>Noted.</p> |
| <p>WWF Hong Kong (CB(1) 1726/06-07(01))</p> | <p>GHG emissions are rising in Hong Kong and measures should be taken to reduce emissions. As Hong Kong is at least two years behind the Mainland in using cleaner energy, setting RE targets and promoting energy efficiency measures, there is a need to set up a specifically designated Climate Change Taskforce within the Government to respond to climate change.</p> | <p>An inter-departmental working group on climate change to be led by the Environment Bureau will steer the study and help coordinate efforts from various departments to combat climate change.</p> |
| <p>Mr WU Chi-man (CB(1) 1666/06-07(14))</p> | <p>The use of electric dryers is not only electricity-consuming but also a source of GHG emissions. To reduce reliance on electric dryers and to avoid blocking air-ventilation for</p> | <p>Public parks and playgrounds are designed for recreation and leisure uses. Hanging of dry linen and clothes is prohibited under the Pleasure Grounds Regulation of the Public Health</p> |

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| | <p>hanging clothes indoors, more outdoor spaces within residential developments should be provided to enable residents to hang dry their clothing and linens. Consideration should also be given to allowing residents to hang dry their clothing and linens in the open spaces of public parks and playgrounds at certain times of the day. In addition, buildings should be designed in such a way to optimize the use of natural lighting and improve ventilation which would in turn help conserve energy.</p> | <p>and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132).</p> <p>In the Joint Practice Note No. 2 issued by the Buildings Department, Lands Department and Planning Department in February 2002, utility platform is one of the green features which may be exempted from gross floor area calculations subject to a maximum area of 1.5 sq.m. per residential unit. Government's records show that utility platform is one of the more commonly adopted green features in recent building projects.</p> |
| <p>CLP Holdings Ltd (CB(1) 1726/06-07(02))</p> | <p>Hong Kong has the potential to stabilize or reduce GHG emissions over the next 10 to 20 years through the following four key approaches -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) improved energy efficiency and conservation, particularly in buildings; (b) use of alternate hybrid and electric vehicles, traffic management measures and public transportation; (c) greater reliance on LNG and nuclear power; and (d) development of RE. <p>Implementing these approaches would require a clear and integrated energy policy that guides the resource mix in order to achieve an excellent balance among reliability, affordability, energy security and environment.</p> | <p>These suggestions will be properly evaluated in the consultancy study.</p> |
| <p>Democratic Alliance for Betterment and</p> | <p>The Government should consider the following measures to reduce GHG emissions -</p> | <p>Ditto.</p> |

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| Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) (CB(1) 1764/06-07(01)) | (a) introduction of GHG emission reduction targets; (b) emission control on power generation through emissions trading, changes in fuel mix, demand side management and electricity tax; (c) energy conservation through the introduction of energy efficiency measures; (d) development of RE; (e) greening; and (f) use of methane from landfills. | |