

Submission to the Legislative Council Environmental Affairs Panel CLP's response to "Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda"

CLP supports HKSAR Government's effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through setting a carbon intensity reduction target for Hong Kong which will contribute to the national target. The proposed 50-60% carbon intensity reduction target will be challenging for Hong Kong considering the already low carbon intensity level and the relatively short timeframe to achieve this by 2020. We will do our part but call upon both the HKSAR Government and the wider community for support. Participation by all of us in Hong Kong is required if we are to meet the target.

Delivery of this target within 10 years, as proposed in the HKSAR Government's Consultation Document, would require lifestyle changes for the community, significant infrastructure investment and likelihood of increased costs for electricity supply.

Saving energy helps our environment, so we all need to do our part and use energy wisely. CLP will continue to help encourage our customers and the wider community to change their behaviour and contribute to a better environment by boosting energy conservation through energy efficiency-related services and public education.

The HKSAR Government's proposed electricity fuel mix change is a feasible strategy to achieve carbon intensity reduction, provided a reasonable lead time is available to develop and execute a carefully structured transition and implementation plan that involves close collaboration between the HKSAR Government and the power sector.

The fuel mix target must be complemented with a balanced mix of local generation and nuclear power supply to sustain the high supply reliability which the Hong Kong residents expect at all times. CLP recommends that local generation capacity, including gas generation with coal and oil backup, should be available to meet a major portion of Hong Kong's electricity demand.

CLP supports the proposals in the HKSAR Government's Consultation Document for the greening of our transport systems, in particular through the early adoption of hybrid or electric vehicles and the extension of Hong Kong's mass-transit systems.

A stable and transparent regulatory framework enabling private investors to plan and make long-term energy infrastructure investments is important for delivering the Climate Change agenda. In view of the long lead time for such projects, it is necessary to intensify planning efforts as soon as the Hong Kong community reaches consensus on the direction forward.

CLP commits our full effort to combating climate change. We look forward to working with the community and the HKSAR Government towards making the vision for a low-carbon city a reality by 2020.